

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1631

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND NURSES

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of doctors and nurses in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government had decided to introduce new schemes under the Development of Nursing Services Scheme;
- (d) if so, the status of the said schemes; and
- (e) the details of the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of doctors and nurses to meet the growing demand?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)& (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, allopathic doctors population ratio works out to 1:1584 approximately. In addition there more than six lakh practitioners of Indian system of medicine and Homoeopathy. Taking all these number together, the doctor population ratio comes to 1:1860 approximately. In so far as nurses is concerned, as per the Bajaj Committee recommendations of Nursing Staffing norms, 10.43 lakhs Nurses would be required by 2012. With the existing training capacity, 6.84 lakhs Nurses are expected to be trained by 2012. However the position of Nurses in the Central Government Hospitals is satisfactory.

(c)&(d) It is proposed to introduce new schemes under the project for Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services (Human Resources for Health) during XI plan period. The necessary steps are under way for obtaining approval of competent authorities.

(e) The Government of India has proposed the following steps to meet the growing need of nurses:-

(i) Establishment of Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts which are not having both these training programmes.

(ii) Establishment of post graduation Nursing (M.Sc Nursing) Institutions.

(iii) Establishment of Regional Institute of Excellence.

(iv) Establishment of Centre of Excellence in each State.

(v) The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to poor and the vulnerable section of the population.

(vi) Medical Council of India Regulations are under revision with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio and introduction of public-private partnership which will facilitate starting of more medical colleges.