

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3408
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2010
RAILWAY HOSPITAL IN RURAL AREAS
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of doctors and lack of adequate health facilities at smaller railway hospitals in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to address the problem;
- (c) the number of posts of doctor lying vacant in railway hospitals in rural areas;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to make it mandatory for doctors to serve rural areas for a fixed period of service and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken to provide adequate health facilities at smaller railway hospitals in rural areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

- (a) & (b) Health facilities on Indian Railways are provided through 125 hospitals & 586 health units which are spread out throughout the Railways in a planned manner. Regular railway doctors run the hospitals and Health Units. However, short term vacancies in hospitals and Health Units are managed by taking doctors on contract basis.
- (c) Presently in 125 Railway Hospitals there are only 70 vacancies of doctors and out of 586 Health Units in Railways only 17 Health Units are having vacancies of doctors.
- (d) There is no such system or proposal on the Railways.
- (e) None of the Health Units remain unmanned, as there is a system at Divisional/Sub-divisional Railway Hospital according to which Doctors from these hospitals are temporarily posted to manage these Health Units. In addition to the present health infrastructure, it is also proposed to develop additional infrastructure on surplus railway land not required for Railway's immediate operational purpose, in co-ordination with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.