

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2262

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND NURSES

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

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of doctors and nurses in the country, particularly in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the total number of doctors and nurses required to meet this shortage, State-wise;
- (c) the plan formulated by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether a large number of students used to go and settle abroad after getting medical degrees; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such students/doctors and steps taken to check this brain-drain of highly qualified doctors?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) to (c) 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.

(d) & (e) Doctors go abroad either for obtaining higher qualifications / training or for prestigious assignment. However, no such data is being maintained.