

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2237  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2026**

**AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES IN GOVERNMENT HEALTHCARE  
INSTITUTIONS**

**2237. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:**

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

- (a) the current status of availability of essential medicines and diagnostic facilities in Government healthcare institutions in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, including Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) and district hospitals, district-wise including Kallakurichi Parliamentary Constituency;
- (b) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised under various Central health schemes for procurement of essential medicines strengthening of laboratories and improving diagnostic services in rural Tamil Nadu during the last five years;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed shortages, stock-outs or gaps in the availability of essential medicines, medical supplies and diagnostic facilities in rural healthcare centres of the said State and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure uninterrupted availability of affordable medicines, essential diagnostics and quality healthcare services for rural populations, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the said State?

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

(a) & (b): ‘Public Health’ and ‘Hospital’ are State subject and the responsibility for strengthening of healthcare system including availability of essential medicines and diagnostic facilities in Government healthcare institutions lies with respective State/UT Governments.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare system based on proposals received from States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) within their resource envelope.

Each year, PIP is formulated by every State/ UT based on district and State-level planning processes, encompassing all activities and expenditures under NHM. State-wise fund allocation can be accessed at:

<https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=1377&lid=744>

As per the information provided by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the drugs were categorized in to Essential Drug List (EDL) and Speciality Drug List (SDL) wherein 408 EDL and 400 SDL are available in Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) warehouses.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) component of Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) for the State of Tamil Nadu, Administrative approvals have been accorded to the State for five years (i.e. FY 2021-22 to 2025-26) for an amount of Rs.74.44 Cr. for construction and strengthening of 38 Integrated Public Health Labs (IPHLs) to strengthen diagnostic infrastructure by enhancing access to quality essential diagnostic services.

Under Fifteenth Finance Commission (FC-XV) for the State of Tamil Nadu, Rs.301.07 Cr. has been approved from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 for strengthening of Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) and Rs.301.07 Cr. has been released during the scheme period for establishment and strengthening of 386 BPHU, to strengthen disease surveillance and provide diagnostic support.

(c) and (d): As per the information provided by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, there is no shortage/stock-outs of drugs identified so far. Also, action is being taken to include certain drugs in the EDL. Under Integrated Essential Laboratory Services (IELS) periodic gap analysis of essential diagnostic investigations is carried out to assess the availability of diagnostic services across healthcare facilities as well as Stock availability and utilisation are continuously monitored through Drug Distribution and Management System (DDMS) Portal.

Further, Government of India supports the States in terms of drugs and diagnostics services through State PIP proposals under Free Drugs Services Initiative and Free Diagnostic Services Initiative every year.

\*\*\*\*\*