

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1658
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06TH AUGUST, 2024**

ALARMING COST OF HEALTHCARE

1658. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

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

- (a) the reason as to why Government is unable to push public expenditure on Health from the present 1.3% of GDP, which is lowest among important countries of the world, to 2.5% of GDP that was targeted by the National Health Policy of 2017;
- (b) whether more than half of healthcare expenses have to be borne by families, crippling them;
- (c) whether Niti Aayog has confirmed that 7% of India's population or 10 crore people are pushed into poverty every year due to healthcare expenses; and
- (d) the reason as to why Ayushman Bharat is not extended to OPD expenses that cover most of health cost?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d) : As per the National Health Policy, 2017, public investment in health is envisioned to reach 2.5% of GDP by 2025. Government initiatives in this direction is evident from the National Health Accounts Estimates in India, where there has increased in Government spending on health as percentage of Total Health Expenditure (THE), which was 29.0% in 2014-15 and 41.4% in 2019-20. Correspondingly, Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as percentage of GDP has increased from 1.13% in 2014-15 to 1.35% in 2019-20. Further as per Economic Survey 2023-24, the GHE as percentage of GDP are 1.6%, 1.9%, 1.9% and 1.9% for the year 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23(RE) and 2023-24(BE) respectively.

The Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) has also taken up with States to prioritize allocation to health sector and enhance their health budgets at least by 8% to reach the goal as envisaged. The budget allocation for DoHFW has increased by 85% from Rs. 47,353 crore in 2017-18 (BE) to Rs. 87,657 crore in 2024-25 (BE). The 15th Finance Commission has provided Rs. 70,051 crore Grants for health through the Local Government.

As per available National Health Accounts Estimates, the Out of Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) has been continuously declining from 62.6% (2014-15) to 47.1 % (2019-20). For providing the affordable healthcare to people, the Government has launched four mission mode projects, namely

PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), Ayushman Arogya Mandir (erstwhile ABHWCs), Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). Other notable initiatives are National Health Mission (NHM), setting up of new AIIMS, upgrading of Government medical colleges under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY), support to States/UTs for setting up of new medical colleges as well as for increasing UG and PG medical seats, provision of free drugs and free diagnostic facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHC)/ Community Health Centres (CHC) and district hospital level, substantial increase in availability of government ambulances etc.

Under Ayushman Bharat, Ayushman Arogya Mandir component pertains to creation of Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), now renamed as Ayushman Arogya Mandir, by upgrading the Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and rural and urban Primary Health Centres (PHCs), in both urban and rural areas, to bring health care closer to the community. These centres aim to provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care, by expanding and strengthening the existing Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) and Communicable Diseases services and by including services related to Non-Communicable Diseases (common NCDs such as, Hypertension, Diabetes and three common cancers of Oral, Breast and Cervix) and incrementally adding primary healthcare services for mental health, ENT, Ophthalmology, Oral health, Geriatric and Palliative care and Trauma care as well as health promotion and wellness activities like yoga. As updated by the States/UTs in AAM portal, a total of 1,73,410 Ayushman Arogya Mandir have been operationalized as on 30.06.2024

The other component Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care (i.e, in-patients admission) hospitalization to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families, constituting the bottom 40% of India's population. States/UTs implementing AB-PMJAY have further expanded the beneficiary base at their own cost. A total number of 3.57 crore beneficiaries in the country benefited under the scheme in the last two years.
