

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2806
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25th MARCH, 2025**

UNAFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE COSTS

2806: SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that India's population is being pushed into poverty each year due to unaffordable healthcare costs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the rate of inflation in healthcare costs over the last five years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Governments to prevent the rising medical inflation affecting the poor?

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

(a) to (d): As per National Health Account Estimates, the share of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) in Total Health Expenditure (THE) decreased from 62.6% in 2014-15 to 39.4% in 2021-22. Per capita out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on Health in 2021-22 is Rs. 2,600, in 2014-15, it was Rs 2,394. There is inverse relationship between Government Health Expenditure (GHE) and OOPE. GHE has increased from 29% to 48%, while OOPE has declined from 62.6% to 39.4% between 2014-15 and 2021-22.

The Central Government has taken several initiatives for supplementing the efforts of the States for providing quality and affordable healthcare services to the people and reduce the OOPE. Under National Health Mission, the Government has taken many steps towards universal health coverage, by supporting the State Governments in providing accessible & affordable healthcare to people. The National Health Mission provides financial and technical support for improvement in health infrastructure, availability of adequate human resources to man health facilities, to improve availability and accessibility to quality health care especially for the underserved and marginalized groups in rural areas. National Free Drugs Service Initiative and National Free Diagnostic Service has been rolled out to ensure the availability of essential drugs and diagnostic facilities and reduce the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) of

the patients visiting the public health facilities.

To provide quality health care services especially for the under served and marginalized groups in rural and underserved areas, various initiatives carried out under NHM by the Government of India in the country are operationalisation of Ayushman Arogya Mandir, National Ambulance Services, Mobile Medical Units, ASHAs, 24 x 7 Services and First Referral Facilities, Prime Minister's National Dialysis Programme, various activities under Reproductive & Child Health, Anaemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) strategy, Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (PMTBMBA) and Universal Immunization programme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is a flagship scheme of the Government which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to approximately 55 Crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.37 Crore families constituting economically vulnerable bottom 40% of India's population.
