

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2808  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025**

**SCIENTIFIC CLEANING OF TOILETS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS**

**2808: DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:**

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of measures implemented by the Central Government in collaboration with State Governments to ensure regular scientific cleaning of toilets in Government hospitals, especially in general wards, given that the Jammu and Kashmir State Government has issued scientific guidelines for their hospitals;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Central Government alongside State Governments to maintain regular cleaning of bed sheets and blankets in Government hospitals, particularly some State Governments have chosen different color codes for their bed linens; and
- (c) the details of initiatives pursued by the Central Government in partnership with State Governments to deliver optimal medical treatment to prisoners in accordance with international guidelines?

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

(a) & (b): Kayakalp Incentive Scheme, which is a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's initiative sets detailed benchmarks and standards for cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control in healthcare facilities across the country. One of the focus areas of Kayakalp is Sanitation and Hygiene in the different areas of the hospital, which ensures the cleaning of wards and toilet facilities using scientific methods.

These guidelines cover all key aspects, including the maintenance of toilets, sewage systems, use of standard materials and methods for cleaning, Biomedical Waste management and infection control.

The Kayakalp Initiative also promotes hygiene and infection control by mandating daily bed sheet/linen changes, maintaining at least five sets of bed sheet/linen per bed, and ensuring proper handling and sterilization of bed sheets and woollen blankets through autoclaving and disinfection. It provides detailed guidelines on linen sorting, collection, transportation, washing, and storage. The detailed Kayakalp guidelines are available in public domain at Uniform Resource Locator (URL) as under:

<https://qps.nhsrindia.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/Kayakalp%202024%20Guidebook.pdf>

Further, National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) are developed for each level of public health facility from District Hospital to Ayushman Arogya Mandir Sub-Centre (AAM-SC) level. NQAS measures the cleanliness of wards and toilets and incorporates the scientific methods of cleaning like unidirectional mopping from inside out, staff training on preparation of cleaning solution, cleaning of patient care area with detergent solution etc.

Additionally, the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) ensure adequate bed sheets/linen availability, regular changes, and proper handling of soiled and infected bed sheets/linen. To enhance hygiene, some states have introduced color-coded bed sheets for daily changes. These initiatives, adopted nationwide, undergo periodic assessments to maintain high standards of cleanliness in public healthcare facilities. The detailed NQAS guidelines are available in public domain at Uniform Resource Locator (URL) as under:

<https://qps.nhsrindia.org/national-quality-assurance-standards/nqas-Guidelines>

(c): “Prisons’ and ‘persons detained therein’ is a state subject. The administration and management of prisons is primarily the responsibility of respective State Governments. The State and UT Administrations are competent to take appropriate steps to deliver optimal medical treatment to prisoners. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued various advisories to the States and UTs from time to time, for providing appropriate medical care services in jails.

A comprehensive Model Prison Manual 2016 was prepared by MHA and forwarded to all States. The Manual has a dedicated chapter on ‘Medical Care’, which provides guidance on Prison Hospitals, Medical Staff and medical equipment requirement, channel of communication, special needs of aged persons, treatment of drug addicts, duties of Chief Medical Officers/Medical Officers and Clinics and Labs for Prison Hospitals etc.

Ensuring medical treatment of vulnerable patients including prisoners etc. is also integral part of the NQAS framework.

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