

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that only one in 10 villages has a Primary Health Centre in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that these Centres do not have adequate number of well trained doctors and sufficient stock of medicines;
- (d) whether 80% of diseases can be eliminated by strengthening Primary Health Centres;
- (e) if so, whether the Government propose to bring about structural improvement in the Primary Health Care System; and
- (f) if so, the concrete steps taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 342 FOR 21.3.2001

(a) & (b) On an average, one in 22 villages has a Primary Health Centre. This figure differs from State to State as it varies from 1.44 in Kerala to 81 in Arunachal Pradesh. Statewise list of average number of villages covered by a PHC is annexed .

(c) There is shortage of doctors and medicines in some of the Primary Health Centres.

(d) Primary Health Centres provide integrated, promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the population close to their homes at a reasonable cost which the country and people can afford. Strengthening of primary health centres will definitely help reduce the incidence of communicable diseases, and improve the treatment and management of common ailments. However, for management of more complicated diseases, the patients will continue to be referred to secondary and tertiary health care facilities i.e First Referral Units, Distt. Hospitals and medical college hospitals.

(e) & (f) Government have proposed to bring about improvement in the primary health care system by assisting the State Governments in the following ways:-

Strengthening supply of drugs & equipments.

- Contractual appointment of essential staff.
- Strengthening of Essential Obstetric care.
- Strengthening of emergency Obstetric care
- Strengthening 24 hour delivery services at PHCs/CHCs
- Referral transport to indigent families through panchayats
- Training of traditional birth attendants
- Outreach services for immunization.
- Holding RCH Camps in the districts
- Major & Minor Civil works for strengthening infrastructure

- Under Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana, launched during the current financial year, provision has been made as Additional Central Assistance for strengthening the Primary Health Care facilities.

- A number of externally aided area projects have led to strengthening of primary health care infrastructure through construction activities and training/upgradation skills of medical/paramedical personnel.

- The secondary level health care facilities like district hospitals, Sub-district hospitals & Community Health Centres are to be upgraded and modernized to provide referral care for patients from the primary health care system through State Health Systems Projects in some States.

ANNEXURE

AVERAGE NUMBER OF VILLAGES COVERED BY A PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE AS ON 30-6-1999

SlNo. State/UT Average number of villages covered by a PHC

1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	81.09
3.	Assam	39.88
4.	Bihar	30.56
5.	Goa	21.18
6.	Gujarat	18.84
7.	Haryana	16.86
8.	Himachal Pradesh	54.48
9.	J&K	19.12
10.	Karnataka	16.15
11.	Kerala	1.44
12.	Madhya Pradesh	42.32
13.	Maharashtra	23.79
14.	Manipur	31.62
15.	Meghalaya	64.52
16.	Mizoram	12.70
17.	Nagaland	36.85
18.	Orissa	34.76
19.	Punjab	25.68
20.	Rajasthan	22.80
21.	Sikkim	18.63
22.	Tamil Nadu	11.02
23.	Tripura	14.74
24.	Uttar Pradesh	29.62
25.	West Bengal	30.00
26.	A & N Islands	29.65
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	D&NHaveli	11.83
29.	Daman & Diu	8.00
30.	Delhi	24.88
31.	Lakshadweep	1.75
32.	Pondicherry	6.74

All India 25.55

(Figures are provisional)

- Nil