

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2663
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2021**

IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARD OF HEALTHCARE

2663. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to improve standard of healthcare, in general, and primary healthcare, in particular; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (b):

“Public Health & Hospitals” is a State subject, the primary responsibility of ensuring availability of standard healthcare facilities including primary care lies with respective State/UT Governments.

However, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to improve standard of healthcare including primary care. Support is provided to states/UTs under the National Health Mission (NHM) for universal access of quality health care services based on the requirements posed by states/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) and within their overall resource envelope. Several initiatives for improving standard of healthcare include:

- Ayushman Bharat – Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs): The program aims to deliver twelve packages of Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) that includes preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which are universal. Another essential component of AB-HWCs is the roll out of tele-consultation services through ‘eSanjeevani’. As on 09th December, 2021, 80,701 HWCs are operational across

the country. Another essential component of AB-HWCs is the roll out of tele-consultation services through ‘eSanjeevani’.

- Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) - In an effort to improve the standard and quality of services and provide a uniform benchmark to assess the functionality of public health facilities, a set of standards known as the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) cover health sub-centers (HSCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs), and District Hospitals (DHs). They provide guidance on the infrastructural, human resource, drugs, diagnostics, equipment, quality, and governance requirements for delivering health services at these facilities. Under NHM funds are provided to the States and UTs to fulfil the gaps identified in IPHS.
- National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) have been developed for public health facilities as per global best practices and followed by all states. NQAS are currently available for District Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs, and Urban PHCs. Standards are primarily meant for providers to assess their own quality for improvement through pre-defined standards and to bring up their facilities for certification. As on 16th December 2021, 1317 public health facilities are quality certified at the national level and 2734 health facilities at the State level. Apart from this, there are several other initiatives based on quality and outcome frameworks like LaQshya, MUSQAN, Swachh Swasth Sarvatra, Mera Aspataal, Kayakalp etc. From FY 2015-16 to FY 2020-21 the number of Kayakalp Awardee facilities have increased from 100 facilities in the FY 2015-16 to 12603 (DHs- 458, SDH/CHCs- 2558, PHCs- 6330, UPHCs- 1303, UCHCs-22 & HWCs- 1932).
- 15th finance commission (2021-26) recommends support for diagnostic infrastructure in Sub Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban Health and Wellness centers, support for converting Sub Health Centre and Primary Health Centre to HWCs in rural areas, construction of building-less Sub Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs). The funds under 15th XV -FC also support urban Health and Wellness Centres (urban-HWCs) and polyclinics.
- PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM) with an outlay of Rs.64,180 Crores aims to fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with some Central Sector components. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Components include support for infrastructure development for Sub-Health Centres, Urban Health and Wellness Centres, Support for Block Public Health Units, Integrated District Public Health Laboratories, and Critical Care Hospital Blocks.
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for ‘Establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals’, under the ministry has approved establishment of 157

new medical colleges in three phases. Out of these, 70 medical colleges have become functional till date. This Scheme aims to increase the availability of health professionals, reduce disparities in the existing geographical distribution of medical colleges in the country, promote affordable medical education in the country and improve tertiary care in the Government sector.

- "Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) under the ministry aims to correct regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country benefitting all citizens of the country. PMSSY, a Central Sector Scheme, has two components - setting up of AIIMS-like institutions; and up-gradation of existing State Government Medical College/Institutions. As on date, establishment of 22 AIIMS and 75 upgradation projects of GMCs/Institutes have been sanctioned under PMSSY.