

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2025**

COSTS OF DISEASE DIAGNOSIS SERVICE

889. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI :

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that disease-diagnosis costs more than the treatment cost across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to start free diagnostic service in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) & (b): The National Health Policy 2017 recommends free drugs and diagnostics in public hospitals and aims to improve the quality of diagnosis and treatment. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Ministry provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare system for the provision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all the people.

The Ministry focuses on the availability of drugs & diagnostics at all levels of healthcare as recommended in the 'National Essential Diagnostic List' (NEDL) and Free Diagnostic Service Initiative (FDSI). Availability of diagnostics leads to a reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure of the patients.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India had launched the 'Free Diagnostics Service Initiative' (FDSI) programme under the National Health Mission in 2015 to provide accessible and affordable pathological and radiological diagnostics services closer to the community, which in turn reduces the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE).

The FDSI operational guidelines is available on the NHSRC website under the Healthcare Technology tab which is accessible to all States/UTs and can be downloaded from the following link:

<https://nhsrcindia.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/Free-Diagnostics-Service-Initiative.pdf>

The objective of FDSI is to provide an expanded range of diagnostics free of cost at all levels of public health facilities (14 tests at Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM)-Sub Centres, 63 at AAM Primary Health Centres, 97 at Community Health Centres, 111 test at Sub District Hospitals and 134 tests at District Hospitals) thereby reducing high out of pocket expenditure incurred by patients for diagnostics.

The details of the FDSI implementation State wise is as below:

Free Diagnostic: Laboratory service has been implemented in a total of 36 States:

12 States/UTs in mixed mode i.e. (PPP as well as In-house mode) of service delivery (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Tripura, and Uttarakhand) and through In-house mode of service delivery in 24 States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, A&N Island, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, D&N Haveli-Daman & Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal).

CT scan service has been implemented in a total of 34 States/UTs:

18 States in PPP mode (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal) and through In-house mode of service delivery in In-house mode in 16 states (A&N island, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, D&N Haveli-Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Goa, Jammu & Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Kerala, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana)

Tele-Radiology Services (Tele-reporting of X-rays) has been implemented in a total of 11 States.

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and West Bengal.
