

Besides, there are 7.88 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.30 Lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors may be actually available for service and considered together with allopathic doctors, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1:867.

Strengthening primary healthcare system

1678. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to have strong primary healthcare system to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of primary healthcare centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has earmarked any fund for this purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) "Public Health and Hospital" being a State subject, the primary responsibility to strengthen the primary healthcare in the country lies with respective State Governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM) support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening of their healthcare services based on the proposals received from them.

Support under NHM includes support for Free Drugs Service Initiative, Free Diagnostics Service Initiative, Ayushman Bharat - Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), ASHAs, Human Resource on contractual basis, Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) etc.

As per the budget announcement 2017-18, 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres and Primary Health Centres are to be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres across the country by December, 2022 under Ayushman Bharat (AB-HWCs) for provision of comprehensive primary care that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach for all. Services at AB-HWCs are free and universal to all individuals residing in the service area.

The AB-HWCs will provide an expanded range of services to include care for non-communicable diseases, palliative and rehabilitative care, Oral, Eye and ENT care, mental health and first level care for emergencies and trauma as well as Health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga apart from services already being provided for Maternal and Child Health including immunization and communicable diseases.

(c) and (d) Funds allocated through NHM are for strengthening primary healthcare system with referral linkages & services for secondary care at Public healthcare facilities. Further, the total funds given to State Governments under NHM during the last 3 years and current year are as follows:

(₹ in Crore)			
2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
18,424.43	25,465.28	24,998.81	17,655.21

(The above releases are Central Releases under NHM and do not include State share contribution. Release for the F.Y. 2019-20 is updated up to 31.10.2019).

Strengthening medical colleges and hospitals in Assam

1679. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to strengthen the Medical Colleges and District General Hospitals in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government during the current year;

(c) whether Government proposes to extend financial assistance to existing medical colleges in the State and, if so, the details of the financial assistance given during the aforementioned period;

(d) whether Government had received proposal from Government of Assam for financial assistance to construct new medical colleges in each district of Assam; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Health