

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1080  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

**ILL-EQUIPPED AND CERTIFIED AMBULANCES IN THE COUNTRY**

**1080: DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:**

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

- (a) whether the lack of an effective emergency care network, ill-equipped and uncertified ambulances without necessary facilities are responsible for the inadequate emergency medical response service resulting in high casualty rate during the emergency medical crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and necessary steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government has issued guideline to Government and Non-Government Organization regarding the use of ambulances in the country and if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) The primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system, including adequately equipped ambulances, especially for emergency care network, lies with the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provides the technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen their public healthcare system, based on the requirements posted by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) and within the overall resource envelope.

Financial support for these ambulance to the States/UTs are approved by GoI for operational expenses of the ambulances including cost for call centre, GPS, equipment and medicines etc. These funds are approved on the conditionality that functionality of equipment and maintenance are certified at District level by a nominated technical person. The performance of these ambulances is monitored using the response time, number of trips of ambulances,

utilisation etc. Many states/UTs such as Gujarat, Chandigarh, Goa etc. have achieved the target for response time.

Under the National Health Mission, various steps have been taken to support the States/UTs for providing adequately equipped ambulances. Some of the key steps are:

- MoHFW has launched the National Ambulance Services (NAS) under the National Health Mission. Basic Life Support ambulances (BLS), Advanced Life Support ambulances (ALS) and Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs) are supported by the NAS. An ALS is supported for an average population of 5 Lakh and a BLS Ambulance is supported for over one lakh population. States are at liberty to propose the number of ambulances as per the norm to fill the gap.
- There are a total 2,957 Advanced Life Support Ambulances, 14,613 Basic Life Support Ambulances, 4,259 Patient Transport Vehicles, 17 Boat and 81 Bike presently supported by NHM in the country (NHM-MIS June, 2023).

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has issued the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS 125) also called the National Ambulance Code, that lays down the guidelines for state/UT governments and non-government organizations regarding the standards for ambulances in the country.

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