

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2861  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023**

**HEALTHCARE AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT**

**2861. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:**

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

- a) whether the pandemic has exposed and aggravated the gaps in our healthcare systems;
- b) if so, the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- c) whether the Government proposes to make necessary amendments to the Constitution to declare healthcare a Fundamental Right; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d): The COVID-19 pandemic has been a once in century crisis which has stresses public health delivery systems across the world, developed and developing countries alike.

Health is a State subject. Government of India has provided required technical and financial support to states in managing the pandemic.

Union Health Ministry has issued more than 200 technical guidelines related to management of various facets of pandemic management and shared with all States/UTs. All States/UTs have been provided with financial support under National Health Mission and Emergency COVID-19 Response Packages (ECRP) – I & II for health system strengthening in terms of availability of testing kits, medicines, vaccines & upgradation of health infrastructure.

Further with an aim to better prepare the country for any future public health emergencies, PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) has been launched with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores which will support states in terms of setting up of Integrated public health labs, surveillance network, establishing critical care blocks & upgrading research infrastructure, besides providing funds under various other scheme including National Health Mission (NHM)

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