

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2271
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2025**

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

2271. SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to strengthen public health infrastructure, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (b) if so, the details of funds allocated and utilized under the National Health Mission (NHM) during the last three years;
- (c) whether there is a shortage of doctors, nurses and medical staff in Government hospitals and primary health centres, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to improve access to affordable healthcare and essential medicines for poor and vulnerable populations in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs to strengthen the public healthcare system, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission (NHM). Government of India provides approval for the proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

In February 2018, the Government of India announced establishment of 1,50,000 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) erstwhile Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs), across the country by December 2022. As updated by the States/UTs in AAM portal, a total of 1,77,906 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs have been established and operationalized as on 30.06.2025, by transforming existing Sub-Health Centres (SHC) and Primary Health Centres (PHC) in rural and urban areas to deliver the expanded range of comprehensive primary healthcare services with complete 12 package of services that includes preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative services which are universal, free, and closer to the community.

The details of funds approved for development of building infrastructure under NHM in the country for the FY from 2023-24 to 2025-26 is as under:

(In Crores)	
Financial Year	Funds approved
2023-24	4688.49
2024-25	4222.23

In addition to the National Health Mission (NHM), Government of India has allocated the following funds for developing public healthcare infrastructure and services:

- **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)** is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) with some Central Sector Components (CS) which has an outlay of Rs. 64,180 Crores for the scheme period (2021-22 to 2025-26). The measures under the PM-ABHIM focus on developing capacities of health systems and institutions across the continuum of care at all levels, primary, secondary and tertiary, to prepare health systems in responding effectively to the current and future pandemics /disasters.

Administrative approvals have been accorded to States/UTs for FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24, FY 2024-25 & FY 2025-26 for an amount of Rs 33081.82 Crore for construction/strengthening of 10609 Building less-AAMs, 5456 Urban-AAMs, 2151 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs), 744 Integrated Public Health Labs (IPHLs) at District level and 621 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs).

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission (FC-XV) has recommended grants through local governments for specific components of the health sector and spread over the five-year period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 to facilitate strengthening of health system at the grass-root level for an amount of Rs. 70,000 crores. These grants are for strengthening primary care through specified components such as Building-less Sub-Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs), Conversion of rural PHCs and Sub-Centres to Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM), Support for diagnostic infrastructure to the primary healthcare facilities, Block Level Public Health Units, Urban - AAM.
- Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals', under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved.

(b): The details of Central Release under National Health Mission from FY 2022-23 to FY 2024-25 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)		
Sl.No.	Financial Year	Central Release
1.	2022-23	31,278.84
2.	2023-24	33,042.62
3.	2024-25	36,529.14

(c): The details of doctors, nurses and medical staff in Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centre the country are available at website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the Uniform Resources Locator (URL) as under:

https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/Health%20Dynamics%20of%20India%20%28Infrastructure%20%26%20Human%20Resources%29%202022-23_RE%20%281%29.pdf

(d): Further, to improve access to quality healthcare services in remote and rural areas support for Mobile Medical Unit(MMU) is provided to States/UTs, based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs), subject to availability of resources. Deployment of MMUs is based on a normal population norm with 1 MMU per 10 lakhs population. Also, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed eSanjeevani, a telemedicine application, which provides doctor to doctor (HWC module) and patient to doctor

consultation services (OPD module). This application works on a hub and spoke model. At hub level, a specialist doctor provides services to Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) in rural areas.

Under Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI), Government of India supports procurement of drugs and strengthening robust systems of procurement, Quality Assurance, Supply chain management and warehousing, Prescription audit, grievance redressal, dissemination of Standard Treatment Guidelines and Establishment of IT enabled platform DVDMs (Drugs & Vaccine Distribution Management System) for monitoring the real status of procurement and availability of essential medicines. Ministry of Health and Welfare (MoHFW) has recommended facility wise Essential Medicines List (EML) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities which includes provision of a variety of free services related to maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunisation programme, and for major diseases such as Tuberculosis, HIV/ AIDS, vector borne diseases like Malaria, Dengue and Kala Azar, Leprosy etc. The facility wise number of medicines in the EML includes 106 drugs at Sub Health Centre level, 172 at Primary Health Centre level, 300 at Community Health Centre level, 318 at Sub-district Hospital level and 381 drugs at district Hospital level. However, States have the flexibility to add more medicines.
