

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2339  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007  
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the number of doctors in proportion to the number of patients is constantly decreasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the percentage of doctors in proportion to the population in the country as on date;
- (d) the number of doctors passing out from Medical Colleges each year in the country;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the number of doctors to meet the demand of growing population; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (f) The doctor patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like type of disease, nature of specialization, type of treatment required i.e. indoor/ outdoor. According to the Medical Council of India, the total number of registered allopathic doctors in the country is 6,83,582. Thus the percentage of allopathic doctor in proportion to population at present works out to 0.06%. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in the country. Taking all these numbers together, the percentage of doctors with respect to population is 0.11% approximately. Separate data relating to doctor population ratio in rural as well as urban areas in the country is not maintained. Currently, there are 269 medical colleges in the country with annual intake of 30,922 students, who add up to the existing medical manpower. The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the main aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to the poor and the vulnerable sections of population.