

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 528
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENDITURE

528. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the high Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on healthcare in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/planning to take measures to bring under regulation the price of drugs and diagnostics in the private healthcare sector, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is planning on introducing a statutory regulatory authority on the lines of SEBI and IRDA to monitor healthcare provisions and efficiency in India, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of measures undertaken towards making India a hub for spiritual and wellness tourism and telemedicine?

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

- (a) to (d) : As per the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates, the year-wise household's Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on health as percentage of Total Health Expenditure (THE) in the country are as under:

2015-16 – 60.6%
2016-17 – 58.7%
2017-18 – 48.8%

There is declining trend in the OOPE in the country.

Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 has been promulgated based on National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy 2012. Accordingly, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority fixes the ceiling price of scheduled medicines as specified in the first schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO to ensure their affordability.

All manufactures of scheduled medicines (branded or generic) have to sell their products within the ceiling price (plus applicable Goods and Service Tax) fixed by the NPPA as per DPCO, 2013. A manufacturer is at liberty to fix the maximum retail price of a non-scheduled formulation branded or generic launched by it. However, the manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations cannot increase the maximum retail price of such formulations by more than 10% per annum.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) was launched on 15th August 2020 as a pilot in six Union Territories – Andaman & Nicobar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. After completion of the pilot, the national rollout of the ABDM has been announced on 27.9.21. Three key registries of ABDM namely, Health ID, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and digital infrastructure for data exchange have been developed and implemented in these UTs.

The Information Technology Act 2000 along with Policies and guidelines including but not limited to Health Data Management Policy, Sandbox Guidelines etc published by ABDM from time to time lay down the regulatory and policy framework for the regulation of ABDM.

Till 25.1.2022, 15,05,92,811 Health IDs (now known as ABHA – Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts) have been created in the country. A total of 15,016 health facilities and 8378 doctors have been registered under ABDM ecosystem.

Telemedicine services have been rolled out in 36 States/UTs. The ABDM ecosystem will further enhance India's ability to provide telemedicine services across the globe.

In order to promote India as a Wellness Tourism Destination, some of the key initiatives which have been taken by Ministry of Tourism are: -

- i) Constitution of a National Medical and Wellness Board to provide dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism etc.
- ii) Wide circulation of Publicity material to promote Medical and Wellness Tourism in target markets.
- iii) Provision of Financial assistance to Medical/ Wellness Tourism service providers and Wellness Centers accredited by NABH for participation in Medical/ Tourism Fairs and allied Road shows.
- iv) Formulation of a National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism.
