

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2208  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**CONCEPT OF FAMILY DOCTORS IN AAROgyASRI SCHEME**

**2208 SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that under its flagship Aarogyasri scheme, the Andhra Pradesh government is successfully promoting the concept of family doctors;
- (b) whether Government proposes to implement a similar scheme on a national level to promote the concept of family doctors, which would help bring out issues of health especially in rural areas of the country;
- (c) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of any other steps taken by Government to promote the concept of family doctors?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d): With the aim of providing medical care free of cost to the poor and to provide universal health coverage to the people, Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri – Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) since 2018 in convergence with State-specific Dr. YSR Arogyasri Healthcare Scheme. A total of 1.41 Crore families are eligible for healthcare benefits under the integrated scheme of which 61.47 Lakh families are supported by Central and State Governments and additional 80.23 Lakh families are supported by the State Government.

As per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022 norms issued by MoHFW, 2 MBBS doctors are prescribed to be posted in each PHC. As per IPHS norms, one primary Health Centre has to be established at a population of 30,000 (in plains) and for 20,000 (in hilly and Tribal area). One Sub Health centre has to be established at a population of 5,000 (in plains) and for 3,000 (in hilly and Tribal area).

In February 2018, the Government of India announced 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat- Health and

Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) to be established across the country by December 2022. The existing Sub- Health Centres (SHC), Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHC) are transformed into AB-HWCs to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which are universal, free, and closer to the community. As on 31.07.2023 a total of 1,60,816 AB-HWCs have been operationalized across the country out of which 11,854 AB-HWCs are functional in Andhra Pradesh.

Under IPHS 2022 norms issued by MoHFW, roles and responsibilities of Medical Officers defined at the levels of CHC and PHC guide them to participate in community outreach programmes and prepare operational plans ensuring effective implementation to achieve the laid down targets under different National Health and Family Welfare Programmes. These programmes include Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Universal Immunization Programme, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, National Programme for control of Blindness, Non-Communicable Diseases Programmes, National Mental Health Programme, Control of Communicable Diseases, Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Ayushman Bharat. They are also supposed to monitor and guide the activities of village health & sanitation committees and ensure inter-sectoral/inter-departmental coordination, involvement of community leaders, various social welfare agencies and people for effective provision of patient centric healthcare. As per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, state is providing health services at door step through Family Doctor Programme wherein 2 medical officers are mapped to 6-7 Ayushman Bharat Health and wellness centres each and each MO visits twice a month to mapped AB-HWCs.

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