

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2288
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH March, 2021**

LESSER TARGET SPENDING THAN 2.5 PERCENT OF GDP ON HEALTH SECTOR

2288 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the allocation of healthcare budget has a very slight increase of 5.7 percent to ₹67,484 crores as compared to the last year's ₹63,830 crore which is lesser than the target spending of 2.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on the health sector
- (b) whether India spent 1.8 percent of its GDP on health in the year 2020-21 which is among the lowest any Government spends on health in the world and
- (c) if so, the measures taken by Government to implement its plan of spending at least 2.5 percent of GDP on the health sector?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): The National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 envisages raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP in a time bound manner. Department of Health & Family Welfare has been making consistent efforts to increase public health spending. The budget allocation for Department of Health & Family Welfare (DoHFW) has increased by 50.5% from Rs. 47,353 crore in 2017-18 (BE) to Rs. 71,269 crore in 2021-22 (BE).

(b) & (c): As per Economic Survey 2020-21, the General Government Health Expenditure is 1.8% of GDP in 2020-21 (BE).

Public Health & Hospital being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide affordable healthcare facilities to the people, lies with the State Government. National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 envisages that States should increase their health spending to atleast 8% of their budget and two thirds of such expenditure should be on primary care. However, Government of India has taken many initiatives to provide affordable and quality healthcare facilities to the people. These, inter-alia, include:

- i. National Health Mission (NHM) is being implemented to supplement the efforts of the State/UT governments to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all those who access public health facilities. The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening, Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and control of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

- ii. The Government has also launched Ayushman Bharat in 2018 which aims to holistically address health (covering prevention, promotion and ambulatory care), at primary, secondary and tertiary level by adopting a continuum of care approach. It has two components i.e. Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) and Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**). AB-HWC provides Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), by expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) services and Communicable Diseases services and by including services related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as, Hypertension, Diabetes and common cancers of Oral, Breast and Cervix. AB-PMJAY provides health insurance coverage up to Rs. 5.00 lakh per family per year to around 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (nearly 50 crore individuals) identified based on Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.
- iii. Under **Free Drugs Service Initiative**, substantial funding is being given to States for provision of free drugs and setting up of systems for drug procurement, quality assurance, IT based supply chain management system, training and grievance redressal etc.
- iv. **Free Diagnostics Service Initiative** addresses the need of accessible and quality diagnostics at public health facilities. DoHFW has launched Operational Guidelines on Free Diagnostics Service Initiative which enable States/UTs to provide essential diagnostics-laboratory services and radiology services (Tele-radiology and CT Scan Services) at their public health facilities.
- v. Under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) quality medicines at affordable prices are provided to the masses through dedicated outlets called 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK)' across the country.
- vi. Further, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, PM AtmaNirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana with an outlay of about ₹ 64,180 crores has been announced in the Union Budget 2021-22. This will develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary care Health Systems, strengthen existing national institutions, and create new institutions, to cater to detection and cure of new and emerging diseases. This will be in addition to the National Health Mission.