

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1405
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2025**

AVAILABILITY OF AMBULANCES IN THE COUNTRY

1405. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE :

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

- (a) the total current number of Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances available and operational in the country;
- (b) the total recommended number of BLS and ALS ambulances that should be available and operational in the country as per National Health Mission guidelines and whether there is a shortfall currently; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to assist various States in the Country in increasing the available number of BLS and ALS ambulances?

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

(a) : As per NHM-MIS, June 2024, there are 3044 Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances and 15, 283 Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances in India.

(b): The recommended population norm for supporting States/UTs under National Health Mission for ALS ambulance is one per 500,000 people and for BLS ambulances, the norm is one per 100,000 people. In addition to the centralized pool of 3,044 ALS and 15,283 BLS ambulances, additional 3918 PTV (Patient Transport Vehicle), 19 Boat Ambulances and 81 Bike- Emergency Response Service Vehicles are also supported under NHM, beside 6,485 empanelled vehicles for transportation of patients, particularly pregnant women and sick infants from home to public health facilities. Further, in addition to the centralized pool of 3,044 ALS and 15,283 BLS ambulances, additional ambulances are stationed at key healthcare facilities like District Hospitals (DHs) supported through multiple financing sources.

(c): As Health is a state subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of ambulances lies with the State/UT Governments. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs each

year for improving their emergency ecosystem through the State Programme Implementation Plan (SPIP) duly appraised by the National Program Coordination Committee (NPCC). States have been given this flexibility to propose for a particular type of ambulance and the required number of ambulances including the operational costs/ full operational costs based on the requirement and the gap analysis, including performance of existing ambulances in their respective State/UT. State/UT also has the flexibility to deploy the ambulances based on need/service requirements, taking into account the needs of the citizens, including those living in rural or remote areas.
