

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1885
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 14th DECEMBER, 2021**

**SHORTAGE OF HEALTH WORKERS, BEDS AND ICU EQUIPMENTS IN THE
PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SECTOR**

1885. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR:

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of health workers, beds and ICU equipments in the public sector health care services;
- (b) if so, whether Government hospital services are available in newly developed suburban areas;
- (c) if so, the basis on which Primary Health Centres and Government hospitals are set up in the suburban areas of metropolitan cities;
- (d) if there are fewer Government hospitals in above areas, the arrangements in place for pocket friendly treatment of residents or whether they have to depend only on expensive private hospitals; and
- (e) the plans of Government with regard to setting up of Government hospitals?

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

(a) to (e) Public Health and Hospitals is a State Subject, the primary responsibility for strengthening of health care systems including beds, ICUs and engagement of health 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 sector healthcare facilities as per population norms. Shortage of healthcare workers at different levels as on March 2020 is placed at Annexure-I.

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 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).

Government of India has launched PM-ABHIM with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crores till 2025-26 envisages increased investments in public health and other health reforms to safeguard against future public health emergencies by focusing in health infrastructure. Government of India is developing critical care hospital blocks in 602 districts under PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

Annexure-I

Shortfall of Health Workers at different levels

Designation of Health workers	Total no. of Shortfall (as on 31st March 2020)	
	Rural	Urban
Health Worker (Female)/ ANM at SCs	6038	N.A.
Health Workers (Male) at SCs	101828	N.A.
Health Worker (Female)/ ANM at PHCs	5066	13666
Health Assistant (male + female) at PHCs	35824	N.A.
DOCTORS (Allopathic) at PHCs	1704	653
Total Specialists at CHCs (Surgeon + Physician + Obstetricians & Gynaecologists + Paediatricians)	15775	697
General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) - Allopathic at CHCs	355	126
Radiographers at CHCs	2884	195
Pharmacists at PHCs	6240	1795
Pharmacists at CHCs	249	46
Laboratory Technicians at PHCs	12098	1906
Laboratory Technicians at CHCs	284	35
Staff Nurses at PHCs	5772	786
Nursing Staff at CHCs	3334	310

Note: Shortfall are the total of State wise shortfall ignoring the surplus in some State/UTs

Source: Rural Health Statistics 2019-20