

DELHI: Merely 18 per cent of urban population in the country are covered under health insurance schemes, whereas in rural areas the figure is 14 per cent, the government informed Lok Sabha on Friday.

HEALTH STATUS

The information, tabled by health minister JP Nadda, is based on latest data report of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) on health and morbidity.

Nadda said information received from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) show 28.80 crore people were covered under health insurance policies provided by public and private sector during 2014-15.

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This includes centrally sponsored schemes like the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), which provides health insurance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and 11 other defined categories of unorganized workers. The scheme is now in the process of being merged into the universal health insurance scheme announced by the government.

The National Health Profile 2015, compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence last year, showed despite a declining share of public health expenditure, the Centre has done well in extending a health insurance cover as compared to the private sector. Even among those who have some form of coverage, 67 per cent are covered by public insurance companies, according to the Profile.