

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1522
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2022**

STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE OUT OF POCKET EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH

1522: SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- a) whether Government agrees with the view that increased public health expenditure via various community health insurance and assurance schemes must be deployed to reduce Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on health, especially primary health care, and diagnostic services;
- b) if so, the measures taken or being taken by Government in this direction; and
- c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c): Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) launched in 2018, is the largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 10.74 Crore poor and vulnerable families. As on 14.12.2022 under AB PM-JAY, 4.21 Crore hospital admissions worth Rs. 49,468.60 Crores have been authorized which contributes to directly reduce the out-of-pocket expenditure of the public.

Under NHM, the flagship programme of the government, many steps have been taken towards supporting the State Governments in providing accessible & affordable healthcare to people. Financial and technical support are provided to States/UTs to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, in both urban and rural areas. The NHM provides support for improvement in health infrastructure, availability of adequate human resources to man health facilities, to improve availability and accessibility to quality health care especially for the underserved and marginalized groups in rural areas. Major initiatives for which States are supported include Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), implementation of NHM Free Drugs and Free Diagnostics Service Initiatives, PM National Dialysis Programme and implementation of National Quality Assurance Framework.

Under the PM-ABHIM, focus is on developing capacities of health system and institutions across the continuum of care at all levels viz. primary, secondary and tertiary and on preparing health systems in responding effectively to the current and future pandemics and disasters. PM-ABHIM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with some Central Sector Components with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 crore.

Under Ayushman Bharat Health & Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), a comprehensive need-based healthcare services covering maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs, diagnostic services and tele consultation services are provided to all citizens of the country. The HWCs are strengthening existing Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). A total number of 1,31,150 HWCs have already been operationalized.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has been announced on 27th September, 2021 with the aim to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. ABDM envisages to bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of Healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. A total 27,46,56,356 Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) have already been created till 29.11.2022. Under ABDM more than 1.72 lakh Health Facilities and 1,03,886 Healthcare Professionals are registered.

For providing affordable and accessible Mental Healthcare facilities, the Government is implementing National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 704 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the NHM. Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre and Primary Health Centre levels, include outpatient services, assessment, counselling/ psycho-social interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services etc.

Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) was launched on 10.10.2022 with the aim to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly to under-served areas and people remotely located. The programme includes a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, with NIMHANS as the nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

The treatment in Government Hospitals is either free or highly subsidized for the poor and needy. Besides, quality generic medicines are made available at affordable prices to all under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) in collaboration with the State Governments. Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Pharmacy stores have been set up in some hospitals/institutions.
