

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 228  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**WATER AMBULANCE SERVICE IN REMOTE COASTAL AND  
RIVERINE AREAS**

**228 # SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:**

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need for water ambulances to provide timely medical care in remote coastal and riverine areas in the country where conventional ambulances are difficult reach
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any measures in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has adopted any policy to provide medical facilities in remote coastal and riverine areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to provide ambulance services in remote coastal and riverine areas of the country?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 228 \* FOR 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

(a) and (b) The Government of India provides support to boat ambulances in areas where conventional ambulances are difficult to reach and waterways are more viable mode of transport as compared to roadways. States have been given the flexibility to propose the fund requirements for meeting the operational costs of these ambulances in their annual State Programme Implementation Plan for approval of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Boat ambulances are recommended only after thorough need assessment on case-to-case basis. States where boat ambulances are being supported under National Health Mission (NHM) include Assam, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

(c) to (e) “Public Health and Hospitals” is State subject. The primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system, including deployment of ambulances in remote areas including coastal and riverine areas lies with the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides the technical and financial support to the States/UTs under NHM to strengthen their public healthcare system, based on the requirements posed by States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans and within the overall resource envelope. Government of India provides approval for the proposals in the form of Record of Proceedings as per norms & available resources. Government of India also provides technical and financial support for health system strengthening in remote areas including coastal and riverine areas through Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) and grants under Fifteenth Finance Commission.

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