

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1256  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH  
COVERAGE**

**1256 # SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:**

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

- (a) the progress in healthcare access, beneficiary coverage and universal health coverage under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) under AB-PMJAY;
- (b) the status of maternal and child health, immunization, malnutrition and infectious disease control and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the National Health Mission (NHM);
- (c) the capacity of system improved through vaccination, emergency preparedness and digital health initiatives during COVID-19; and
- (d) the effectiveness of medical education, AIIMS expansion, telemedicine and quality assurance measures?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): 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. Recently, the scheme has been expanded to cover 6 crore senior citizens of age 70 years and above belonging to 4.5 crore families irrespective of their socio-economic status under AB PM-JAY with Vay Vandana Card. As per PM-JAY Dashboard, more than 43.20 Cr. Ayushman Cards have been created and 33,136 hospitals have been empaneled to provide healthcare benefits, as on 05.02.2026.

Through 1.82 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) [erstwhile Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)], comprehensive primary healthcare is provided by strengthening Sub

Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). These AAMs provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care for an expanded range of services encompassing reproductive and child healthcare services, Communicable diseases, Non-communicable diseases and other health issues. To complement the expanded services, the essential list of drugs & diagnostics has been expanded to make available 172 drugs & 63 diagnostics at PHC-AAMs and 106 drugs & 14 diagnostics at SHC-AAMs.

(b) The National Health Mission (NHM) provides support for improvement in health infrastructure, availability of adequate human resources in health facilities, to improve availability and accessibility to quality healthcare across the country. Under NHM, the Union Government provides financial and technical support to States/UTs for implementation of key programmes relating to Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N), Universal Immunisation, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and mental health conditions. Government of India provides approval for the proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

Under the National Health Policy, 2017, the Government has set time-bound targets to improve health outcomes and has made significant progress towards achieving these goals. Total Fertility Rate has declined to 2.0 [National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)], Maternal and child health indicators have shown steady improvement, with the Maternal Mortality Ratio declining to 88 per lakh live births, Infant Mortality Rate to 25 per thousand and Under-Five Mortality Rate to 29 per thousand [Sample Registration System (SRS 2023)].

(c) For smooth execution of the National Covid-19 Vaccination program, cold chain capacities were strengthened along with training of cold chain handlers and vaccinators. A unique digital platform CoWIN was developed to support the recording and reporting of covid vaccination, provide visibility of session planned and issue of digital vaccination certificates. eSanjeevani, India's national telemedicine service, has delivered millions of patient consultations and been integral in bridging access gaps during and after COVID-19. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) IDs have created a unified backbone for digital health records, facilitating continuity of care, tracking, and interoperability across services.

Emergency Covid Response & Health System Preparedness Package-II (ECRP-II) was launched under NHM for providing support to Primary, Secondary and Tertiary care facilities during the Pandemic.

(d) This Ministry administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' with preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no existing Government or private medical college to enhance medical education infrastructure and affordable tertiary healthcare. Under the Scheme, 157 Government medical colleges have been approved in three phases.

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) aims at correcting regional imbalance in the availability of affordable tertiary healthcare services and to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. Under PMSSY, setting up of 22 new AIIMS has been approved so far.

The teleconsultation services, available at all operational AAMs across the country including rural areas, enables people to access the specialist services closer to their homes addressing concerns of physical accessibility, shortage of service providers and to facilitate continuum of care.

National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS), launched by Government of India, provides a comprehensive framework aimed at enhancing the quality of care in public health facilities by focusing on areas such as service provision, patient rights, inputs, support services, clinical care, infection control, quality management. This lead to better patient outcomes and increased public trust in healthcare services.

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