

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 924
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2025**

DIGITAL HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL INDIA

924. SMT RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) the current implementation status of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) in rural and underserved regions, including the number of districts and healthcare facilities integrated into the system;
- (b) the challenges faced in ensuring access to digital health services in rural areas, particularly with regard to infrastructure deficits, internet connectivity, and technical literacy among healthcare providers; and
- (c) whether Government has conducted any assessments to measure the impact of ABDM on improving rural healthcare delivery, and if so, the key findings of such assessments?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has been launched with an aim to enabling interoperability of health data within the health ecosystem and create longitudinal electronic health record of every citizen. ABDM comprises of key registries such as Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), healthcare professional registry (HPR), health facility registry (HFR), and drug registry. As on 6th February 2025, a total of 73,98,09,607 (~73.98 Cr) ABHA have been created, 3,63,520 (~3.63 Lakh) health facilities have registered on HFR, 5,64,851 (~5.64 Lakh) healthcare professionals have registered on HPR, 1,59,020 (~1.59 lakh) health facilities are using an ABDM enabled software and 49,06,02,540 (~49.06 Cr) health records have been linked with ABHA.

Rural/Urban area details are not captured at the time of creation of ABHA. However, the aforesaid 73.98 crore ABHA correspond to 36 States/UTs spanning 786 districts across the country, thereby meaning that the entire country is being covered, including rural areas. Similarly, the 1.59 lakh health facilities which use an ABDM enabled software correspond to 36 States/UTs and 785 districts.

Inclusion is one of the key principles of ABDM. The digital health ecosystem created by ABDM supports continuity of care across primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare in a seamless manner. It aids availability of health care services particularly in remote and rural areas through various technology interventions like telemedicine etc.

The challenges in ensuring access to digital health services in rural areas are limited internet connectivity, inadequate hardware availability, and low digital literacy.

Various steps have been taken to ensure that the benefits of the Mission reach every citizen. The ABHA portal [abha.abdm.gov.in] and the government PHR (personal health record) applications such as ABHA app, aarogya setu app have been made multi-lingual and intuitive to use, with a view to address the lack of digital literacy. The mission provides for assisted and offline mode for creation of ABHA for areas with limited internet connectivity or hardware or both.
