

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1154  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th February, 2024**

**DOCTOR AND PATIENT RATIO**

**1154. SHRI ABHISHEK BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) the doctor and patient ratio in rural areas; and
- (b) the details regarding the incentive schemes given to doctors for practicing in rural areas?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (b): As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022. Assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors, the doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:834 which is better than the WHO standard of 1:1000.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided to the States /UTs to strengthen their health care systems based on the proposals received from the States so as to provide universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services all over the country including in Rural/Tribal Areas. Further, under NHM, flexibility is given to the States for providing hard area allowance, performance-based incentives, providing accommodation and transport facilities in rural and remote areas, sponsoring training programmes, etc. to engage human resources, to address the issue of shortage of doctors and specialists in the public health facilities. States have also been allowed to offer negotiable salaries to attract Specialists including flexibility in strategies such as "You quote, we pay".

The States are also encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging doctors and specialists for public healthcare facilities. These include 'contracting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services and engaging specialists outside the government system for service delivery at public facilities under NHM.

To enhance healthcare facilities at District/Rural level and to address the issue of shortage of specialists in the country, the Government has approved District Residency Program where the second/third year PG students of medical colleges are to be posted in the district hospitals for a period of three months.

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