

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2664

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2010

DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS

Basheer Shri E. T. Muhammed; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Lingam Shri P.; Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ; Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva; Singh Chaudhary Lal; Siricilla Shri Rajaiah; Sudhakaran Shri K.; Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) the total number of doctors working in the country and the number out of them working in the rural areas State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government so far to remove the disparity in the demand and supply of the trained doctors and to encourage them to work in the rural areas;
- (c) whether the Government has made one year mandatory posting in the rural areas for the medical/post medical graduates, before giving them the permanent registration;
- (d) if so, the number of medical/post medical degrees given during each of the last two years and the number of doctors out of them posted in the rural areas during the said period;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of MBBS seats in the Government medical colleges and permit those who are having medical qualifications equivalent to MBBS for carrying the medical practice in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

- (a) As per information available, the total number of doctors is 7,48,757 and as on March, 2008 there were 24,375 doctors at Primary Health Centres and 4279 specialists at Community Health Centres in the country.
- (b), (c) & (d) The Sambasiva Rao Committee had recommended that one year rural posting may be made mandatory for the MBBS doctors desirous of pursuing Postgraduate Medical Degree courses. While the Central Government and the Medical Council of India have not made the rural posting mandatory to pursue Postgraduate Medical Degree courses, the following Medical Council of India's Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations have been amended to encourage doctors to serve in the rural areas:
  - i. 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
  - ii. Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.
- (e) MCI Regulations have been recently amended by increasing the ceiling of 150 to 200 and 250 seats for all medical colleges. There is no proposal to permit those who are having medical qualifications equivalent to MBBS for carrying the medical practice in the country.
- (f) Does not arise.