

JICA Extends INR 3,500 Crore for “COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan”

~ Financial support for Gol’s new policy of PM-ASBY ~

New Delhi, August 31, 2020: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India (Gol) to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 50 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 3,500 Crore) as the “COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan”.

The objective of the Project is to strengthen public healthcare system, by extending budget support to Government of India implementing emergency response programmes for health sector as countermeasures against the COVID-19, thereby contributing to promoting the social and economic stabilization and development efforts of India.

The Loan Agreement was signed between Dr. C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Katsuo Matsumoto, Chief Representative, JICA India said, “With the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), we commend Gol’s swift response to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and support their vision to build a robust healthcare system under Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY). Our policy-based lending will be utilized for strengthen the public healthcare system and JICA will closely monitor the critical activities such as implementation of medical teleconsultation services, strengthening national health information reporting platform, and development of Infectious disease hospitals. We highly expect that PM-ASBY will improve accessibility, affordability, availability, awareness and quality of healthcare services in the whole nation. This is the first large scale Japanese ODA to support Government of India’s fight against COVID-19 and we will continue supporting it with all possible measures we can provide.”

Based on a National COVID-19 Containment Strategy, the GOI’s response has been pre-emptive, proactive and characterized by a ‘whole government’ approach with the highest level of political commitment. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is playing an important role in executing instantaneous response to COVID-19.

This loan will be disbursed to Government of India for supporting anticipated financing requirement for the implementation of “PM-ASBY” governed by MoHFW as the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package for the health sector. Through PM-ASBY, MoHFW will implement measures to 1) Strengthen Public Healthcare System, 2) Expand and strengthen Surveillance Capacities, 3) Research and 4) National Digital Health Mission. Along with the financial support, JICA is planning to provide Technical Assistance for monitoring the activities under the PM-ASBY and sharing Japanese knowledge for better healthcare services.

In India, JICA has cumulatively extended ODA loans of 42.5 billion Japanese Yen (approximately INR 2,833 crore) for the health-care sector, since 1995/96. JICA has Health Projects in Tamil Nadu and Odisha amongst other states in India.

About JICA

Established, by a specific law, as an incorporated administrative institution under the Government of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aims to contribute to the promotion of

The exchange rate used is INR 1 = JPY 1.5

international cooperation, as a sole Japanese governmental agency in charge of ODA implementation. JICA is the world's largest bilateral donor agency. JICA works as a bridge between Japan and emerging countries, and provides assistance in forms of loan, grant and technical cooperation so that the emerging countries can strengthen their capabilities.

JICA India Office Web: <https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/index.html>

JICA India Brochure:

https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/others/c8h0vm00004cesxi-att/brochure_15.pdf

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