

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2678
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2021**

NON-AVAILABILITY OF DIAGNOSIS AND MEDICINES FOR TREATMENT

2678 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance that necessary facilities for diagnosis and medicines for treatment are not adequately available during the outbreak of seasonal diseases;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether such kind of incidents are often seen in the rural and semi-urban areas in the country and, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to make available adequate stock of necessary drugs for treatment of seasonal diseases in all the health centres or civil hospitals of the country so that no death takes place due to non-availability of drugs?

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

(a) to (d):

Public Health & Hospital is a State/UT subject, the State/UT Governments are to take prompt measures for prevention and containment of outbreaks due to seasonal diseases including necessary facilities for diagnosis and medicines for treatment of the patients.

Diseases such as acute diarrheal diseases, chicken-pox, dengue, diphtheria, malaria, measles, mumps, Hepatitis A & E, Rubella, Chikungunya, seasonal influenza, enteric fever, etc. have exhibited higher incidence with seasonal variations. Depending on seasonality, required technical support such as treatment protocols and advisories are provided to the States/UTs by Government of India for effective management of diseases.

The Government of India provides financial and technical support under the National Health Mission to the States / UTs for strengthening their healthcare delivery system including support for provision of essential diagnostic & drugs free of cost to those who access public health facilities. This support under NHM includes provision of a host of free services related to maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunization programme and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/ AIDS, vector borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Kala Azar, Leprosy etc.

Free Diagnostics Service Initiative (FDSI): The initiative is intended to provide a set of essential diagnostics at various levels of care so that providers can make rational decisions regarding treatment and patients can benefit by getting their prescribed investigations/ tests conducted within the facility free of cost. The government envisages that this health intervention will reduce both direct costs and out-of-pocket expenditure and provision of accessible diagnostics in all public health facilities. The three components under FDSI are permitted such as Free Pathology/Laboratory services; Free Tele-radiology services and Free CT scan services at District Hospital.

Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI): Financial support is provided to the States / UTs for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posted by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall Resource Envelope. All the States/UTs have reported that they have notified free drug policy in their respective States/UTs. The number of essential medicines to be provided free of cost are decided by the States/UTs and varies from State to State. However, the Ministry has provided illustrative list of essential medicines that should be provided at Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals.