

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2493
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2024**

SAFETY OF HOUSE KEEPING/CLEANING STAFF IN HOSPITALS

2493. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has taken some measures in collaboration with State Governments and relevant Central Government agencies to ensure that Hospitals maintain comprehensive details about their House keeping/cleaning staff and provide them with necessary safety equipment like goggles, protective clothing and gloves apart from imparting proper training on handling of biohazardous and human waste including bodily fluids such as blood, urine, vomit etc. from patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is aware that many such workers are infected & suffering from TB, if so, the action taken thereon in coordination with State Governments?

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

(a) & (b): To improve health infrastructure and services in public health facilities, government has laid down Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). They are a set of uniform standards envisaged to deliver quality services to citizens with dignity and respect. They provide guidance on the health system components including details about staff requirements for various healthcare facilities upto District hospitals.

The Ministry has developed a digital tool and a web-based dashboard (www.iphs.mohfw.gov.in) to facilitate self-assessment by all levels of facilities including Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. The IPHS Dashboard is designed to monitor public health facilities' compliance with the IPHS 2022 standards and offers real-time updates, enabling oversight and data-driven decision-making to identify gaps and facilitate timely interventions.

Kayakalp initiative launched in the year 2015 under Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan promotes cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control practices in public health facilities, ensuring the well-being, and safety of staff and safe handling of hazardous waste in the healthcare facilities by assessing the facilities against the criteria including:

- Availability of resources for hand washing
- Staff awareness of hand washing
- Adequate Supply of Personal Protective Equipment to all categories of staff
- Personal protective practices
- Immunization of staff against TT, Hepatitis B and Regular Medical Check-up of housekeeping staff
- Training of Staff on Bio-Medical Waste management
- Management of Hazardous waste

The Government of India has implemented the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) which is a comprehensive framework established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), aimed at ensuring and enhancing the quality of healthcare services provided at public health facilities.

One of the areas of concern under NQAS is infection control. The standard requirements under NQAS include measurable elements related to periodic medical check-ups and immunisation of staff, adequate personal protection equipment and training of staff on Bio-Medical Waste Handling.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system including making provision for

ensuring the safe handling of hazardous waste and adequate supply of personal protective equipment based on the proposals received from the States/UTs in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission. Government of India provides approval for the proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources. The details are available in public domain at:

<https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=1377&lid=744>

Approvals under RoPs are given in compliance with Biomedical Waste Management Rules 2016.

(c) : The following steps are taken by the Government in all States/UTs for early detection and treatment of TB cases from all key population (including healthcare workers):

- Targeted interventions in high TB burden areas through State and District Specific Strategic plans.
- Provision of free drugs and diagnostics to TB patients.
- Active TB case-finding through campaigns in key vulnerable and co-morbid populations.
- Integration of Ayushman Arogya Mandir with TB screening and treatment services.
- Private sector engagement with incentives for notification & management of TB cases.
- Scaling up of molecular diagnostic laboratories to sub-district levels.
- Expansion of coverage under Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana for nutritional support to TB patients.
- Intensified Information, Education & Communication (IEC) interventions to reduce stigma, enhance community awareness and improve health seeking behaviour.
- Convergence of efforts and resources of line ministries for TB elimination.
- Provision of TB Preventive Treatment to contacts of TB patients and vulnerable population.
- Tracking of notified TB cases through Ni-kshay portal.
- Provision of additional nutritional, diagnostic and vocational support to TB patients and household contacts under Ni-kshay Mitra initiative.
