

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the progress made in this direction so far conforms to the target; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) As per the budget announcement 2017-18, 1.5 lakh Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres are to be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) by December, 2022. The roll out plan of Ayushman Bharat - HWCs is given as below:—

- FY 2018-19= 15,000
- FY 2019-20 = 25,000 (Cumulative 40,000)
- FY 2020-21 = 30,000 (Cumulative 70,000)
- FY 2021 -2022 = 40,000 (Cumulative 1,10,000)
- Till 31st December 2022 = 40,000 (Cumulative 1,50,000)

(c) and (d) In the current year against target of 15000 Health and Wellness Centres by March, 2019, approval has been accorded to States/UTs for over 21000 Health and Wellness Centres.

As per information reported by the States/UTs on HWC portal, 8030 HWCs are operational as on 04.02.2019.

Upgradation of district hospitals with super-speciality medical treatment facilities

992. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to upgrade the district hospitals in the country at par with privately-owned super-speciality hospitals to make them affordable even for economically poor people; and

(b) if not, how the economically poor people can avail the benefits of so much of advancement taken place in the field of medical science at district HQs level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Public health and hospitals is a State Subject. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), to strengthen secondary care and make them affordable for all including economically poor people, financial and technical support is already being provided to States for strengthening their healthcare systems including for strengthening districts hospitals for multi-specialty care and as sites for skill based training and teaching, particularly for clinical learning for different levels of health care workers. Guidelines have already been issued under NHM to States which contains a roadmap for identification and strengthening of district hospitals for multi-specialty care and developing it as a training site.

To improve availability of doctors and specialists in underserved areas, the Government is upgrading District Hospitals to Medical Colleges in 82 districts which do not have any Medical College thereby providing at least one Medical College for every three contiguous Parliamentary Constituencies.

Guidelines on examination of rape victims

993. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines that the rape victims should be examined by qualified forensic pathologist to prevent denial of justice to the victims in view of lack of proper evidence;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to avoid unnecessary visits of doctors in the court to submit evidence; and

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain India's forensic report and the percentage of conviction of the accused in rape cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per Section 164A of Criminal Procedure Code, rape victim's examination shall be conducted by Registered Medical Practitioner (RPM) employed in a hospital run by the Government or a local authority and in the absence of such a practitioner, by any other RPM, with the consent of such woman or of a person competent to give such consent on behalf of the said victim.

(b) As per available information, no guidelines have been issued.

(c) As per available information, no such study has been conducted.