

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3056
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2019**

CHALLENGES OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

3056. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Ayushman Bharat is posed with a number of challenges that range from covering/treating non-communicable diseases to women's health and check infant mortality;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome these challenges?

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

(a) to (c): Under Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres are to be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres across the country by December, 2022. AB-HWCs would provide service delivery of a package of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services delivered close to communities to overcome the challenge of dual burden of disease. The expanded range of services would include services related to Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs), Mental health, ENT, Ophthalmology, Oral health, Geriatric and palliative health care and Trauma care, in addition to the existing services of Reproductive Child Health and communicable diseases. Services at AB-HWCs are free and universal to all.

The challenges in the implementation of AB-HWCs and steps taken to overcome the challenges are at Annexure I and II respectively.

Under Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), health cover up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per annum is provided to around 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families as per Socio-Economic Caste Census data. For providing care to beneficiaries, a set of 1392 health benefit packages across 24 specialties, which also include General medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Neonatal care and Paediatric medical management, have been defined. These Packages include treatment of non-communicable diseases and also cover women's & infants' health.

Further, AB-PMJAY also has a provision of an 'Unspecified package' to cover surgical conditions not defined within the package list. The details of packages are available on the website www.pmjay.gov.in.

Challenges in the Implementation of AB-HWCs

- Ensuring adequate, well skilled and well equipped human resources at Health Sub Centre level and Primary Health Centre level AB-HWCs.
- Strengthening supply chain to ensure availability of free essential drugs and diagnostics required for providing expanded package of Comprehensive Primary Healthcare (CPHC) services at AB-HWC level.
- To strengthen the infrastructure of targeted Health Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres for transformation into AB-HWCs especially those public healthcare facilities in rented buildings and dilapidated conditions besides creation of new facilities as per norms.
- Training and skill upgradation of primary healthcare team for expanded range of services.
- Behaviour change communication strategy increasing for awareness on healthy life style and eat right practices amongst the community.
- Creation of a robust IT system for registration of population covered by AB-HWC, creation of family folder, referral and return services, linkage with screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow up.
- Strengthening higher level facilities to manage the referrals from AB-HWCs.
- Addressing the NCDs in urban context due to the complexities of migration.
- Commensurate allocation of financial resources by government for creation of all the above mentioned services and facilities.
- Issues relating to governance and capacity, especially in the high focus states.
- Unavailability of proven community outreach strategies and ways to create ownership by the community of the AB-HWC are additional challenges.

Steps taken to overcome challenges in the implementation of HWCs

- Recently States/UTs were oriented on the challenges and way forward by conducting four regional workshops on Operationalization of AB-HWCs.
- The Health Ministers of the States during the recently concluded meeting of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) held in October 2019 passed a resolution to strengthen AB-HWC and Comprehensive Primary Healthcare (CPHC) as a measure towards Health for all in their States/ UTs and another resolution was passed regarding increasing the budget for health as stated in national Health Policy, 2017 which will increase the financial resources to expand and strengthen AB-HWCs and Comprehensive Primary Healthcare.
- Under National Health Mission (NHM), technical and financial support is provided to the States to strengthen their healthcare system including for transformation of healthcare facilities to AB-HWCs viz, support for engaging required Human Resources, multiskilling and capacity building of the existing primary healthcare team, expanded range of medicines and diagnostics, upgraded infrastructure, digitization in terms of availability of tablets/desktops, use of telemedicine/ information technology platforms, inclusion of health promotion activities, community mobilization and additional financial resources as per the norms prescribed in the Operational guidelines on Ayushman Bharat – Comprehensive Primary Healthcare through Health and Wellness Centres.
- Besides this, NHM Conditionality framework and mechanisms of additional incentives encourage states to utilise the resources for transforming Primary Health Centres and Health Sub Centres as AB-HWCs.