

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need to upgrade Healthcare facilities in rural areas

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, despite increasing infrastructure for healthcare, hospitals and other medical facilities are still out of reach for a large and vulnerable section of our country especially in rural areas. For a simple ambulance-care service, many people, who do not have access to facilities and are economically unable to afford, slip into debt. Large section of rural population who needs these facilities due to non-availability has to be left to fend for their health themselves. The pandemic and its aftermath have exposed the weakness of the public healthcare system. The 2017 national Health Profile data showed that there is only one Government doctor for every 10,189 people and one Government hospital for every 90,343 people. The number of hospital beds per 10,000 population decreased from nine to five between 2010 and 2020. Currently, India ranks 155th among 167 countries in terms of bed availability and has five beds and 8.6 doctors per 10,000 population. The major problems are acute shortage of skilled personnel, gaps in healthcare infrastructure, non-availability of medicines, lack of advanced laboratory facilities and equipment and a severely constrained healthcare workforce. The infrastructure of primary, secondary and tertiary health services in major rural areas has not improved satisfactorily. Keeping priorities of healthcare to be made available to marginalized people, weaker sections of our society and in far off rural areas, I urge the Government to come up with a comprehensive long term and short term plan of action to strengthen and change the way the health services are organized and funded at the national and sub-national levels.

SHIRMATI MAHUA MAJI (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for coverage of needy beneficiaries under National Food Security Act in Andhra Pradesh and distribution of unutilized grain to them

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the National Food Security Act was implemented to help needy beneficiaries but 1.56 crore people in my State are being denied coverage under NFSA. In Andhra Pradesh, the number of persons covered under NFSA is 2.68 crores, amounting to 60.96 per cent of the rural population and 41.14 per cent of the urban population. The Act itself stipulates that the coverage extends up to 75 per cent of rural population and 50 per cent of urban population. NITI Aayog has already recommended revising coverage to Andhra Pradesh and providing our State all the unutilized grain from other States under NFSA. The overall unutilized quantity of rice under NFSA is three lakh tons per month and our State's requirement is only 77,000 tonnes per month. Therefore, the unmet demand of Andhra Pradesh can be met from this unutilized quantity with no additional burden on the Central Government. Considering the gravity of the matter at hand, I