

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2061
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025.**

**DENIAL OF CGHS PENSIONERS AGED 60 YEARS AND ABOVE TO TAKE DIRECT
CONSULTATION FROM EMPANELLED HOSPITALS**

2061 SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of reasons cited for denying CGHS pensioners/beneficiaries aged 60 years and above into the ambit of direct private consultation from empanelled hospitals instead of 70 years and above;
- (b) the rationale and criteria adopted for allowing only CGHS beneficiaries aged above 70 years to avail direct consultation from empaneled Health Care Organizations (HCOs), in terms of MoHFW OM No. Z15025/19/2025/DIR/CGHS/EHS(8281286) dated 28.06.2024;
- (c) whether Government would review its decision and allow all CGHS beneficiaries above the age of 60 years for the same; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAP RAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d) : The relaxation of consultation norms with respect to elderly CGHS beneficiaries was first permitted on 29th May 2019, wherein all CGHS beneficiaries aged above 75 years and above were permitted to seek direct OPD consultation from specialists of private hospitals empanelled under CGHS. This facility was available on a cashless basis to Pensioners, Ex-Member of Parliament, Members of Parliament and other categories of CGHS beneficiaries who are eligible for treatment/investigations on a credit basis. This benefit was further extended to beneficiaries aged 70 years and above *vide* the departmental instruction dated 28th June 2024. The reform was primarily aimed at improving the service delivery of health benefits under CGHS. No proposal is currently under consideration to review this facility.
