

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

OVERCROWDING IN HOSPITALS

2068. SHRI RAJENDRA D. GAVIT:

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

- (a) whether the hospitals in the country are overcrowded due to mismanagement on part of the hospitals and lack of adequate preparation in implementation of various health schemes by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any study report in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d): Health is a State subject and no such information is maintained centrally. It is the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territories (UTs) Government/Administration to create adequate infrastructure/ manpower to avoid overcrowding of the hospitals. However, the Central Government supplements their efforts by way of providing assistance to the States/UTs for creation/upgradation of health care infrastructure under various schemes like National Health Mission (NHM), etc. The implementation of NHM is also done by States/UTs. No such report regarding overcrowding due to mismanagement has been brought to notice in the recent past.

Under Ayushman Bharat, Sub Centers and Primary Health Centers are being strengthened as Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) for provision of comprehensive primary care with continuum of care approach close to the community. In the Operational Guidelines for Comprehensive primary care, it is envisaged that among others, a strong network of HWCs at the sub district level would facilitate resolving more cases at primary level and reduce overcrowding at secondary and tertiary facilities for follow up cases as well as serve a gate keeping function to higher-level facilities.

As far as three Central Government Hospitals viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC and associated Hospitals are concerned, the number of patients visiting for surgery and treatment in these Institutes/Hospitals is much larger as compared to their handling capacity in terms of number of beds, manpower and other resources. This overcrowding is not due to mismanagement or lack of adequate preparation in implementation of various health schemes but due to the huge number of patients who come to these hospitals for treatment, not only from Delhi but also from neighbouring states.

Despite availability of huge infrastructure and other services in these Hospitals, there is a waiting period for certain procedures due to the ever increasing pressure on infrastructure and available manpower in these hospitals, which varies from Department to Department in these Hospitals.

Expansion of existing facilities and creation of new facility in a Hospital is an ongoing process and is undertaken as per the requirement and availability of resources. Projects for augmentation of capacity have also been approved in the three Central Government hospitals namely Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC and associated Hospitals. Super Specialty Block with 807 beds and New Emergency Block with 500 beds constructed under redevelopment plan of Safdarjung Hospital have started functioning w.e.f. 29th June, 2018 and 07th February, 2018 respectively.

In addition, the Central Government has also set up 6 new AIIMS at Jodhpur, Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Rishikesh, Raipur and Patna under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Government has also taken up up-gradation of existing Government Medical Colleges of States.