

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2657
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th AUGUST 2026**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RARE DISEASES

2657. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) the specific steps taken to mitigate the challenges posed by rare diseases in the country;
- (b) whether the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD) provides financial and medical assistance for treatment of patients suffering from identified rare diseases in the designated Centers of Excellence (CoEs); and
- (c) whether Government proposes to establish more CoEs for Rare Diseases so that patients do not have to travel long distances for consultation and treatment in the country and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c) Health being a 'State' subject, the primary responsibility of providing healthcare services is that of the State Governments. However, to mitigate the challenges posed by rare diseases in the country, the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021 provides financial and medical assistance of up to ₹50 lakhs per patient for treatment of identified rare diseases at designated Centres of Excellence (CoEs). Further,

- The number of Rare Diseases identified under NPRD has increased from 51 to 63, enabling more patients to get benefit under the policy.
- The number of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) has doubled from 8 to 16 since the inception of the policy in 2021. 2 CoEs have also been designated in the North-eastern region of the country, thereby increasing geographical outreach and accessibility of treatment. List of 16 CoEs is annexed.
- Full exemption from Basic Customs Duty (BCD) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on the Drugs, Medicines and Food for Special Medical Purposes (FSMP) imported for persons suffering from rare disease for personal use or use through CoEs.

Annexure**List of 16 Centers of Excellence (CoEs) designated under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021 as on 07.08.2026:**

S. No.	Centers of Excellence (CoE)
1.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
2.	Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
3.	Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow
4.	Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
5.	Centre for DNA Fingerprinting & Diagnostics with Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad
6.	King Edward Medical Hospital, Mumbai
7.	All India Institute of Medical Science, Nagpur
8.	Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Kolkata
9.	Center for Human Genetics(CHG) with Indira Gandhi Hospital, Bengaluru
10.	Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children (ICH & CH), Chennai
11.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur
12.	Sree Avittam Thirunal Hospital (SAT), Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram
13.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal
14.	Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal
15.	Assam Medical College and Hospital, Dibrugarh
16.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna