

not known. However, as per Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study - India: Health of the Nation's States - contribution of cirrhosis and other chronic liver diseases to Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) has increased from 0.9% in 1990 to 1.6% in 2016. Risk of developing NAFLD is influenced by several environmental and metabolic factors including physical inactivity, junk foods and high calorie foods, obesity, type-2 diabetes etc.

Public Health and Hospitals is a state subject. Central Government however supplements efforts of States/UTs. Healthcare services for various diseases including liver diseases, are provided through public health facilities at different level. Treatment in Government health facilities is either free or subsidised. Further, under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) financial assistance upto ₹ 15 lakh is provided for treatment of Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients, suffering from life threatening diseases, in Government hospitals. This includes financial assistance for ailments associated with liver diseases, specified in the scheme guideline.

Government is implementing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral. Under the programme, NCD Clinics are being set up at District and Community Health Center (CHC) levels, to provide services for common NCDs. Focus of the programme is on common NCDs which *inter alia* includes diabetes, which is one of the main reasons for NAFLD. Health promotion and prevention of risk factors for common NCDs in terms of healthy lifestyle and healthy eating is also one of the major activities of the programme.

National policy on telemedicine

1050. SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote telemedicine with introduction of advance telemedicine tools such as wearable medical devices, tele-cardiology and tele-radiology to address the gap between urban-rural healthcare delivery and access to healthcare, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated a National Policy on Telemedicine, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken or being taken by Government for the expansion and promotion of the network of e-health including telemedicine, particularly in the rural, tribal and underserved areas across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Public health is a State subject. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), support is being provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including Tele-consultation services based on requirements posed by the States in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

eSanjeevani Telemedicine solution developed by CDAC-Mohali is being rolled out under Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres program.

Under Ayushman Bharat, 1.5 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and rural and urban Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the country are being transformed by December, 2022 as Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) with an aim to provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care.

The eSanjeevani application has been modelled on EHR guidelines issued by MoHFW, GoI. The application is compatible with advance technologies like Internet-of-Things (IoT) and bluetooth enabled diagnostic devices. The whole architecture of eSanjeevani is based on the agile framework and utilizes cloud services for hosting.

eSanjeevani is being continuously upgraded to be compatible with advanced telemedicine tools for betterment of services.

The modalities regarding integration of Tele-cardiology and Tele-radiology services are being examined in consultation with States and CDAC.

(b) No. Government has not formulated National Policy on Tele-medicine.

However, Government of India/Board of Governors in supersession of Medical Council of India issued 'Telemedicine Practice Guidelines' in March, 2020.

(c) eSanjeevani telemedicine service is being rolled out in 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) under Ayushman Bharat programme in all States/UTs.

States are being supported under NHM for IT initiatives based on the requirement posed by States in PIP.