

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026**

STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN PUNJAB

1129. DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government is taking steps to strengthen Government hospitals in Punjab on a priority basis and to ensure strict regulation and transparency in the charges levied by private healthcare institutions, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the details of the measures taken by the Government to regulate charges levied by private healthcare institutions and strengthen Government hospitals in Punjab?

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

(a) & (b): Public Health & hospitals fall under the State list and therefore, the primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system is with the State/UT. However, under the National Health Mission, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs including State of Punjab to strengthen the public healthcare system including strengthening of Government hospitals 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.

To ensure availability of essential drugs and reduce the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) of the patients visiting the public health facilities, Government has rolled out the Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI) under National Health Mission. This includes financial support to States/UTs for 113 drugs at Sub Health Centre level, 179 at Primary Health Centre

level, 301 at Community Health Centre level, 318 at Sub District Hospital level and 381 drugs at district Hospitals.

This Ministry supports 'Free Diagnostics Service Initiative' programme under NHM with the aim to provide accessible and affordable pathological and radiological diagnostics services closer to the community, which in turn reduces the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE). Diagnostics services are provided free of cost at all levels of public health facilities (14 tests at Sub Centers, 63 at Primary Health Centers, 97 at Community Health Centres, 111 test at Sub District Hospitals and 134 tests at District Hospitals).

The Government of India, enacted 'The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010' (CE Act) and notified 'The Clinical Establishments (Central Government) Rules, 2012' thereunder to provide for registration and regulation of Government as well as private clinical establishments belonging to recognized systems of medicine i.e. Allopathy, Yoga, Naturopathy, Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Siddha and Unani System of medicines, or any other system of medicine as may be recognised by the Central Government (except those of Armed Forces). The State Governments and Union Territories Administration which have adopted the CE Act are primarily responsible for regulating their hospitals including private hospitals as per provisions of the CE Act and Rules thereunder to ensure the provision of affordable and quality healthcare to patients. As per the CE Act, all the clinical establishments (Government & private) are required to fulfil the conditions of minimum standards of facilities and services and inter-alia, display of rates charged by them at a conspicuous place. The CE Act has empowered a registering authority at the District level under the chairmanship of the District Collector / District Magistrate to take actions including imposing penalties in respect of violation of its provisions.
