

(e) and (f) Facilities for diagnosis and treatment of leprosy are available at Government health facilities at free of cost. A national programme for leprosy is under implementation as a part of National Health Mission. The special measures for achieving elimination of leprosy at district level include improved and early case detection and case management through intensified activities like active case finding, IEC/BCC in the community, capacity building of medical, para-medical and community workers and improved monitoring and supervision. Provision for engaging additional manpower by State Governments to strengthen the leprosy services particularly in the high endemic districts has been made.

Rolling out of National Health Assurance Mission

711. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to roll out a National Health Assurance Mission to reduce the out of pocket spending on health care by the common man;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to provide universally accessible and affordable healthcare system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Yes.

(b) A Group has been constituted for preparing a comprehensive background paper for this purpose.

(c) Public Health being a State subject, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to the rural population. In 2013, the National Health Mission (NHM) was approved subsuming NRHM and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as its Sub-Missions with the vision of attainment of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services to all the population. Under NHM, financial support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening their health care systems including support for provision of the following services free of cost to all those who access these services in public health facilities:

- (i) Universal Immunization of children against 7 diseases,
- (ii) Pulse Polio Immunization,
- (iii) Family Planning services,
- (iv) Maternal and Reproductive Health Services,

- (v) Child Health services that include both Home Based and facility based New born Care,
- (vi) Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health (ARSH) services,
- (vii) Investigation and treatment for Malaria, Kala azar, Filaria, Dengue, JE and Chikungunya,
- (viii) Detection and treatment for Tuberculosis including MDR-TB,
- (ix) Detection and treatment for Leprosy,
- (x) Detection, treatment and counselling for HIV/AIDS.
- (xi) Non-Communicable diseases services,
- (xii) Cataract surgery for Blindness control- over 6 million free cataract surgeries done every year, Cornea transplant, Glaucoma/ Diabetic Retinopathy, Spectacles to poor children.

In addition, some of the major national level initiatives for which support is being provided to States/UTs are as under:

- (i) Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK): Under this every pregnant woman is entitled to free delivery, including caesarean section, in public health institutions. The entitlements include free drugs and consumables, free diagnostics, free diet, free blood wherever required, free transport from home to institution, between facilities in case of a referral and drop back home. Similar entitlements are in place for sick infants up to one year of age and cases of antenatal and post natal complications as well.
- (ii) Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK): Under this, support is being provided to States/UTs for Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services through early detection and early management of common health conditions classified into 4 Ds *i.e.* Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies, Development delays including disability. Treatment including surgeries at tertiary level is free of cost under this initiative.
- (iii) The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK): This initiative goes beyond addressing sexual and reproductive health and introduces focus on nutrition, sexual & reproductive health, injuries and violence (including gender based violence), non-communicable diseases, mental health and substance misuse.
- (iv) National Ambulance Services (NAS): Support under NHM is provided to States for patient transport particularly the pregnant women (for delivery), sick infants and patients needing trauma care.

- (v) NHM is also providing funding to States/UTs to provide free essential drugs and free essential diagnostics in public health facilities under the NHM - Free Drugs Service and NHM - Free Diagnostic Service Initiatives respectively.

Promoting awareness on family planning

†712. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of family planning programmes started at rural areas during the last three years till date to promote awareness regarding family planning among the rural populace in the country;
- (b) the details of expenditure incurred upon family planning programmes during this period, State-wise, year-wise; and
- (c) the details of progress achieved to check the birth rate during this period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Family Planning Programme is implemented uniformly in the entire country including rural areas. World Population Day is celebrated in all States of the country over a month long period split between an initial “mobilisation fortnight” from 27th June to 10th July and followed by a “service delivery fortnight” from 11th July to 24th July every year to raise awareness on the importance of practising Family Planning. A special advertisement is also released on World Population Day every year on 11th July to sensitise the public. Similarly, a half hour long dedicated health magazine programme called ‘Swasth Bharat Programme’ is telecast through 30 regional Doordarshan Kendras and broadcast through 29 regional radio stations across the country. These programmes are telecast/broadcast for five days a week in regional languages/dialects covering all the issues including “Promoting awareness on family Planning”. Programmes are also telecast/broadcast through Doordarshan, All India Radio, FM stations, Digital cinema, Satellite channels etc.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred upon the Family Planning Programme during last three years State-wise are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) On account of various schemes rolled out by the Government and implemented uniformly across the country the Total Fertility rate declined to 2.4 and the crude birth rate has declined to 21.6 in 2012.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.