

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:695
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
VACANT POSTS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES
Singh Shri Rampal

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

- (a) whether the vacant posts of Doctors in Primary Health Centres have not been filled even after the assurance given in this regard;
- (b) if so, the difficulties being faced by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepare any programme to fill the vacancies in phases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) & (b): Although the number of doctors sanctioned in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are more than requirement (27927 against requirement of 22669), 1314 PHCs were without a doctor (as on March, 2006) because of misdistribution, poor transfer policy of the State Governments, lack of basic amenities and incentives for working in the rural areas.

(c) & (d): Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), State/UT Governments have been authorized to appoint doctors including Ayush doctors on contractual basis at the district level. Under NRHM 4318 doctors have been positioned on contractual basis till 1.11.2007 all over the country. State Governments have taken various initiatives to ensure service of doctors in rural areas such as first posting in rural/difficult areas, walk in interviews, contractual appointment, provision of rural area allowance, kind and cash incentive to serve in difficult areas, offering choice of posting after rural/difficult area tenure etc.