

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 649
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

649. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

- a) whether the WHO has advocated to the Government to allocate at least one percent of the GDP to Primary Health Care (PHC) to achieve Universal Health Coverage and health related Sustainable Development Goals and if so, the details thereof; and
- b) the steps taken by the Government to build a strong PHC system capable of providing a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable health care to all?

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

(a) As per the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for 2017-18, the Government Expenditure allocated to Health (i.e. GHE) was more than 1% of GDP.

(b) Under National Health Mission (NHM), technical and financial support is provided to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare delivery at public healthcare facilities. NHM support is provided to States/ UTs for setting up of new facilities as per norms and up-gradation of existing facilities for bridging the infrastructure gaps, including in rural areas, based on the requirement posed by them.

To progressively achieve Universal Health Coverage, Ayushman Bharat- Health and wellness Centres (AB-HWC) was launched in 2018 to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare services. Against a target of 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres by December 2022, the existing Sub-Health Centres (SHC), Primary Health Centres (PHC) and Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHC) are under transformation into AB-HWCs to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which is universal, free, and close to the community. More than 89,000 AB-HWCs have been operationalized by January 2022.

The 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package-I' (ECRP-I) of Rs.15,000 Crores has been approved by the Cabinet on 22nd April 2020 with an objective to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19.

Further, the Cabinet has also approved the scheme, "India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package-II" (ECRP-II) on 08th July 2021 for an amount of Rs.23,123 Crores. The scheme aims to accelerate health system preparedness for immediate responsiveness for early prevention, detection and management of COVID-19, with the focus on health infrastructure development.
