

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2026**

HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS IN ODISHA

1220. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that districts such as Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Rayagada and Nabarangpur continue to report high maternal mortality, malnutrition, malaria and tuberculosis despite long-standing National Health Mission support;
- (b) the vacancy position of doctors, specialists, nurses and lab technicians in PHCs and CHCs during the last two years, district-wise;
- (c) whether delays in fund release, weak monitoring and poor coordination with the State have contributed to underperforming health outcomes; and
- (d) what urgent, district-specific interventions are being implemented to prevent Odisha's tribal belt from remaining a chronic public health blind spot?

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

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare conducts an integrated survey known as the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The survey provides comprehensive data on health and family welfare, along with related domains such as population characteristics, fertility and fertility preferences, family planning, infant and child mortality, maternal and child health, nutrition, morbidity and healthcare, and women's empowerment.

As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) released by the Registrar General of India (RGI), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Odisha has improved from 180 per lakh live births in SRS 2014–16 to 153 per lakh live births in SRS 2021–23.

The details of doctors, specialists, nurses and lab technicians across all States/UTs including Odisha, for the last two years can be accessed at the following link of Health Dynamics of India (HDI) 2022–23:

Sl. No.	RHS/HDI	Link
1.	RHS 2021-22	https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/RHS%202021-22_2.pdf
2.	HDI 2022-23	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

Under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare releases funds to the States/UTs in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Expenditure (DoE). The details of central releases to the State of Odisha under NHM from FY 2022–23 to FY 2024–25 are given below:

Financial Year	Central Release (Rs. in Crore)
2022-23	1284.69
2023-24	1901.77
2024-25	1916.79

Note: The above releases related to Central Govt. Grants & do not include State Share contribution and are provisional.

Under NHM, norms have been relaxed for tribal/hilly/hard-to-reach areas to strengthen healthcare access. Population criteria for setting up of Sub Health Centres (SHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been reduced to 3,000, 20,000 and 80,000 respectively. One Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is allowed per habitation instead of per 1,000 population, and up to 4 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) per district are permitted in tribal and hard-to-reach areas, compared to 2 in plain districts.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), launched on 15th November, 2023 by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), further relaxation in NHM norms has been provided up to 10 MMUs per district with Particularly Vulnerable

Tribal Groups (PVTG) areas. Norms have been relaxed for one additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) for each Multi Purpose Centre (MPC) constructed by MoTA. As per MMU portal, 763 MMUs under PM-JANMAN and 155 MMUs under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) are operational across the country including Odisha for providing basic health services in tribal areas till 31.12.2025.

Under NHM, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare implements the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N) strategy through a life-cycle approach to address nutrition concerns among adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and children under five years across the country, including aspirational districts. Key interventions include Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres for management of MAM and SAM, promotion of optimal breastfeeding through Mothers' Absolute Affection (MAA), establishment of Lactation Management Centres, implementation of the Anemia Mukht Bharat strategy, biannual National Deworming Day, and observance of Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days for service delivery and community awareness in convergence with the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Further, as per information provided by the State of Odisha, various steps have also been taken to bridge healthcare gaps in Tribal areas like Establishment of Maternity Waiting Homes (MWHs) also known as Maa Gruha,, Engagement of more Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) for hard to reach areas/hamlets, National Sickle Cell Mission, Strengthening of Human Resource Health, Outsourcing of PHC (N) management in tribal areas.
