

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:458

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

DOCTORS-POPULATION RATIO

Mishra Shri Mahabal ;Sivasami Shri C.

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

- (a) the ratio of doctors in proportion to population in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the World Health Organisation(WHO) has laid down certain norms/standards in regard to doctor-population ratio;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to meet the WHO standard in this regard;
- (e) whether the Planning Commission has raised concern over the lack of health care facilities in the wake of shortage of medical professionals in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith corrective action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 458 FOR 10 December 2010

- (a) As per the Medical Council of India (MCI) the current doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:1700.
- (b) As per information given by World Health Organisation (WHO); there are no specific standard/norms by WHO which prescribes doctor-population ratio.
- (c)& (d) Do not arise.
- (e) & (f) The Planning Commission has identified the problem of shortage of human resources in health in the XI Plan document. Various measures have been undertaken by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to increase the intake capacity for doctors and specialists. These include relaxation in requirements of land for medical colleges, reduced teacher - student ratio, relaxed bed strength of teaching hospitals in NE States and Hill States etc. for opening of more medical colleges; raising the maximum age limit for faculty from 65 to 70 years and allowing DNB qualifications for faculty appointments in medical colleges. Besides, the Central Government under the scheme of `Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges` provides financial support to State medical colleges to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new courses.