

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023**

**FREE DRUGS & DIAGNOSTICS SERVICE INITIATIVE**

**1386. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:**

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

- (a) the details of the Free Drugs and Diagnostics Service initiative under the National Health Mission;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any study to gauge the efficacy of the initiative after so many years of its implementation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including in Maharashtra and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of average number of Outpatients in Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs), State/ UT-wise with particular reference to Maharashtra; and
- (e) the details of measures being taken to increase Outpatient count in Health and Wellness Centres?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c) Under NHM financial support is provided to States / UTs for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posed by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope. Ministry has recommended facility wise Essential Drugs List (EDL) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities to ensure widespread access to essential medicines. No of medicines recommended at various facilities are given below. However States have the flexibility to add more.

Sr. No.	Name of Facility	No. of essential Medicine
1	DH	375
2	SDH	311
3	CHC	299
4	HWC-PHC	171
5	HWC-Sub Centre	105

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India supports 'Free Diagnostics Service Initiative' (FDSI) programme under National Health Mission. The programme was launched with the aim to provide accessible and affordable pathological and radiological diagnostics services closer to the community which in turn reduces the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE). Diagnostics services provided at the health & wellness centres are given as below;

Sr. No.	Name of Facilities	No. of Diagnostics
1	DHs	134
2	SDHs	111
3	CHCs	97
4	HWC-PHC	63
5	HWC-Sub Centre	14

(d) The details of State/UTs-wise Footfall at AB-HWCs as on 1st February 2023 including Maharashtra is attached at **Annexure**.

(e) Various steps have been taken by GoI to increase the outpatients in AB-HWCs are as under:

- The expanded package comprising 12 services are aimed to be provided by AB-HWCs includes screening, prevention, control and management of non-communicable diseases, care for common eye and ENT problems, basic oral health care, elderly and palliative health care services, emergency medical services and screening and basic management of mental health ailments.
- Number of essential medicines and essential diagnostics at AB-HWCs have been increased.
- HWCs are connected through E-Sanjeevni Tele-Consultation to provide specialist consultation in case of need.
- AB-HWCs ensure continuity of care through appropriate referrals and optimal home and community follow-up.
- Wellness-related activities like Yoga, Zumba, and Meditation, 42 annual health calendar days are celebrated by each AB-HWC.
- Community platforms like Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee and Mahila Arogya Samiti and facility-based platforms like Jan Arogya Samitis are instrumental in raising awareness of National Health Programs and health initiatives.
- Block Health Melas and Melas at AB-HWCs are conducted to create awareness among thousands of people desiring to avail quality healthcare services.

**Annexure 1 – State/UT Wise Footfalls at AB-HWCs**

S.No	States/UTs	Footfalls Total (in lakh)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	12.64
2	Andhra Pradesh	1189.50
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6.22
4	Assam	175.16
5	Bihar	215.22
6	Chandigarh	22.00
7	Chhattisgarh	422.84
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8.88
9	Daman & Diu	8.00
10	Delhi	0.00636
11	Goa	26.29
12	Gujarat	1037.37
13	Haryana	285.58
14	Himachal Pradesh	78.19
15	Jammu & Kashmir	126.21
16	Jharkhand	89.84
17	Karnataka	1063.16
18	Kerala	937.31
19	Ladakh	4.90
20	Lakshadweep	2.50
21	Madhya Pradesh	682.94
22	Maharashtra	1322.54
23	Manipur	9.61
24	Meghalaya	39.63
25	Mizoram	14.01
26	Nagaland	8.04
27	Odisha	800.20
28	Puducherry	102.67
29	Punjab	282.35
30	Rajasthan	790.64
31	Sikkim	7.97
32	Tamil Nadu	1543.00
33	Telangana	594.03
34	Tripura	26.73
35	Uttar Pradesh	984.05
36	Uttarakhand	62.12
37	West Bengal	1227.57
<b>Total</b>		<b>14210.08</b>

(Data Source- AB-HWC portal as on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023)