

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:248  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001  
DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS  
SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to make it mandatory for fresh MBBS doctors to work in rural areas for atleast three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the additional steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 248 FOR 8.8.2001

(a) & (b): No, Sir. At present, the Central Government have no proposal to make it mandatory for fresh MBBS doctors to work in rural areas. However, some of the State Governments have made it obligatory for doctors to work in rural areas.

(c): Since the appointment and postings of doctors is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to take appropriate steps to fill up the vacancies of doctors in rural areas. In pursuance of the Resolution of the 6th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, held in 1999, the states have been advised to take the following steps to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas:

- To resort to decentralized recruitment of doctors.
- To appoint doctors on contract basis, wherever feasible.
- To improve infrastructural facilities for doctors and remove their hardships.
- To take steps to fill up vacancies of Specialists in CHCs and Medical Officers in PHCs by making rural service obligatory for 3 years.
- To consider reserving 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for atleast three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years.