

SDG – 8.5 UHC {71ST Session WHO SEARO}

Thank you Chair,

Healthcare spending in India for 2014 is about 4.7% of its GDP¹. Of this Government Health Expenditure (GHE) is 30%. A majority, 62% of healthcare expenditure is Household out of pocket expenditure (OOPE).

According to the available estimates 17.3% of population in India face catastrophic health expenditures and about 55 million people are pushed into poverty due to healthcare expenditures².

In the last decade, Union and State Governments have introduced several initiatives towards achieving Universal Health Coverage. National Health Mission, since 2006, has assured access to certain Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health services, certain communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Schemes such as, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, Janani Suraksha Yojana, a conditional cash transfer for institutional delivery, Free Drugs and Diagnostics Initiative, National Dialysis Program, etc. have helped to reduce household OOPE.

In 2017, with the launch of National Health Policy, Government signaled an acceleration of its efforts towards UHC and targets a spending of 2.5% of GDP on health by 2025.

In year 2018-19 budget, the government announced a transformative program of Ayushman Bharat that covers health care holistically. Ayushman Bharat is the key vehicle for India's reach to UHC.

To provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care, government has decided to transform 1.5 lakh Health Facilities as Health & Wellness Centers.

A strong Community Health System in the rural areas comprising of nearly one million ASHAs and 600,000 community level committees is being integrated with these Centers.

These Centers will have a primary health care team, led by a mid-level health care provider, trained to build competencies in primary health care and public health. Prevention, screening, control and management of common Non-communicable diseases are the services being provided.

A robust IT system is being planned for population enumeration, enrollment tracking and follow-up of patients including tele- health and tele-medicine at each facility level. Efforts are also being made to expand point of care diagnostics at these centres besides integration with Indian systems of medicine, including Yoga.

To prevent catastrophic health care spending particularly among poor & disadvantaged, the government has launched, The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna, which envisages coverage of 100 million poor and vulnerable families with Rs 500,000 annual coverage per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. The initiative is based on a robust information and communication platform that allows transparency and real time monitoring.

India is taking the challenge head on and ensures its commitment to DG WHO triple billion targets.

Thank you.