

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 967
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2025**

LIMITED REACH OF PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

967. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that approximately 10 million patients in India need palliative care annually, as flagged by the WHO, yet only about 4% have received such services, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has identified reasons for the limited reach of palliative services in the country, despite the existence of various national programme and policies, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to train healthcare workers, including ASHA, ANM and paramedical graduates, to fulfill this reach, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to integrate palliative care in primary and community healthcare centers across the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b): As per recent studies, in India an estimated 7 to 10 million people require palliative care annually. Under National Programme for Palliative Care (NPPC), the Out Patient, In-Patient palliative care services are being delivered at district hospitals in 600 districts across all States/Union Territories. Home based palliative care services are also being delivered by trained Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) and Community volunteers. In the year 2024-25 the number of patients who have availed Out-Patient, In-Patient and Home-based Palliative Care services are 60,82,069 , 25,17,663 and 5,50,056 respectively.

(c) & (d) : The Government has taken significant steps to train healthcare workers in palliative care, primarily through NPPC, which was launched in 2012. The government has developed a cascade model of training with specific modules for various healthcare providers, including Medical Officers, Staff Nurses, Community Health Officers (CHOs), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), and ASHA Workers.

Palliative care is one of the 12 essential services delivered at the Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) level. The government is also leveraging teleconsultation services at AAM to provide access to specialists and implementing community-based initiatives to support care. Moreover, Palliative care is integrated with other national programs like National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP- NCD) , Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and for the elderly to create a more unified approach.
