

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2026**

DE-EMPANELMENT OF PM-JAY HOSPITAL IN KERALA

2148. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) the details of reasons for the voluntary de-empanelment of hospitals under the AB-PMJAY in Kerala during the last three years, including the number of hospitals de-empanelled on account of administrative, financial, operational or other reasons, category-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has undertaken any assessment of the impact of such de-empanelment on the availability of cashless treatment under the AB-PMJAY in Kerala, particularly in districts where the number of empanelled hospitals has declined; and
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the retention of private hospitals under the AB-PMJAY in Kerala including measures relating to claim settlement, package rates and administrative processes?

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

(a) to (c): Under, Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) hospital empanelment is a continuous process and is undertaken based on the requirements and availability of healthcare providers meeting the criteria within a given State/UT as per empanelment guidelines of National Health Authority (NHA). The empanelment of private hospitals under the scheme is entirely voluntary. As on 30.06.2026, a total of 545 hospitals, comprising 363 private and 182 public hospitals, are empanelled under AB-PMJAY in the State of Kerala.

During the last three years (April 2023 to March 2026), a total of 240 hospitals were de-empanelled from the scheme in the State of Kerala. Of these, 174 hospitals were temporarily empanelled during the COVID-19 pandemic and were subsequently de-empanelled after discontinuing their services following the pandemic. The remaining 66 hospitals were de-empanelled due to administrative, operational, or other reasons.

NHA, in coordination with the State Health Agency (SHA), Kerala, has undertaken various measures to increase the number of empanelled hospitals under the scheme. These measures

include regular review meetings to identify gaps in hospital empanelment, targeted engagement with private healthcare providers and hospital associations, and outreach to encourage empanelment of eligible hospitals, particularly in remote and underserved areas. In addition to expanding the empanelled hospital network, NHA regularly analyses the utilisation pattern of the scheme in the State to assess the availability and accessibility of healthcare services.

As on 30.06.2026, a total of 81.90 lakh hospital admissions have been authorised under AB-PMJAY in Kerala, of which approximately 37% have been availed treatment in private empanelled hospitals.

Under AB-PMJAY, settlement of claims is a regular process and claims are settled by respective SHA as per claim adjudication guidelines issued by NHA. For timely settlement of claims, the permissible turnaround time is within 15 days of claim submission for intra-state hospitals (hospitals located within the State) and within 30 days of claim submission in case of portability claims (hospitals located outside the State).

NHA conducts regular review meetings with the State Health Agency, Kerala, to review hospital empanelment, claims processing, fund utilisation, and other operational and administrative issues to ensure the effective implementation of AB-PMJAY.
