

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2675
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.08.2025**

**RURAL-URBAN DISPARITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE GAPS IN HEALTHCARE
ACCESS FOR ELDERLY**

2675. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) the total number of Government hospitals currently operational per 10 Km in rural and urban areas across the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of healthcare facilities functioning without basic infrastructure, such as adequate staff, equipment, and medicines, across the country;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognisance that elderly persons travel up to 44 km on average for hospitalisation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to improve 80 per cent public health facilities lacking compliance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)?

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

(a) to (d): The State/UT-wise details of Government hospitals/healthcare facilities including basic infrastructure, such as adequate staff and equipment in the rural and urban areas of the country are available at website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the Uniform Resources Locator (URL) as under:

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

To improve health infrastructure and services in public health facilities, government has laid down Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). IPHS are a set of uniform standards envisaged to deliver quality services to citizens with dignity and respect. They provide guidance on the health system components such as infrastructure, human resource, drugs, diagnostics, equipment, quality, and governance requirements for delivering health services at these facilities.

- As per established norms, in rural areas following is suggested:

- One Sub Health Centre for a population of 5,000 (in plain) and 3000 (in hilly and tribal area),
- One Primary Health Centre (PHC) for a population of 30,000 (in plains) and 20,000 (in hilly and tribal areas) and
- One Community Health Centre (CHC) for a population of 1,20,000 (in plain) and 80,000 (in hilly and tribal area) is suggested.

IPHS are used as the reference point for public health care infrastructure planning and upgradation in the States and UTs. The link for the details regarding IPHS norms is as under:

<http://nrhm.gov.in/nhm/nrhm/guidelines/indian-public-health-standards.html>

Launched in the year 2018, Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM), erstwhile Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres program, is India's commitment for achieving promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative aspects of Universal Health Coverage. Besides expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive and Child Health (RMNCHA+N) services and Communicable Diseases services, the functional AAM provide services related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) (screening and management for NCDs such as Hypertension, Diabetes and 3 common cancers of Oral, Breast and Cervix) and incrementally adding other primary healthcare services for mental health, ENT, Ophthalmic, oral health, geriatric and palliative health care and trauma care etc.

The details of the funds approved for strengthening of Healthcare Institutions as per IPHS norms under National Health Mission from FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25 is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Financial Years	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Funds Approved	543,582.60	626,307.82	625,859.47

The Ministry has developed an open-source toolkit and a web-based dashboard (www.iphs.mohfw.gov.in) launched under IPHS on 28th June 2024 to facilitate self- assessment by all levels of facilities. The IPHS Dashboard is designed to monitor public health facilities' compliance with the IPHS 2022 standards and offers real-time updates, enabling oversight and data-driven decision-making to identify gaps and facilitate timely interventions.

As on 31st July, 2025 - 99% of healthcare facilities have been assessed for IPHS. Among total assessed facilities, 58% of facilities have scored more than 50%.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the “National Programme for the Health Care of the Elderly” (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health related problems of elderly people. Under Tertiary level health care services, Regional Geriatric Centers & National Centers for Ageing in selected medical colleges/Institutes have been established to take care of specific needs of elderly, with focus on long term care.

As per information provided by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, this Department administers State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), a component of the

Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojna (AVYAY), under which grant-in-aid is provided to States/ UTs for activities such as organization of health camps, conduct of cataract surgeries, and other State-Specific initiatives to enhance healthcare access for senior citizens.
