

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1677
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3RD AUGUST, 2021**

“PHCs AND GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN SUBURBAN AREAS”

1677: SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR:

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of healthcare workers, beds and ICU equipments, etc. in healthcare related facilities in public sector;
- (b) whether the services of Government hospitals are available in the newly developed suburban areas;
- (c) the grounds on which primary health centres and Government hospitals are assigned in suburban areas of Metropolitan cities;
- (d) whether the residents of the said areas have to rely on the expensive private hospitals due to lack of Government hospitals; and
- (e) the details of the plans of Government for establishment of Government hospitals in the suburban areas?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e) Public Health and Hospitals being a State Subject, the primary responsibility for strengthening of health care systems including beds, ICUs and engagement of healthcare workers etc. lies with the respective State/UT Governments. However, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India provides financial and technical support to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including establishment of public healthcare facilities as per population norms in urban areas.

The National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as a Sub-mission of an over-arching National Health Mission (NHM) aims to provide equitable and quality primary health care services to urban population with focus on slum and vulnerable sections of the society across the country.

NUHM covers all the cities and towns with more than 50,000 population and district and State headquarters with more than 30,000 population. NUHM supports setting up of Urban – Primary Health Centre (U-PHC) to be preferably located within or near slum for providing preventive, promotive and OPD (consultation), basic lab diagnosis, drug /contraceptive dispensing services, apart from counseling for all communicable and non- communicable diseases.

In order to make health services accessible, affordable and available to the people of the country, the Government of India has taken several steps to reduce out of pocket expenditure which inter-alia includes Implementation of Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics initiative under National Health Mission to provide essential drugs and diagnostics free of cost in public health facilities.

Under National Health Mission, states are being supported for augmenting the referral network in the country by Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS) and Patient Transport Vehicle (PTV) ambulance system in both rural and urban areas. Support is also provided for Telemedicine under NHM to improve healthcare access including in urban areas.

As part of Ayushman Bharat, the Government is supporting the States for transformation of Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres into 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres across the country by December, 2022 for provision of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive healthcare and health promotion at the community level with continuum of care approach. Under this programme, CPHC services of an expanded range of services, that are universal and free to users, with a focus on wellness, are provided, closer to the community including metropolitan cities. These centres provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), including Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Communicable Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD), mental health, ENT, Eye Care, Oral health, Elderly and palliative health care and primary emergency care services along with Health promotion and wellness activities like Yoga. Further Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) provides health coverage up to Rs 5 Lakh per family per year to around 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families as per Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC).