

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2203
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31st JULY, 2026**

SCREENING FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASES IN TRIBAL AREAS

2203. SMT. JUNE MALIAH:

SHRI DHAVAL LAXMANBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) the total number of individuals screened under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission up in the States of Gujarat and West Bengal, district-wise;
- (b) the total number of individuals diagnosed with the disease and currently receiving active medical treatment in those States, district-wise;
- (c) the number of Genetic Status Cards distributed by the Government to screened individuals in the Dharampur and Kaprada talukas of Gujarat's Valsad district to facilitate pre-marital and genetic counselling and to determine genetic compatibility; and
- (d) the details of the supply chain mechanism for Hydroxyurea tablets to Primary Health Centres in remote tribal areas along with the number of patients currently receiving free therapy under the said mission?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): Under National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission (NSCAEM), screenings in the targeted age group of 0-40 years are conducted at all health facilities from District Hospitals (DH) upto Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) level in affected 17 tribal states for diagnosis of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

As reported by States on SCD portal, as on 26.07.2026, more than 7.26 crore screenings have been conducted in tribal dominated areas of the country and a total of 2,48,375 individuals have been identified as diseased and 20,37,733 as carriers of SCD. Number of individuals screened, identified as "Carriers" and "Patients" in Gujarat and West Bengal, as on 26.07.2026, is as follows:

S.No.	State Name	Total Screenings conducted	No. of Carrier	No. of Diseased
1	Gujarat	83,66,066	5,48,820	30,521

S.No.	State Name	Total Screenings conducted	No. of Carrier	No. of Diseased
2	West Bengal	25,53,640	3,810	897

As on 26.07.2026, more than 10.49 lakh Genetic Status Cards have been distributed to the screened individuals in the Valsad district including Dharampur and Kaprada talukas to facilitate pre-marital and genetic counselling and to determine genetic compatibility.

Hydroxyurea has been included in NHM Essential Drugs List at Sub-Health Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHC)/ Urban PHC, Community Health Centres (CHC) and DHs to address the issue of access to medicine. This Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs including Gujarat and West Bengal, for conducting screenings and procurement of drugs including Hydroxyurea and Folic Acid for sickle cell anaemia, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under NHM. To monitor the drug procurement and ensure the availability of essential medicines in public health facilities, Drugs and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) has been launched by the Govt. of India.

Patients living with SCD are provided with the following services/ facilities for improving their quality of life through AAM- SHCs and AAM- PHCs:

- Follow-up of diseased individuals at frequent intervals.
- Counseling regarding lifestyle management, pre-marriage and pre-natal decisions.
- Nutritional supplementation support through distribution of folic acid tablets.
- Conducting yoga and wellness sessions.
- Management of crisis symptoms and referral to higher facilities.
