

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2026**

STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY

282 # SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing a special action plan to strengthen primary and district-level healthcare services in the country;
- (b) the key steps taken by Government to increase the availability of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare personnel, as well as to expand healthcare infrastructure; and
- (c) the new initiatives taken by Government to ensure affordable, accessible and quality healthcare services to all citizens?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system including primary and district-level healthcare services, 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 proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

A total of 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) [erstwhile Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)] have been operationalized by strengthening Sub-health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the country. These AAMs provide preventive, promotive, rehabilitative and curative care for an expanded range of services. The AAMs incrementally provide 12 package of primary health care services across the country, encompassing Reproductive and child care services, Communicable diseases, Non Communicable diseases (NCD), Palliative Care and elderly Care, Care for common mental disorders, neurological conditions (epilepsy, dementia) and substance use disorders management (tobacco, alcohol, drugs), Oral health, ENT care, and Basic emergency care.

Under Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Service Initiative, Government of India provides financial support to States/UTs for essential drugs & pathological and radiological diagnostic services at all public health facilities upto District level. This includes support for 113 drugs &

14 tests at Sub Health Centre- Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (SHC-AAMs), 179 drugs & 63 tests at Primary Health Centre- Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (PHC-AAMs), 301 drugs & 97 tests at Community Health Centres (CHCs), 318 drugs & 111 tests at Sub District Hospitals (SDHs) and 381 drugs & 134 tests at District Hospitals (DHs).

Health Dynamics of India (HDI), is an annual publication, based on healthcare administrative data reported by States/UTs. Details of availability of doctors, nurses, other healthcare personnel and health infrastructure across the country, State/UT-wise, may be accessed through the HMIS portal under Publications at the following link of HDI 2023-24:

<https://hmis.mohfw.gov.in>

The Government of India provides incentives and honorarium to medical professionals to improve service delivery in rural and remote areas. Under NHM, measures such as Hard Area Allowance for specialist doctors, flexibility to States to offer negotiable salaries including “You Quote We Pay”, non-monetary incentives like preferential admission in postgraduate courses and multi-skilling of doctors through training in Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) and Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) are supported to address the shortage of specialists in such areas.

The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) aims to support for infrastructure development for SHCs, Urban AAMs, Support for Block Public Health Units (BPHUs), Integrated District Public Health Laboratories (IPHL) and Critical Care Hospital Blocks (CCB). The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FC-XV) has recommended grants through Local Governments for specific components of the health sectors.

Various initiatives carried out under NHM by the Government of India in the country to ensure affordable, accessible and quality healthcare services are 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.

To improve health services in public health facilities, the Government of India has laid down Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022. These standards include norms for services, infrastructure, human resources, diagnostics, equipment, medicines etc. NHM provides support to address these gaps, ensuring the reach and meeting of essential standards for these facilities. National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) have also been launched for all health facilities including AAMs for an improved service delivery.
