

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1696
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2024**

HEALTHCARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

1696: SHRI JOSE K. MANI

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

- a) the type of initiatives in place to improve access to healthcare for senior citizens;
- (b) the details of specific programs to provide free or subsidized healthcare for elderly citizens under the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE); and
- (c) the type of provisions made to ensure home-based care for senior citizens in remote areas?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India had launched National Programme for Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) in 2010-11 to ensure comprehensive health care set up dedicated and tuned to the needs of the elderly. The interventions are designed to capture the Preventive, Curative and rehabilitative aspects in the geriatric healthcare. The programme aims to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality long-term, comprehensive and dedicated care services to the ageing population of the country.

The benefits of the Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) have been extended to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above.

The scheme's mandate is to provide free treatment benefits of up to ₹ 5 lakh per year on a family basis to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status. Senior citizens are issued a separate Ayushman card as Ayushman Vay Vandana among senior citizens.

(b) There is provision under the NPHCE to provide accessible and free healthcare services to elderly at all the levels of public healthcare system, primary, secondary and tertiary levels through the following components of the Programme:

1. National Health Mission (NHM) component: Works towards improving the access to dedicated Geriatric Out Patient services, Physiotherapy services and IPD services at Ayushman Arogya Mandir-Health & Wellness Centres (AAM-HWC), Primary Health Centres (PHC), Community Health Centres (CHC) & District Hospitals throughout the country.

2. Tertiary Component: Under this component, the Govt. of India has established 2 apex National Centres for Ageing (NCAs) at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi and Madras Medical College (MMC), Chennai and 17 Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) for delivery of specialized geriatric tertiary care services across the country.

(C) Following provisions are made, under the NPHCE to ensure home-based care for senior citizens:

At the level of Sub Centres - Domiciliary visits for attention and care to home bound / bedridden elderly persons and provide training to the family care providers in looking after the disabled elderly persons.

At the level of Community Health Centres - Domiciliary visits by the rehabilitation worker for bed ridden elderly and counselling of the family members on their home-based care.
