

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1066
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026**

GAPS IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

1066. SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing pressure on public health infrastructure due to rising disease burden, shortage of specialists and gaps in primary healthcare services across the country; and
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen healthcare facilities, improve service delivery and ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for all citizens in the country?

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

(a) to (b): The details regarding specialists across the country can be accessed at the following link of HDI 2023-24:

<https://www.mohfw-dohfw.gov.in/static/uploads/2026/05/57202cf30629539e4d0fb0a2f700ac62.pdf>

Health is a State subject. The primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system, including public health infrastructure and gaps in primary healthcare services lies with the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system and to promote disease prevention in rural areas based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission. Government of India provides approval for the proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources. States/ UTs are to ensure availability of HR by creating adequate number of regular posts as per the Indian Public Health Standards

(IPHS) in the long run and using NHM posts in the short to medium term to fill critical gaps. The NHM supplements the regular human resources by filling up the gaps in human resources in secondary and primary care facilities (District Hospital and below) as per IPHS.

The National Health Mission (NHM) provides support for improvement in health infrastructure, availability of adequate human resources in health facilities, to improve availability, affordability and accessibility to quality health care especially for the poor and vulnerable sections in urban, rural, and tribal/hilly areas.

A total of 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) have been established and operationalized in the country, which deliver expanded range of comprehensive primary healthcare services encompassing preventive, promotive, palliative, rehabilitative, and curative care. National Free Drugs Service initiative and Free diagnostic Service has been rolled out to ensure availability of essential drugs and diagnostic facilities and reduce out of pocket expenditure of the patients visiting public health facilities.

The various other initiatives carried out under NHM by the Government of India for enhancing the affordability of healthcare in the country are National Ambulance Services, Mobile Medical Units, ASHAs, 24 x 7 Services and First Referral Facilities, Prime Minister's National Dialysis Programme, various activities under Reproductive & Child Health, Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy, TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and Universal Immunization programme. With the aim of ensuring and enhancing the quality of healthcare services, National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) have been launched for all health facilities including AAMs.
