

## **Telecom dept employee gets medical reimbursement after 8 yrs**

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has come to the rescue of a central government employee who suffered a heart attack eight years ago and has been struggling for full reimbursement of the expenses incurred towards his treatment.

A Division Bench of Justice A K Sikri and Justice J R Midha allowed a petition filed by Balram Sharma, working with the Tele-communication ministry, and asked the ministry to pay the full amount within four weeks.

The court also imposed a cost of Rs 10,000 on the telecome department and asked to pay it to Sharma.

In a judgement on Friday, the Bench said the government should release the full amount after an employee fulfils the conditions like if the treatment was taken from a private hospital on the approved list of the government.

Also, if the government hospital referred the patient to the private hospital, the Bench said the government should release the full amount.

Challenging a Central Administrative Tribunal's order dismissing his plea for full reimbursement, Sharma said the department has reimbursed only Rs 1,30,612 but real expenses incurred was Rs 2,30,306, and denied full amount.

Sharma said in February 2000, he had suffered a heart attack in Bhopal and after the preliminary test he had come to Delhi and was admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). But the doctors referred him to Escort Heart Institute.

The department denied him the claim, saying that he was not entitled for full amount as per the Central Government Health Services (CGHS) Rule