

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4958  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023**

**AFFORDABLE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**4958. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:**

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

- (a) the schemes introduced by the Government to improve health facilities in the country during the last five years; and
- (b) the details of National Medical Commission Act, 2019 enacted to provide improved access to quality and affordable medical education?

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

(a) & (b): NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission. Government of India provides approval for the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

Major schemes introduced by the Government to improve health facilities in the country during last five years are as under:

**Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs):** In February 2018, the Government of India announced 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) to be established across the country by December 2022. The existing Sub- Health Centres (SHC), Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHC) are transformed into AB-HWCs to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which are universal, free, and closer to the community.

As on 28.02.2023 a total of 1,57,698 AB-HWCs have been operationalized across the country.

**Ayushman Bharat - PradhanMantri Jan ArogyaYojana(AB-PMJAY)** which provides health coverage up to Rs. 5.00 lakh per family per year to around identified 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable

families identified based on Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.

**Fifteen Finance Commission:** Health sector grants through local government has recommended grants aggregating to Rs. 70,051 Crores over the period of five years (2021-2026) through local government to strengthen the healthcare system in states.

**Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)** with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 Crores aims to fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with some Central Sector components. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Components includes support for infrastructure development for Sub-Health Centres, Urban Health and Wellness Centres, Support for 3382 BPHUs, 730 Integrated District Public Health Laboratories and 602 Critical Care Hospital Blocks.

National Medical Commission Act, 2019 provides for a medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education and ensures availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals in all parts of the country. NMC has taken following steps to improve quality & affordability of medical education

- i) The qualification awarded by the Diplomate of National Board (DNB) through National Board of Examinations (NBE) has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- ii) Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension / re-employment against post of teachers / Dean / Principal/ Director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- iii) The ratio of teachers to students has been rationalized to increase the number of postgraduate medical seats in the country.
- iv) Relaxation of norms for setting up of medical college in teams of requirements of faculty staff, bed strength & other infrastructure.

Further, the NMC through Medical Assessment & Rating Board (MARB) carries out inspections of medical institutions before giving any permission for starting / renewal/ increase of medical seats in the colleges on parameters including faculties / equipment and infrastructure.

NMC Act, 2019 also provides for framing of guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty percent (50%) of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities which are governed under the provisions of the Act. Accordingly, National Medical Commission (NMC) has framed the guidelines and the same were issued on 03.02.2022.

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