

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 260
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY

260 # DR. JYOTI NAGNATH WAGHMARE:

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

- (a) the recent steps taken by Government to strengthen primary healthcare services and promote disease prevention in the country and the details thereof;
- (b) the details of recent policies/programmes relating to Ayushman Bharat, digital health and maternal and child health in the State of Maharashtra; and
- (c) the improvements made so far in accessing healthcare services, their quality and public health indicators as a result of these initiatives and the State-wise details thereof, particularly in respect of the State of Maharashtra?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare services and to promote disease prevention, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission (NHM). Government of India provides approval for the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

Various initiatives carried out under NHM by the Government of India in the country are operationalisation of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), Free Drugs Service Initiative, Free Diagnostic Service Initiative, National Ambulance Services, Mobile Medical Units, ASHAs, 24 x 7 Services and First Referral Facilities, Prime Minister's National Dialysis Programme, various activities under Reproductive & Child Health, Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) strategy, TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan and Universal Immunization programme.

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD) focuses on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, early diagnosis, referral to an appropriate level of healthcare facility for treatment and management and health promotion and awareness generation for prevention of NCDs including cervical cancer. Under NP-NCD, 770 District NCD Clinics, 524 Day Care Cancer Centres, 233 Cardiac Care Units and 6410 Community Health Centre NCD Clinics has been set up.

A population-based initiative for screening, management and prevention of common NCDs has been rolled out as a part of comprehensive Primary Health Care in the country under NHM.

(b) Through 1.86 lakh AAMs including 13,457 AAMs in Maharashtra, 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.

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.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an online platform enabling interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem to create longitudinal electronic health record of every citizen, make healthcare accessible for citizens.

The teleconsultation services, available at all operational AAMs across the country including Maharashtra, 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.

PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crore, focuses on developing capacities of health systems and institutions across the country.

The Government of India has undertaken various initiatives under NHM to improve maternal, neonatal and child health outcomes across the country including Maharashtra. Key measures are as follows:

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK):** Promote institutional deliveries and provide free, cashless delivery (including caesarean), diagnostics, drugs, diet, transport and blood transfusion in public health facilities, with similar benefits for sick infants.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** Provides free, assured antenatal check-ups by Specialists/Medical Officers on the 9th of every month, with emphasis on identification and management of high-risk pregnancies.
- **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN):** Ensures assured, dignified, respectful and quality healthcare at no cost with zero tolerance for denial of services to pregnant women and newborns.
- **Postnatal Care Initiatives:** Strengthen early detection, referral and management of high-risk postpartum mothers through ASHA support.
- **Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB):** Addresses anemia among children, adolescents, women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women through a lifecycle approach.
- **Nutrition and Child Health Interventions:** Include Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA), Lactation Management Centres, Vitamin A supplementation, Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC)/Home-Based Care for Young Child Programme (HBYC) and

(c): Under the National Health Policy, 2017, the Government has set targets to improve health outcomes and has made significant progress towards achieving these goals. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides details on major changes in anaemia, malnutrition and other health indicators across the country including Maharashtra. The State-wise list of key indicators NFHS-6 may be extracted from below mentioned link:

<https://www.mohfw-dohfw.gov.in/static/uploads/2026/05/111ff4a13ca36b5cabb7f94aec5bb0ce.pdf>

The Sample Registration System (SRS) report 2024 is a large-scale demographic survey in India that provides reliable annual estimates of fertility, mortality, and population dynamics across the country including Maharashtra. The State-wise details may be seen in the following link:

<https://censusindia.gov.in/census.website/data/SRSSTAT>
