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चुनाव चिन्ह

लोग

लोक गठबन्धन पार्टी

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**"Modicare" is not the answer to healthcare problem of India: Lok Gathbandhan Party**

New Delhi, June 27: The Lok Gathbandhan Party (LGP) today reiterated that the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) being touted as "Modicare" does not address the basic infrastructural and service related problems of health sector in the vast rural area of the country. The party said country's rural health care system is in fact in extremely bad shape for which the 2018 budget has hardly done anything to improve upon.

The spokesperson of the party here on Wednesday said that a tussle over the said scheme has already erupted between NDA government and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) over packages, rates, funds allocation and insurance model. The spokesperson said with private players' role in the scheme, the health plan is more of a business profitability scheme than reaching out to the millions of poor people craving for satisfactory health support services. The spokesperson said right from the launch of the scheme in the present budget, the party has maintained that it is aimed more at helping the insurance companies rather than the masses. The spokesperson said except sloganeering by the BJP on the issue, in order attract voters to win 2019 Lok Sabha election, the scheme is totally implausible.

The spokesperson said that rich insurance sector might be bullish about the Modicare plan but it will not provide solace to ailing masses in the rural areas where health services have crumbled. The spokesperson said primary health centers and community health centers which are the only health service providers to the poor people in the rural areas, lack basic medical infrastructure including manpower and thereby they force the ailing citizenry to rush to urban areas even for the treatment of minor ailments. The spokesperson said the NHPS would benefit the private sector hospitals and insurance companies; it cannot be substitute to a sensitively organized public health care system.

The spokesperson said there is a total absence or deficiency of medicines, doctors, paramedical staff and basic medical machinery hardware and software in the rural areas for which there is no adequate provision in the Union Budget. Pointing out that only creating hype on NHPS will not eliminate the miseries of poor people in villages, the spokesperson said it is also not clear as to how the government will fund a scheme which is expected to cost at least Rs 50,000 crore for reaching out to 10 crore families with Rs five lakh health cover each family. The spokesperson said the NDA government's plan for establishment of one medical college each within an area of three parliamentary constituencies also appears to be a lopsided idea, as each district and its rural area would first require improvement in existing basic medical facilities in PHCs and CHCs and not make the wasteful expenditure on creating large number of medical colleges. The spokesperson said the NDA government's health care plan is directionless and misguided.

(SN Singh) 27.6.2018
State President

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