

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1137

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010

DOCTORS AND PARA MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AND BACKWARD AREAS

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Ramkishun Shri ;Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals in the country, particularly in the rural and backward areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures taken in this regard;
- (c) the progress made in regard to the introduction of proposed medical degree course, viz., 'Bachelor of Rural Medicine and Surgery (BRMC)';
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a number of national and regional institutes for para-medical professionals;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government also proposes to create a dedicated cadre of rural health care workers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There is imbalance in availability of doctors, nurses and para-medical professionals in the rural and urban areas of the country. The Ministry of Health & Family, in consultation with Medical Council of India has taken various steps to increase the number of medical practitioners and correct the imbalance viz., relaxed requirements of land for medical college or medical institution, reduced teacher – student ratio, relaxed bed strength of teaching hospitals in NE States and Hill States etc., for opening of more medical colleges. Schemes have also been initiated for providing financial assistance to strengthen and upgrade State medical colleges and teaching institutions for nurses and paramedical personnel.

(c) The proposal for introduction of Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) is under examination and will be placed shortly before Central Council for Health & Family Welfare for consideration.

(d) & (e) Yes. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the establishment of National Institute of Paramedical Sciences (NIPS) and 8 Regional Institute of Paramedical Sciences (RIPS) in addition to developing the existing Regional Institute of Paramedical & Nursing Sciences (RIPANS), Aizwal as the 9th RIPS and a scheme to support State Government Medical Colleges for conducting paramedical courses through one time grant has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 1156 crore on sharing pattern of 85:15 between Centre and States.

(f) & (g) The proposed Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) course envisages creation of a dedicated cadre of rural health care workers.