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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH JULY, 2021

PATHETIC CONDITION OF RURAL HEALTH CENTRES

884 SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of rural healthcare centres of the country is pathetic in comparison to urban healthcare centres due to which innumerable people died owing to the shortages of medicine and oxygen in the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to make arrangements for infrastructural facilities i.e. deployment of doctors and nurses, installation of modern equipments and ventilators in all the existing rural healthcare centres to prevent the pandemic?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) & (b) (i) Public Health and Hospital being a State subject, the responsibility of providing health care services, lies with the respective State Governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided by the Central Government to the States, for Health System Strengthening in rural and remote areas. Support for free medicines, drugs, diagnostics, transport, human Resources including clinical HR such as specialists, doctors, staff nurses, lab Technicians etc are also provided, based on the proposals received from the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plan (PIPs) subject to the prescribed norms and available resources.

In addition, support has been provided to States/UT under the "India COVID-19 Emergency Response & Health System Preparedness Package" for the containment and management of pandemic, including for augmentation of infrastructure, oxygen supported beds, isolation beds, ICUs, Human Resources, supply of drugs, etc. During the financial year 2020-21, Rs.8147.28 Crs. has been released to States under this package. In addition, Rs.110.60 Crs has been made available for insurance of Health Care workers. Thus, a total amount of Rs.8257.88 Crs has been provisioned for the States/ UTs under this package. MOHFW has also provided in-kind support to the States/UTs, by procuring and distributing oxygen cylinders, Trunat COVID Test Cartridges, X-pert COVID cartridges, N 95 masks, PPE kits, Remdesivir and ventilators.

With the intent to reduce the risk of cross infection to non COVID patients as well as to maintain continuity of non-COVID essential health services in the country, guidelines for establishing a three tier arrangement of dedicated COVID 19 health facilities viz. (i) Dedicated

COVID Care Centre(CCC) (ii) Dedicated COVID Health Care (DCHC) & (iii) Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH) has been issued to the States/UTs

The Cabinet has also approved the scheme, **"India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package - Phase-II" (ECRP-Phase-II)** on 8.07.2021 for an amount of Rs.23,123 crores. The scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with some Central Sector (CS) components. The Scheme is aimed to prevent, detect and respond to the continuing threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national health systems for preparedness in India.

Under CSS components of ECRP-II, support is being provided to the States/UTs for provision for establishing District Paediatric Units (42 or 32 bedded units including Oxygen Supported beds and ICU beds) in all the Districts of the Country. Besides, support is also provided to increase the availability of ICU beds in Government health facilities and to create pre -fabricated structures for augmenting beds at Sub Health Centres, Primary Health Centres & Community Health Centres in rural, peri-urban and tribal areas. Support for maintaining buffer stock for essential medicines required for effective COVID management, in addition to provision for required drugs and diagnostics, is also being provided. Support is also available for establishing field hospitals, (100 bedded or 50 bedded units) wherever required.

The ECRP-II has also a Central Sector component of Central Procurement of essential medicines (including the emerging drugs, based on the needs) for effective management of COVID-19.

In order to ensure implementation of critical activities at the State/District levels to prepare the public healthcare system in response to the evolving pandemic, 15% of Central Share of Resource Envelope of the State/UT, has been released in-advance to the States/UTs .

For making oxygen available in Health Care Facilities, Government has sanctioned 1573 Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen generation plants. Out of these, as on 20th July, 2021, 316 plants have been commissioned.

1,14,000 Oxygen Concentrators are also being supplied to the States/UTs for deployment in rural, peri urban & tribal areas.