

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08th AUGUST, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF ICU BEDS

2169 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware about the fact that the country has long been short of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in the hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to increase the ICU facilities in the last five years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the critical care specialists in the country in the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government has taken below initiatives to support the shortage of ICU beds in hospitals:

- Under National Health Mission, the States and UTs are given the flexibility to propose initiatives with financial support in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIP) to fill the gaps in public health facilities pertaining to services, infrastructure support, human resource for health, amenities for the management of critical care, including augmenting of ICUs, ventilators and human resources in health.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) Scheme, setting up of 22 new AIIMS and upgradation of 75 Government colleges of various States by way of construction of Super Speciality Blocks have been approved by the Cabinet in various phases. In 22 new AIIMS there is a provision of total 9314 functional beds including ICU beds and in GMCs there is a provision of 3036 ICU beds.
- Under the 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package', Rs.15,000 Cr. has been approved by the Cabinet on 22nd April, 2020 for managing COVID-19. During the period April 2020 to June 2022, the number of total ICU beds in the country increased from 2,500 to more than 1.4 lakhs.

- The Cabinet has also approved the scheme, “India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package Phase-II” (ECRP-Phase-II) on 8th July 2021. Under this, Rs. 6,979 Cr. were approved for more than 41,000 ICU beds, including dedicated beds for paediatric care.
- Furthermore, PM-ABHIM (Pradhan Mantri- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission) scheme envisages support to establish critical care hospital blocks having ICU beds, isolation and general oxygen supported wards in 602 districts and 12 central institutions.
- GoI has released the guideline on High Dependency Unit/Intensive Care Unit to augment the creation of ICU/HDU at secondary care facilities. The guidelines also aims to provide the uniform minimum standards and protocols required for establishing ICUs and HDUs.

On the basis of vacancies projected by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts interviews for recruitment of Specialist doctors in teaching, non-teaching and Public Health sub-cadres of Central Health Service as per requisitions submitted by the Ministry. Further, Central Government Hospitals make contractual appointments against the vacant posts, as a temporary arrangement, in public interest.
