

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2978
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th MARCH, 2022**

PHCs AND CHCs IN KERALA

2978: SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) the present status and achievement of Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the State of Kerala;
- (b) whether Government has set parameters to set up PHCs and CHCs and if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of population covered by PHCs and CHCs services; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of services?

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

(a) to (c) As per Rural Health Statistics (RHS), 2019-20, 227 nos. of Community Health Centres (CHCs) and 932 nos. of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are functional in the State of Kerala.

The parameters for setting set up of PHCs and CHCs are guided by the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) laid down by the Government of India. As per IPHS norms, PHC are established to cover a population of 20,000 in hilly, tribal, or difficult areas and 30,000 populations in plain areas and refers out cases to CHC and higher order public hospitals located at sub-district and district level.

Further, CHCs are set up to provide referral health care for cases from the PHCs level and for cases in need of specialist care approaching the centre directly. Population norm for CHCs are 80,000 in tribal/hilly/desert areas and 1,20,000 for plain areas.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) have taken several steps for improving the quality of services under the National Health Mission (NHM) as below:

- With the aim of improving quality of care, **National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)** have been launched for all health facilities including PHCs and CHCs. These standards are accredited by ISQua (International Society for Quality in Healthcare). These standards are also recognized by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) and National Health Authority (NHA).
- As stated earlier, **Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)** has been laid down by the Government of India, which also aims towards an effort to improve the standard and quality of services and provide a uniform benchmark to assess the functionality of public health facilities. These standards 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.
- **Kayakalp** awards have been launched to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health facilities. Under this initiative awards and commendation certificates are given to public healthcare facilities that show exemplary performance meeting standards of protocols of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control.
- Apart from this, there are several other initiatives based on quality & outcome frameworks like **LaQshya** (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative), **MusQan**, **Mera Aspataal**, etc.