

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER 2024**

ADEQUACY OF U-PHC COVERAGE

1707 SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether all cities with population exceeding 50,000 and district headquarters with over 30,000 population have operational Urban Primary Health Centres (U-PHCs) and if not, the timeline to achieve full coverage;
- (b) whether U-PHCs located near urban slums have been equipped to address the unique healthcare challenges of these densely populated areas; and
- (c) if not, the measures being taken to improve healthcare delivery in such regions?

ANSWER

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

(a): National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM) provides essential primary health services to the entire urban population, with a special focus on the urban poor and vulnerable groups. NUHM is presently implemented in 1243 Cities/Towns in 35 States/Union Territories (except Lakshadweep) covering the State capitals, district headquarters and other cities/towns with a population of over 50,000 based on the 2011 census. As per Health Dynamics of India (Infrastructure and Human Resource) 2022-23 report, there are 6528 Primary Health Centres in urban areas against a requirement of 9793 (shortfall of 36.7%). The report is available at the link https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/Health%20Dynamics%20of%20India%20%28Infrastructure%20%26%20Human%20Resources%29%202022-23_RE%20%281%29.pdf . Under National Health Mission, including NUHM, States and Union Territories have the flexibility to propose operationalisation of UPHCs including infrastructure, human resource, diagnostics, equipments, medicines etc. The proposals received are appraised by the National Programme Coordination Committee and as per its recommendations, approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) and (c): The Urban Primary Health Centres (U-PHCs) are located in close proximity to the urban slums, vulnerable clusters, and urban and semi-urban areas. Newer entities such as Urban Health and Wellness Centres (U- AAM) at 15,000-20,000 population and polyclinics at 2.5-3 lakh population are set up in urban areas to cater to the needs of the slum and vulnerable populations closer to the community. These are staffed by trained healthcare professionals and frontline workers. These facilities provide universal access to comprehensive primary healthcare with an assured minimum package of services along with free drugs and diagnostics . The services include preventive and promotive care, besides curative services, with an enhanced focus on screening of non-communicable diseases, early identification of communicable diseases, and early outbreak identification and management.

Monthly outreach/Urban Health and Nutrition Days (UHNDs) are conducted for the vulnerable and distant groups of urban marginalized population and home visits are undertaken in the catchment area by Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA). ASHAs and Mahila Aarogya Samitis (MAS) enhance community participation and generate awareness around health issues. Further, effective intersectoral coordination with Urban Local Bodies and other departments such as Ministry of Urban Development, Women and Child Development, Swachh Bharat Mission, National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Drinking water and Sanitation, etc. for addressing cross-cutting issues of urban health is encouraged.

The government has laid down the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS 2022) to improve the health infrastructure, human resources, medicines, diagnostics and services in public health facilities and National Quality Assurance Standards to improve the quality of care in public health facilities.
