Health insurance scheme for the poor a total failure, says DMA

Staff Reporter

Not possible to honour smart cards under present circumstances: Hospitals

The Delhi Medical Association has expressed concern over what it called the “total failure” of the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) initiated through the Delhi Government to provide free health care to persons belonging to the below poverty line by providing them an insurance of Rs. 30,000 which they could utilise in any hospital in the eventuality of ailment.

“The scheme was launched with lot of fanfare and many people were enrolled into the scheme and provided a smart card. For successful execution of the scheme, it enrolled more than 100 private hospitals in Delhi which authorised them to deal with any medical problem of the smart card holder. Unfortunately, due to bad administration, illogical and impractical low packages, non-payment of dues and harassment, most of the hospitals were compelled to stop working. Today this is a most unfortunate situation as more than hundred thousand card holders and five hundred thousand beneficiaries are insured by the government with no place where they can get the treatment," said DMA president Dr. Harish Gupta on Wednesday.

Delhi Medical Association's general body meeting of all the service provider hospitals was held April 28 and it was unanimously resolved that in the present circumstances, it will not be possible to continue to honour the smart card holders.

“It is a matter of deep concern that the Delhi Government had paid crores of rupees as premium to the Oriental Insurance company, where few officers in connivance with the some government officers have made the whole scheme an utter failure. Only 66 people out of these five lakh beneficiaries were benefitted in the scheme in the month of April. At this stage, the Delhi Medical Association is urging the Delhi Government to urgently intervene in the matter, so that lakhs of people who have been cheated in the scheme even after holding smart card and lots of false hopes, get justice and scheme see the light of day," added Dr. Gupta. DMA state secretary Dr. Vijay Kr. Kohli said: “We have always
supported the issues related to poor and needy and also support the scheme, but are concerned about the absolute failure of the scheme.”

More than hundred thousand card holders and five hundred thousand beneficiaries

- Only 66 people out of five lakh benefitted from the scheme in April

© The Hindu