

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1143  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010  
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES FOR MOTHERS  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

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

- (a) whether India scores poorly among the middle-income countries when it comes to healthcare and well-being of mothers;
- (b) if so, whether there is a shortage of trained health workers in the country including semi-urban and rural villages;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the healthcare system in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (d): Specific official data on health care and well being of mothers based on income of countries is not available. However, as per the Report on the 'State of the World's Children, Special Edition-2009' published by UNICEF, India ranks 47th in descending order on Maternal Mortality Ratio(MMR) among 169 countries.

As per the Rural Health Statistics(RHS) Bulletin 2009, the overall shortfall in the availability of regular ANMs is 7.3% of the total requirement at sub-centers, for doctors at PHCs this is 16.2% of total requirement and for specialists like Surgeons, Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Pediatricians at CHCs, this is 68% of the total requirement.

However, significant improvement in numbers has taken place in these categories of health personnel since the launch of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the year 2005.

To improve the healthcare system of the country, the Government of India has taken a number of steps under the NRHM to increase access for rural people, especially poor women and children to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, with a special focus on 18 States.

The key steps taken to augment the availability of manpower and the infrastructure are :

# Initiatives to induct additional human resources into the public health delivery system by contractual appointments of medical and paramedical health personnel.

# Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill- based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarean Section, IMNCI, Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK) etc.

# Establishing new institutions and strengthening infrastructure in the existing institutions for education and training of medical and paramedical health workers e.g. medical colleges, nursing schools, ANM training schools, State Institutes of Health and Family Welfare, District Training Centers etc.

# Operationalizing round the clock facilities for maternal and child health services in the public sector, at 24X7 PHCs and First Referral Units (FRUs) including District Hospitals, Sub-district Hospitals, Community Health Centres and other institutions.

# Systems strengthening of health facilities through flexible funds at Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals.