

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH MARCH, 2018**

HELICOPTER AMBULANCE SERVICES

2426. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote and establish a network of rural helicopter ambulance services in several selected districts on pilot mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the requirement of such a service owing to the shortage of options for immediate transportation of patients from rural and remote areas of the country; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to constitute an expert panel for ascertaining the viability of the scheme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Presently, the Government has no proposal to promote and establish a network of rural helicopter ambulance services.

(c) & (d): Such a service can expedite transportation of patients from rural and remote areas.

However, 'Public health and hospitals' being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide health care services lies with the respective State/UT Governments, including transportation of patients from rural and remote areas.

Presently no support is provided by this Ministry for establishment of network of rural helicopter ambulance services. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for ambulance service for immediate transportation of patients from rural and remote areas, based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Government has no proposal at present to constitute an expert panel for ascertaining the viability of the rural helicopter ambulance services.