

## Rajasthan's Right to Health Bill 2022

### Why in news?

The Rajasthan government recently passed the Right to health bill which faced several opposition from the doctors

### What is the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill (RTH) 2022?

- Right to Health Bill (RTH) gives every resident of the state the right to avail free healthcare services to -
  - Out Patient Department (OPD) services and In Patient Department (IPD) services at *all public health facilities* and *any private facilities*
- The free healthcare services includes consultation, drugs, diagnostics, emergency transport, procedure and emergency care.

### What are the Key features of the Rajasthan Right to Health Bill (RTH) 2022?

- **Resident Doctors** -Will be *entitled* to *emergency treatment* and care *without prepayment* of any fee or charges
- **20 rights** -The Bill extends a total of 20 Rights to the citizens of the state
- **Obligations on the state government** -The Bill sets certain obligations on the state government to ensure the right to health and maintain public health
- **Health Authorities** - Will be set up at the state and district level
- Health authorities will formulate, implement, monitor, and develop mechanisms for quality healthcare and management of public health emergencies
- **Grievance redressal** - The Bill provides a web portal and helpline center for resolving complaints against denial of services and infringements of rights
- The District Health Authority will take up unresolved complaints exceeding the above timeframe

### What are the key issues of the RTH bill?

- **Violation of Article 19(1)(g)** -Since the bill mandates the private establishments to provide free services and don't contain provision for the reimbursement
- **Violation of right to privacy** -In grievance redressal mechanism a patient's medical information may also be part of the action taken report which is published in the web portal.
- **Shortage of health workers and resources** -May affect the effective implementation of the right to health.
- **Inclusion and exclusion error** - There may be an overlap between beneficiaries under [Ayushman Bharat Scheme](#) and RTH due to certain matching eligibility criteria
- **The Financial Memorandum of the Bill** -*Does not mention costs* related to any of

these factors(human resources, infrastructure development and public health functions) or any additional costs from providing free healthcare services to everyone in the state

- Implementing the Right to health may increase the financial obligation of the state.

*Article 19(1) (g) of the Constitution guarantees the right to practice any profession or carry on any occupation, trade or business*

### **What are the various reasons for failure of government health service?**

- Government expecting private hospitals to implement the government's populist policies
- Corruption
- Low health infrastructure
- Shortage of man power
- Low funding
- Poor administration

### **What is the way forward?**

- The Rajasthan government have to effectively implement the health schemes which are already in play. The schemes are
  - Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme
  - Rajasthan Government Health Scheme for government employees
  - Nishulk Nirogi Rajasthan
  - Free Test scheme
- There is lack of clarity over the definition of emergency which needs to be addressed

### **References**

1. [The Indian Express | RTH Bill](#)
2. [PRS | RTH Bill](#)
3. [The Indian Express | RTH Bill](#)