

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1408
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11.03.2025**

STAFF SHORTAGE IN PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRES

1408: DR ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the reasons for rural primary healthcare centres continuing to report acute staff shortage despite announcements to strengthen public health infrastructure post-COVID-19;
- (b) the details on the percentage of allocated funds utilized under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the last three years, underutilization of such funds being reported by many States;
- (c) how Government plans to address the lack of affordable medicines in public hospitals, especially in remote areas; and
- (d) the reasons as to why mental health services are still underfunded and inaccessible to most citizens, despite the launch of the National Mental Health Program?

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

(a) The details of staff at rural primary healthcare centres 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

(b) The funding of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is entirely demand driven. National Health Authority (NHA) releases funds for scheme implementation to the State on the basis of the actual demand received from them, hence there are no instances reported for underutilization. As per the process defined by NHA, the State is required to furnish a Utilization Certificate of previously received funds prior to every new fund release. The details of funds allocated and released under Grant-in-Aid under AB PM-JAY for the last three years is as follows -

Financial Year	Fund allocated for release to States/UTs as Grant-In-Aid (In Rs Crore)	Fund released to States/UTs as Grant-In-Aid (In Rs Crore)

2021-22	3073	2940.6
2022-23	6295	6048.63
2023-24	6302.08	6060.44

(c) To ensure availability of essential drugs and reduce the Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) of the patients visiting the public health facilities, Government has rolled out the Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI) under National Health Mission (NHM).

Under this, financial support is provided to States / UTs for provision of free essential medicines in public health facilities based on the requirements posted by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Support under the scheme is available for Procurement of drugs and strengthening /setting up 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.

The Ministry has recommended facility wise Essential Medicines List (EML) to be made available at the public healthcare facilities:

Name of the Facility	No. of Essential Medicines
District Hospital (DHs)	381
Sub-District Hospital (SDHs)	318
Community Health Centers (CHCs)	300
Ayushman Arogya Mandir- Primary Health Centre (AAM- PHCs)	172
Sub Health Centre Health & Wellness Centre (AAM-SHCs)	106

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Scheme launched to set up dedicated outlets known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices. As on 28.02 2025, a total of 15,057 PMBJKs have been opened in the country. Under PMBJP, 2047 types of medicines and 300 surgical devices have been brought under the scheme basket products covering all major therapeutic groups, out of which 87 products are available for the treatment of cancer.

Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT), an initiative launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare aims to provide affordable medicines for treatment of cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases. As on 31.01.2025 there are 222 AMRIT Pharmacies spread across 29 States/Union Territories, selling more than 6500 drugs (including cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes, stents, etc), implants, surgical disposables and other consumables at a significant discounts upto 50% on market rates.

(d) To strengthen Primary Mental Healthcare, the government is upgrading 1.75 lakh Sub Health Centres (SHCs) and PHCs to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Mental health services have been integrated into the Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) package under Ayushman Bharat, with operational guidelines for Mental, Neurological, and Substance Use (MNS) Disorders.

The **District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)** under the **National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)** is implemented in 767 districts, providing outpatient services, counseling, psycho-social interventions etc. at the Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels. A 10-bed inpatient facility is also available at the district level.

Government of India supports 3 Central Mental Health Institutions namely National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP) in Ranchi, and Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH).

Under the tertiary care component of NMHP, 25 Centres of Excellence have been sanctioned to increase the intake of students in PG departments in mental health specialties as well as to provide tertiary level treatment facilities. Further, the Government has also supported 19 Government medical colleges/institutions to strengthen 47 PG Departments in mental health specialties. The Ministry provides funds for strengthening 25 CoEs and 19 Government colleges.

To further improve access to quality mental health counselling and care services, the **National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS)** was launched on 10th October 2022, has set up 53 Tele MANAS Cells across 36 States/UTs, handling over 19.16 lakh calls. A Tele MANAS Mobile App was introduced on 10th October 2024 to provide support for a wide range of mental health issues, from well-being to mental disorders.

The budget allocated for mental health services under the Ministry, including allocation for National Mental Health Programme (NMHP), District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health (LGBRIMH), Tezpur, Assam and Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi and NTMHP, during the last three years is as follows:

Sl. No.	Year	Total Allocation for Mental Health (Rs. in Crore)
1	2021-22	881.78
2	2022-23	1180.97
3	2023-24	1219.83
