

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2988
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19th AUGUST, 2025**

SICKLE CELL DISEASE TESTING

2988. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:

SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) the tests developed in the country for diagnosing of sickle Cell disease;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of people tested so far;
- (c) the cost of such screening tests; and
- (d) whether any dedicated infrastructure has been established or designated by Government to support research, patient care and community outreach for sickle Cell disease and other haemoglobinopathies ?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): Under National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM), screenings are conducted at all health facilities from District Hospitals upto Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) level across the country for diagnosis of Sickle Cell Disease. As on date, a total of 30 Point of care tests (PoCT) and 5 Non Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) Assays validated tests for screening of SCD have been approved by ICMR and are used by States for screening. As on 31.07.2025, a total of 6,07,30,111 screenings have been done in the 17 identified tribal dominated States.

Cost norms for screening of SCD have been approved as Rs. 100/person which includes cost of screening, record keeping and related cost.

Patients living with SCD are provided with the following services/ facilities for improving their quality of life through AAM- Sub Health Centres (SHC) and AAM- Primary Health Centres (PHCs):

- Follow-up of diseased individuals at frequent intervals.
- Counseling regarding lifestyle management, pre-marriage and pre-natal decisions.

- Nutritional supplementation support through distribution of folic acid tablets.
- Conducting yoga and wellness sessions.
- Management of crisis symptoms and referral to higher facilities.

Through MoTA, awareness and counseling material have been developed and disseminated to the States & UTs. Through monthly Ayushman Arogya Shivirs, awareness is raised for various health programmes including SCD.

MoHFW has issued guidelines for cost norms for establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoE) on SCD funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in various states. As on date, 15 CoEs have been approved in the country across 14 States by MoTA.

Under Department of Health Research, ICMR has established the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh and a Centre for Research Management and Control of Hemoglobinopathies in Chandrapur, Maharashtra which supports national programs including sickle cell disease.
