

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:148  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2000  
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES  
P.R. KHUTE;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) the number of villages in the country where Primary Health Centres have been opened and the number out of those functioning;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the funds being allocated to these Primary Health Centres to provide basic medical facilities never reach the villages;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether according to the UN report this is the plight of a sizeable number of Health Centres in the country; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to give more grants, supply of adequate quantities of medicines for free distribution to poor people and posting of sufficient number of doctors to improve the functioning of Primary Health Centres in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 FOR 29.11.2000

- (a) There are 22975 PHCs functioning in the country. On average, one PHC covers 25 villages. For every 4-5 villages, there is a Health Sub-centre.
- (b) & (c) The Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are established and maintained by State Governments. The State Governments provide funds to PHCs for provisioning of basic facilities. Central Government is providing additional funds to PHCs through State Governments to supplement these efforts under the RCH Programme and the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) scheme, launched in 2000-2001. Curative, preventive and promotive services are rendered at the PHCs level while village level care is given through Sub-centre and ANMs.
- (d) An ICMR Multicentric study covering 398 Primary Health Centres in 199 districts revealed shortages of female paramedics, unevenly distributed, shortages of essential drugs and poorly equipped labour rooms in health centers.
- (e) National Population Policy, 2000, has envisaged the provision of health care infrastructure, health personnel and integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care as the immediate objective of the policy. The salient points on action plan and operational strategy enunciated in NPP 2000, is annexed.

Central Government has initiated a series of steps:

- Empowered the State Governments to make contractual appointments of anesthetists and specialists in order to ensure regular outreach and coverage.
- Facilitated the appointment of additional Auxiliary Nurses/Mid-wives on contract basis.
- Ensured that critical gaps in infrastructure, including minor civil works, are bridged through Area Projects and special schemes.
- Provided drug kits as well as equipment kits for essential obstetric care and emergency obstetric care.
- Begun focusing of essential new-born care at Primary Health Centres level.
- Provided increased referral transportation to pregnant women for emergency obstetric care with clear linkages for this purpose.
- 24 hour delivery services at some Primary Health Centres, with honorarium to the staff in CHC/PHC.

Besides, additional Central Allocation of Rs.375 crores has been allocated to States by the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for strengthening, repair and maintenance of health infrastructure, provision of drugs and consumables and towards contingencies at Sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs during 2000-2001. Area Projects in 14 states meet the needs of strengthening infrastructure facilities, training facilities and procurement of goods, equipment, drugs and furniture.

ANNEXURE

## NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY 2000

Action Plan and Operational strategy enunciated in National Population Policy 2000-Salient points:

1. Converge service delivery at village levels.
2. Empowering women for improved health and nutrition.
3. Strengthen the referral network between the district Health Office, district hospital, the Community Health Centre, the Primary Health Centre and Sub-centres in the management of obstetric and neonatal complications.
4. Strengthen community health centres to provide comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care.
5. Strengthen the capacity of primary health centres to provide basic emergency and obstetric and neonatal care.
6. Improve technical skills of maternal and child health providers.
7. Expand and improve facilities for safe abortion care.
8. Develop maternity hospitals at sub-district level and at Community Health Centres to function as First Referral Units.
9. Ensure 100% routine immunisation for all vaccine preventable diseases.
10. Pursue Pulse Polio Campaign to eradicate polio.
11. Collaborate with and commitments from the non governmental sector and industry.
12. Provide for the older population.
13. Improve Information, Education and Communication.