

“Ayushyaman Bharat” — Political Gimmick

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'Ayushyaman Bharat' is nothing short of a cheap political gimmick to falsely mesmerize the common population by presenting on platter a never implementable policy in reality and actualization. It is a sugar coated dispensation in the form of a placebo. At a point of time when the next Parliament Election is knocking at the doors and the nationwide public mandate is sharply tilting against the present Govt. headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as is evident from the results of the Bye Elections that included four Loksabha Constituencies and ten State Assembly Constituencies in different states across the length and breadth of the country.

The public mood is evidently palpable and therefore the urgency on part of the Govt. to evolve such make believe schemes which would look of great public interest, but would be hollow from within practically non-implementable and would be just a show-piece for garnering of votes in favour of the ruling party at the centre by fooling the gullible people at large and at the end leaving them high and dry.

'Ayushyaman Bharat' as a public scheme propounded by Government of India, classically fix into the depiction of packaging a scheme with great potential for allurements knowing fully well that it is just a show and a façade which would never realistically extend any meaningful benefits to the poor, needy and the marginalized sections of the society and at the end of the day they would be fooled as they have been for last four years.

Why Impracticable ?

It is a matter of common knowledge that the present Central Govt. has not increased budgetary allocation for Health in the context of the allocable proportion of the GDP.

Out of a realistic computation it would be seen that if the proposed Project needs to be implemented as is brought into focus, then the required budgetary allocation for the same ought to be nearly 1.25 Lakh Crores as against which what has been allocated by the present Govt. in the form of 12500 crores is nothing but peanuts and is totally a cosmetic depiction which is grossly and totally illusory in character. A realistic calculation out of the present allocation would bring that what has been proposed by the Govt. for the scheme entails a per capita allocation of Rs. 200 per year, which is nothing short of a unpardonable mockery of public welfare specially of the needy and the poor. In reality apart from being impracticable the entire proposed dispensation is nothing short of rubbing salt on the inflicted wounds on the poor population and adding to their misery by a heaped mockery.

Confusion regarding Empanelment :

As has been prescribed in the scheme only NABH accredited hospitals would be empanelled as a result of which most of the small & medium Hospitals would remain outside the ambit of the proposed project inspite of the fact that in our country, more than 60% of Healthcare Services are being provided by these very small & medium Hospitals, which constitutes nearly 70% of the entire population & surprisingly this proposed project by virtue of the said deliberate and intentional omission as a part of its ploy to cater to the cause of corporate hospitals exclusively catering to the rich and the mighty, in reality would cover not more than 25 to 30% of the entire population which would be other than the impoverished poor and needy population. This entire exercise is a calculated poly propagated by the Government of India, to inflict a hard blow on the survival of the small and medium hospital and thereby render the total ground to the corporate for fleecing and money making in an unrestricted and open ended manner.

Impractical Packages & its resultant consequences :

It has not been made known in any manner as to whose consultations, Govt has fixed up such packages which seems to be ridiculous, unrealistic without any application of mind and taking into consideration ground realities pertaining to the expenditure involved in its totality.

It has to be borne in mind that the management of an ailment depends on various stages starting from its diagnosis up to its post management or post operative stages, which definitely varies from patient to patient & none can force to complete the entire process within a fixed expenditure without taking into consideration the other associated vital factors that have a significant bearing on the entire continuum of the disease, the care,

the cure and the follow-up thereto. It has to be also kept in mind that investigation & medication parts can never be included, as their modalities vary from patient to patient, even for the same disease. As a result, when a patient will come with a fixed idea in his mind & will be rightly refused for co morbidities or charged more, it will certainly create an atmosphere of mistrust, which will worsen Doctor Patient relationship further and would paint the treating doctor in the color of a villain than a service providing noble man.

It is also ironical that there is no modality depicted in regard to renewal of the packages by linking it with rate of inflation / escalation which is perhaps an exception to the generic rule that wherever charges are prescribed its renewability in terms of the escalation / inflation is invariably provided. This exception seems to be intentional keeping in view the availing of the same as a popular gimmick of garnering of public support by fooling and throwing dust in their eyes.

Mortgaging before Private Insurance Companies :

It is a matter of common knowledge that the Union Cabinet has approved to withdraw its participations in a substantial manner from 4 Insurance Companies. In proposed Project Central Govt has kept Private Insurance Companies as mandatory operators both at Central & State levels in spite of the public knowledge that the average profit margin of an Insurance Company is nearly 32%. As such it shows a clear intention of the Central Govt to make the Insurance Companies rich at the cost of the money of common tax payers and in a way has mortgaged the entire public interest with the said private insurance companies to have a free hand for money making at an exalted profiting mechanism. Realistically speaking it is a meek surrender of the Central Govt. before the private Insurance Company by mortgaging the public interest in its entirety and giving them a free hand for the public loot making common man believe that it is all in his interest which in reality is not.

No clear directives regarding Bill Settlement :

It is not clearly mentioned whether there is a stipulated time period of settlement of Bills & if it is not done, how it would be compensated. If small & medium Hospitals would not get their Bills settled regularly, it is not possible for them to continue, as they usually don't have that much corpus to manage themselves and sustain for a long period. This also would break their backbone in a manner that they would never be in a position to rise again and thereby the field would be rendered on a platter to the corporate fully patronized by the Central Govt.

Vague impression about Quality setup :

When in our Country, we are having shortage of nearly 2.2 millions of Nursing Staffs & shortage of other trained & certified Medical Technical persons, how can Government expect all empanelled Hospitals to be well equipped on the said count? Did the Central Govt in any manner take any cognizable step to overcome this glaring shortfalls in its functioning period of four years ever since come into power in May, 2014 till date? In absence of the same such a deterrent condition being proposed in the instant scheme seems to be ill-intended to the extent that small and middle sized hospitals should be put to all strains ensuring that they bleed, and resultantly degenerate, decay and die.

Project discussed with whom ?

If the largest Medical Organization of the World, IMA was at no point of time taken into confidence before the launch of the said scheme, then who was the one with whom the Central Govt. discuss the issue or took into confidence before its proposed launch. It is precisely for the want of required meaningful, logical, cogent and credible inputs that the entire nature of the scheme has turned out to be impracticable and unrealistic in all its contours and in case is given effect as in its present form would entail doom for gross population as well as the small and middle size hospitals in the country and thus wreck the backbone the healthcare delivery system in the country so assiduously built over a period of time.

Wellness Clinic Policy is to demolish the existing Primary Health Care Policy & privatise the same:

Instead of rendering a definite meaning directional effort and support to upgrade the existing Primary Health Care centers, Govt. is in all cruelty at its disposal playing with the poor and the downtrodden and is in the most unethical manner is selling false dreams to the marginalized sections of the society with its committed intention of privatizing the entire Primary Health Care System. Instead of building up 1.5 lakhs Wellness Clinics, as proposed, Govt could have tried to upgrade the existing Primary Health Centres which could have become more effective & fruitful exercise in the interest of poor and the needy, but then the same would not have served the purpose of the Govt. committed to privatization and corporatization as it is

mortgaged to them for ushering and catering exclusively to their interests alone.

Attack on Federalism :

Though Health is a conjoint Central & State chapter, one has no information whatsoever as to whether any State was consulted before bringing up such proposal or fixing up such packages, as Socio-Economic & Political scenarios of all the States are not same. In doing so the Central Govt. as a part of its committed agenda has attacked the core concept of federalism enshrined in the constitution on this count as well in a very brazen mode and manner.

What does Central Govt actually want ?

The main thrust and purpose of the Central Govt. at this juncture through proclamation of the most hap hazardously planned scheme of Ayushyaman Bharat is just to garner votes in the in the forthcoming Parliament Election by selling dreams, false hope & make believe propositions with their final commitment and agenda of de-shouldering the entire responsibility of the Health Care Delivery System & privatize the same to aid and abate the economic growth, development and prosperity of a handful of corporate who are the financiers of the present Govt. for their political ascendancy. As such, it's a dirty trick out of a calculated gain in the form of a definite ploy to impoverish the poor and aggrandize the riches in the hands of few rich as a mark of mortgaging the onus of Welfare State in its entirety in a manner which the country had not seen in last seven decades since independence. Indeed a tragic tale of treachery and traitorship in the name of Nationality and Nationalism. What a huge paradox, the mute question being will the people of this country see through this game and not fall a pray to sailors of false hopes and dreams and at the end taking the gullible poor, needy and margianalised for a ride.