

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2123
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2026**

AIR POLLUTION RELATED DISEASES

2123. SHRI NAVASKANI K:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken corrective steps to address the failure to achieve the targets set out in the National Health Policy, 2017 (to be realised before the year 2025), including expansion of public health expenditure to 2.5 percent of GDP and reduction of the mortality rate of children under the age of 5 years to 23 per 1000, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate policy directives and specific targets for the subsequent planning period in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which the proposed directives intend to mitigate emerging public health challenges, including pandemic management, air pollution linked morbidities and illnesses related to ultra-processed foods;
- (d) whether the objectives of 'universal digital health' as envisaged under the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) Implementation Plan 2020–2025 during India's G20 Presidency have been successfully realised and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome existing structural barriers in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) : The National Health Policy formulated in 2017 envisages to provide universal access to good quality healthcare services through increasing access, increasing affordability by lowering the cost of healthcare delivery and equity. Department of Health & Family Welfare has been making consistent efforts to increase public health spending. The budget allocation for Department of Health & Family Welfare has increased significantly from Rs. 47,353 crore in 2017-18 (BE) to Rs. 1,01,709 crore in 2026-27 (BE), which is an increase of 114.79%.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has taken up with States to prioritize allocation to health sector and enhance their health budgets at least by 8% of total State budget to reach the goal as envisaged.

Technical and financial support is provided to the States/UTs in NHM to strengthen the public healthcare system, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Approval is accorded to the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) in India has declined from 45 in 2014 to 28 in 2024. India has achieved a 78% decline in the U5MR surpassing the global reduction of 61% during 1990-2023.

The Government is making sustained efforts to reduce child mortality, through the Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health Plus Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy under NHM, focusing on Facility Based New-born Care, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA), Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB), Home Based New-born Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care of Young Children (HBYC) programme. Interventions include Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), implementation of the SAANS initiative for prevention and management of childhood pneumonia, the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign for promotion of ORS and Zinc therapy and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) 2.0 for early screening, diagnosis and management of childhood diseases, defects, deficiencies and developmental delays.

(c): This Ministry for pandemic management has implemented the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), which is mandated with surveillance & response to outbreak prone communicable diseases in all States/UTs. Any case of outbreak prone disease in the country is investigated as a part of outbreak investigation by Rapid Response Teams (RRT) at District, State and Central level. To strengthen coordination of activities for preparedness and response to public health emergencies including pandemics, State Health Department in fifteen identified States/UTs have been supported in terms of establishment of a Health Emergency Operations Centers (HEOCs). The State Governments have also been supported with PSA plants as well as booster pumps for oxygen cylinder re-filling to make hospitals self-reliant for medical oxygen.

Under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), National and State Action Plans on Air Pollution and Health have been developed, health advisories and IEC campaigns are disseminated, technical guidelines and capacity-building initiatives are undertaken.

With a view to promoting healthy dietary practices and mitigating illnesses related to ultra-processed foods, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has implemented the Eat Right India movement and awareness campaigns such as 'Aaj Se Thoda Kam' to encourage reduction in fat, salt and sugar intake, promote healthy lifestyles.

(d) and (e): Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) aims to create an online platform enabling interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem to create longitudinal electronic health record of every citizen, make healthcare accessible for citizens including reducing the cost of care and enabling greater efficiencies in health service delivery between public and private Health care institutions. The teleconsultation services, available at all operational Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) across the country, enables people to access the specialist services closer to their homes addressing concerns of physical accessibility, shortage of service providers and to facilitate continuum of care.
