

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 751
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH February, 2021**

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RURAL HEALTHCARE

751. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare services in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any plan/strategy to combat the lack of public health infrastructure in rural and remote areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the quantum of funds the Government proposes to invest in the public health system in rural and remote areas along with the estimated time period within which details will be made available; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide any formal medical training to healthcare providers in rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): No study/survey has been conducted by MoHFW to assess the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare services in rural areas. However, Public Health and Hospitals being the State subject, all the States/UTs were requested to ensure the provision of services for COVID management and also towards the provision of essential services during the current public health challenge arising out of COVID-19. States/UTs are being provided required technical and financial assistance for strengthening of their healthcare system including management of the COVID-19 Public Health Challenge from time to time. All the States/UTs are provided with necessary financial support under *India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package*.

(c) & (d): As “Public Health & Hospitals” being a State subject, the primary responsibility for ensuring healthcare services including strengthening public health care infrastructure lies with respective State Government.

To address the healthcare challenges, particularly in rural areas, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 to supplement the efforts of the State/UT governments to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all those who access public health facilities. Currently, NRHM is a sub-mission of National Health Mission (NHM). NHM support is provided to States/ UTs for setting up of new facilities as per norms and upgradation of existing facilities for bridging the infrastructure gaps based on the requirement posed by them.

(e): Pursuant to the announcement of Finance Minister on components of *Health Sector Reforms and Initiatives*, with the suggestions and comments from NITI Aayog, related Ministries and States/UTs, a cabinet note for a scheme titled 'Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharath Yojana (PM-ASBY)' has been forwarded to the Cabinet Secretariat, for an amount of Rs.64,179.75 crores, with the approval of Hon'ble Finance Minister and Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, in November 2020. The Scheme has also been announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Budget Speech on 1st February, 2021

(f): Under National Health Mission, based on the proposals received from the States/UTs in their annual programme implementation plans, support is provided for imparting necessary training to healthcare providers in the public healthcare facilities including those in rural areas