

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2772
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2010
SHORTAGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) whether due to the launch of the National Rural Health Mission, the demand for human resources had gone up manifold, but the distribution of health professionals in the country is very uneven;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand and supply gap of medical professionals across the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to allow faculties from abroad to join the medical institutions in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(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 and 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) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Third Schedule of the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 by recognizing the postgraduate medical qualifications awarded by 5-English speaking countries, viz. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America.