

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *91
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH JULY, 2026**

**ARBITRARY CONSULTATION FEES CHARGED BY PRIVATE MEDICAL
PRACTITIONERS**

†*91. SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Private Medical Practitioners in the country charged consultation fees from the patients, including separate fees to follow-up consultation within shortperiod, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines regarding the fees to be charged by Private Medical Practitioners for follow-up consultations, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to formulate any policy or guidelines in the interest of patients to prevent the private practitioners from charging any fees on a follow-up visit within 30 days at least so as to provide relief to the affected patients;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a regulatory mechanism or a standard policy in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the timeline thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *91 FOR 24TH JULY, 2026**

(a) to (e): As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, public health and regulation of hospitals are primarily State subjects. Accordingly, regulation of charges levied by private hospitals, diagnostic centers and private medical practitioners, including consultation fees and follow-up consultation charges fall within the domain of the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Further, the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 (CE Act) and notified Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012 amended in 2018 and 2020 provide for registration and regulation of Government (except those of Armed Forces) as well as private clinical establishments belonging to recognized systems of medicine. As per CE Act, the clinical establishments are required to fulfill the conditions of minimum standards for each type of service provided. The CE Act is adopted by 19 States/UTs (12 States, viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh and 7 UTs, viz., Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep & Puducherry).

For registration of clinical establishments, the CE Rules, *inter-alia*, stipulates that clinical establishment shall display the rates charged for each type of service provided and facilities available, for the benefit of the patients at a conspicuous place in the local as well as in English language and shall charge the rates for each type of procedures and services within range of rates. The matter of determination of range of rates is, at present, *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Also, Section 1.8 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 framed by the erstwhile Medical Council of India (now National Medical Commission), stipulates that a physician engaged in the practice of medicine shall give priority to the interests of patients and that the personal financial interests of a physician should not conflict with the medical interests of patients. The Regulations also provide that a physician should announce the fees before rendering services and the remuneration received for such services should be in the form and amount specifically announced to the patient at the time the service is rendered.
