Respected Sir /Madam,

As you are aware, NITI has identified 500 blocks in 31 States/UTs of the country to enhance all-round improvement, measured through pre-defined indicators. One such indicator is the "Percentage of NQAS Certified facilities in block" in the Health & Nutrition theme.

2. As per State HMIS data, there are a total of 15920 health facilities in 500 aspirational blocks. Though it would be ideal to ensure that all these facilities are certified to National Quality Assurance Standards, as an immediate step, it would be prudent to identify the facilities which have minimal infrastructure and process gaps and could be taken up for NQAS Certification as early as possible.

3. Therefore, please issue instructions for constitution of block-level teams to physically visit all health facilities of 500 aspirational blocks for identification of prioritizing NQAS certification.

4. Few of such criteria for short-listing could be as given below:

- Availability of infrastructure
- Availability of HR (CHO & ANM at AAM-SC; MO, LT & ANM at PHC; >70% staff at CHC/SDH and DH)
- 45% or more score in last Kayakalp Assessment
- 45% or more score in last NQAS Assessment

5. The state may utilize their NQAS internal Assessors for rapid assessment for identification of health facilities for NQAS Certification (State followed by National) by 31st January 2024.

6. The Block level Officers may visit these facilities at least once a fortnight.

7. You are requested to share the list of identified facilities for immediate NQAS Certification by 20th December 2023.

With regards

Yours sincerely

8.12.23

(Aradhana Patnaik)

Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary – Health: All States/UTs having Aspirational Blocks