

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1698  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**“FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE AGAINST FUTURE  
PANDEMICS”**

**1698. SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:  
DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE:  
MS. KAVITA PATIDAR:  
SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:  
SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI:**

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

- (a) the details regarding the \$170 million policy-based loan signed between Asian Development Bank and Government to consolidate and strengthen India's health system preparedness and response capacity to future pandemics;
- (b) whether Government has entered any similar policy-based loans for the same objectives; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c) The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement of USD 170 million dated 01 July 2024 for programmatic approach policy-based loan for the Strengthened and Measurable Actions for Resilient and Transformative Health Systems Program (Subprogram-1). The loan is under the External Aided Project (EAP) component of the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

The principal objective of the programmatic approach is to improve health system capacity for pandemic preparedness and response. The Strengthened and Measurable Actions for

Resilient and Transformative Health Systems Program is aligned with the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017, which defines and guides the government's role in shaping health systems. To close the gaps in governance and implementation structures, improve pandemic preparedness and response capability, and create a more comprehensive health care system.

The program scope includes reforms in the health sector, as follows:

- i. Strengthened disease surveillance and multisector response.
- ii. Strengthened human resources for health.
- iii. Expanded climate-resilient public health infrastructure and innovative service delivery.

The program is aligned with attaining the highest possible level of health and well-being for all and universal access to good quality affordable health care services (NHP 2017). The outcome of the program will be health system capacity for pandemic preparedness and response improved.

Further, the details of similar policy-based loan are as follows:

The Government of India and Asian development Bank signed a loan of USD 1500 million dated 28 April 2020 for the COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program. The principal objectives of the CARES Program are to provide a fiscal stimulus and protect the Borrower's spending and poverty alleviation programs and objectives, and to continue with its longer-term development objectives. The scope of the CARES Program measures are as follows:

- i. COVID-19 response and measures to improve resilience of health systems against infectious diseases enhanced;
- ii. Measures to provide social assistance for compensating the economic loss to vulnerable citizens including the poor, farmers, senior citizens and women, enhanced; and
- iii. Social security measures enhanced for affected workers in both organized and informal sectors, such as construction workers.

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