

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD JULY, 2019**

OVERHAULING OF HEALTHCARE SECTOR

3449. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's healthcare needs a rapid overhaul in the coming years;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to increase the healthcare budget shortly; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): The National Health Policy, 2017 provides direction for strengthening and prioritizing the role of the Government in shaping health systems in all its dimensions. The Policy envisages as its goal, the attainment of the highest possible level of health and well-being for all, at all ages, through a preventive and promotive healthcare orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. Towards this, the Policy has also laid down a few time bound quantitative goals and the strategies to be adopted that are aligned to on-going national efforts.

The Policy provides directions for the entire spectrum of healthcare, for achieving its goal through preventive and promotive health, organization of public healthcare delivery with policy shifts from selective care to comprehensive care in primary healthcare, infrastructure and human resource development, strengthening of health systems to address Maternal, child and Adolescent health, to improve immunization coverage, to strengthen disease control programmes, to reverse the growing trend of non-communicable diseases, mainstreaming the potential of AYUSH, etc. The Policy also recommends putting in place necessary regulations and strengthening regulatory bodies for the same. The Policy calls for strengthening professional councils in the field of professional medical education. It also recognizes the role of technology in healthcare delivery and advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving efficiency of the healthcare system.

(b) & (c): As per National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates, Government Health Expenditure as a percentage of GDP has increased from 1.13% in 2014-15 to 1.18% in 2015-16. The National Health Policy, 2017 envisages raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025 in a time bound manner. It also envisages increasing State sector health spending to more than 8% of their budget by 2020.