

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 413
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH DECEMBER, 2017**

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE SERVICES

413. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the efforts made by Government on Health Sector during last two years;
- (b) whether it is very low as compared to the developed countries of the world and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the health services in India are becoming expensive day by day, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by Government to provide affordable healthcare services to the people, especially the poor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): The major aim of Government is to provide quality healthcare services to each and every person of the country.

Government announced National Health Policy 2017 (NHP) in April, 2017. It is a huge milestone in the history of health sector in the country. The last National Health Policy was framed in 2002, present NHP has come after 15 years to address the current and emerging challenges necessitated by the changing socio-economic, technological and epidemiological landscape. The policy envisages as its goal - the attainment of the highest possible level of health and well-being for all, at all ages, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services or Universal Health Coverage (UHC) without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. This would be achieved through increasing access, improving quality and lowering the cost of healthcare delivery. It recommends allocating major proportion (upto two-thirds or more) of resources to primary care which is sought to be made more comprehensive covering preventive, promotive, curative, palliative, geriatric and rehabilitative care.

Free diagnostics and free drugs are two main features of National Health Policy (NHP).

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There has been a paradigm shift in the approach from Sickness Care to Health & Wellness Care, with focus on prevention and health promotion.

India was declared Polio-free by WHO in March 2014 and we continue to maintain the Status till date with introduction of Inactivated Polio Vaccine. India successfully validated Maternal & Neonatal Tetanus elimination since May 2015, has become free from Yaws in 2016 and is Trachoma Free since December 2017. Government expresses the commitment to make India free from Kala Azar, Filariasis, Leprosy and Measles by 2020.

Overall Under-5 Mortality has come down from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 43 in 2017 with a dip in Neonatal mortality rate from 26 to 25. This means 14.85 lakh Under-5 child deaths have been averted.

To reduce the mortality and morbidity in children due to vaccine preventable diseases, Mission Indradhanush was launched with an aim to increase the full immunization coverage to 90% by December 2018 through focus on hard to reach, high risk areas and pockets of low immunization coverage. Government has introduced Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and Rotavirus vaccine to prevent over 1,70,000 lives that are lost due to Rotavirus diarrhoea and Pneumococcal pneumonia.

India Newborn Action Plan was launched to make concerted efforts towards attainment of the goals of “Single Digit Neonatal Mortality Rate and “Single Digit Stillbirth Rate by 2030 .”More than 13 lakh health care providers-ASHAs, ANMs, Nurses and Doctors have been provided specialized training to improve quality of child care services

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan was launched in November 2016 to provide a package of antenatal services including investigations to pregnant women on the 9th of every month through involvement of private sector. More than 90 lakh antenatal check-ups have been conducted and over 5 lakh high risk pregnancies identified.

The Government has launched Mission Parivar Vikas in 146 districts of 7 States for substantially increasing the access to contraceptives and family planning services in the high fertility districts of 7 high focus States with TFR of 3 and above.

Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme in a PPP mode under NHM provides support to States for free dialysis services to poor currently functional in 384 government facilities.

As per the Global TB Report 2017, the incidence of Tuberculosis in India has reduced from 217 per lakh population in the year 2015 to 211 per lakh population in the year 2016. And the mortality due to TB has reduced from 36 per lakh population in the year 2015 to 32 per lakh population in the year 2016.

Under the RNTC Programme the notification of new cases has improved.

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The RNTC Programme provides free diagnostic and treatment services to all patients seeking care in the public health facilities and to willing providers and patients in the private sector also.

In case of NACO the public health programme continues to have 99% of the total population HIV free. The program is focused to reach to the high risk population and in the last 2 years the outreach has been to 5 million population of such high risk population.

Through various interventions it is proposed to achieve Doctor Population Ratio to 1.1272 by 2022. Nearly 13,000 MBBS seats and 7,000 PG new medical seats have been created. 56 new medical colleges attached with existing District hospitals have been sanctioned. A uniform entrance examination NEET has been introduced for admission to all medical seats in the country. For the first time in any field of higher education Common Counselling for entrance to all medical seats has also been made mandatory. Medical PG Diploma courses run by College of Physicians and Surgeons, Mumbai have been granted all India recognition. For-profit companies registered under Companies Act have been allowed to set up medical colleges. Nurse Practitioner courses have been launched to promote specialization amongst nurses. The model curriculum for graduate courses in Physiotherapy has been amended to include a full course on Yoga. Out of 20 new AIIMS to be set up, 13 New AIIMS have been announced during last 3 years and Cabinet Approval for setting up of 7 New AIIMS has already been accorded and work started in 5 new AIIMS.

Various initiatives undertaken towards use of Information & Communication Technologies (i.e. eHealth) in public health sector have been taken and developments have been made in various key areas such as Online services & mApps, IT-enabled Service delivery & tracking, Online consultation- Telemedicine, Process IT automation, MIS & Surveillance, IT Capacity building, Standards & regulations for eHealth etc.

With an overall objective to create awareness amongst the citizens about health, health programmes, services etc., **National Health Portal (NHP)** was launched on 14th November 2014 to provide Health related information to citizens and stakeholders in different languages (currently six languages-Hindi, English, Tamil, Gujarati, Bengali, and Punjabi.). It serves as a single point access for information on Health and Diseases including health messages; on Regulations, Standards, Policies, Programs, Commissions etc.; Directory Services – Hospitals, Blood Banks, Ambulances.

A voice portal, providing information through a toll-free number 1800-180-1104 and Mobile App has also been launched.

To empower citizens to participate in improvement of healthcare service delivery ‘**Mera Aspataal**’ (My Hospital) application has been launched which is an IT based feedback system to collect information on patients’ level of satisfaction using a multi-channel approach viz. Short Message Service (SMS), Outbound Dialing (OBD), Web Portal, and Mobile

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Application and ultimately help establish patient driven, responsive and accountable healthcare system. Currently, more than 1057 hospitals are covered in 23 States/UTs and so far, more than 11 lakh patients' feedback have been received.

To promote Make in India, Government has streamlined the approval process by providing a “single window” for multiple stakeholders (Pharma Industry, Regulators, Citizens) involved in the processes of Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), “**SUGAM**” has been launched which enables online submission of applications, their tracking, processing & grant of approvals online mainly for drugs, clinical trials, ethics committee, medical devices, vaccines and cosmetics for drug manufacturing licensing and clinical trials, etc.

To harness the wide penetration of mobile connectivity (~ 1 billion connections), **various mobile apps** have been launched so far; namely Indradhanush Immunization, India Fights Dengue, NHP Swasth Bharat, NHP Directory Services, No More Tension App, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Mobile App etc.

mCessation Programme is a mobile-based interventional Initiative for counselling and helping people to quit tobacco and for prevention & care of diabetes by giving a missed call to 011-22901701.

National Telemedicine Network (NTN): Implementation for scaling up various State initiatives in Tele-Medicine for interlinking primary and secondary healthcare facilities with Tertiary & Super- Speciality facilities under NHM scheme. Guidelines / conceptual framework for adoption has been issued to State/UTs. So far 7 States/UTs have been provided Financial Support under NHM.

Tele-Medicine Nodes at Pilgrimage places: MoHFW in collaboration with Department of Space has envisioned creating Telemedicine centers at prominent pilgrim places in India to provide services to pilgrims en-route. So far, Telemedicine nodes have been setup and envisioned at Chardhams, Amarnath Cave-J&K, Ayappa Temple-Kerala, Dwarkadheesh Temple- Gujarat, Kashi Vishwanath Temple- U.P and Vidhyanchal Dham, Uttar Pradesh.

Tele-evidence is a modality via which doctors can testify in the judicial process utilizing the video conferencing facility without visiting the courts in person. As of now Tele-Evidence Service is operational in PGIMER, Chandigarh, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong and SGPGI Lucknow. Tele-evidence service was launched on 30.12.2015 at PGIMER, Chandigarh and after successful implementation in PGIMER, Chandigarh, MoHFW has decided to rollout the service in every State/UT.

eHospital (@NIC) is an information system for automation of hospital processes to achieve better efficiency and service delivery.

Drugs and Vaccines Distribution Management System (DVDMS) (eAushidhi) deals with purchase, inventory management and distribution of various drugs, sutures and surgical items to

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various District Drug Warehouses of State / UT, District Hospitals (DH), their sub stores at CHC, PHC etc by automating the workflow of procurement, supply chain, quality control and finance department in State / UT level. DVDMS has been implemented so far in 9 States/UTs and is in process of implementation in 8 more States/UTs.

eRakt Kosh has been launched as a comprehensive, efficient and total quality management approach with the help of online systems and is being rolled out for all the licensed blood banks in public and private health facilities in States / UTs. eRakt Kosh is online in select Blood Bank in States/UTs of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and as of now a number of Blood Banks in 11 States/UTs are registered on e-RaktKosh Portal for Blood Stock Updation.

In order to improve ease of services for citizens, **Online Registration System (ORS)** provides services to citizens for taking online registration, payment of fees and appointment, online diagnostic reports, enquiring availability of blood online etc. in various public hospitals. As of now 129 hospitals are on-board on ORS system and 12,12,770 online appointments were scheduled in these hospitals using ORS by citizens.

1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres (SCs) will be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres to provide comprehensive primary care services close to the community. 15,000 SCs are to be taken up for conversion in the year 2018-19.

Under National Programme for Control of Blindness(NPCB), care is to be taken for about 12 million blind and around 45 million visually impaired persons in India.

In the last two years, more than 1.14 crores cataract operations have been performed and more than 13 lakh free spectacles distributed to school children. More than a lakh donated eyes collected.

Mental Health Act has been enacted and inter-alia suicide under this act has been de-criminalised.

In addition to the above, several other initiatives have been taken to reduce Vector Borne Diseases and other communicable diseases burden in a time bound manner. The overall policy directions are to make India a country of healthy and productive people.

(b): No.

(c): National Health Policy aims to achieve 2.5% of the GDP allocated to the health sector by 2025.

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To integrate Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) into the health system and make it a part of the comprehensive healthcare vision of Government of India, RSBY was transferred to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) w.e.f. 01.04.2015.

A health insurance scheme to provide special cover for senior citizens aged 60 years and above. This scheme provides a cover of Rs. 30,000 per senior citizen in the family in addition to cover provided to family under RSBY.

As mentioned in part (a) of the question above, free diagnostics and free drugs are the major policy decisions which have been implemented throughout the country and are likely to bring down the major Out-of- Pocket-Expenditure of the patients.

Further for providing healthcare system, prices of medicines and medical devices have been controlled and at the same time Jan Aushdi Pharmacy and AMRIT Pharmacy outlets have been opened to dispense medicines at discounted price.

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