

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

DEGREE COURSES IN RURAL HEALTH CARE

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Mandal Dr. Tarun; Virendra Kumar Shri ; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) the present status of the proposed Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) Course and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (b) the scope of the said medical course alongwith the manner in which it is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether there has been opposition to the introduction of BRHC from various quarters;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other measures taken/proposed by the Government to meet the shortage of doctors, particularly in rural and remote areas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The course curriculum of the proposed Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) has been prepared in consultation with Medical Council of India and other experts. Presently, the modalities of its implementation are being finalized. The proposed course will be of 3-years duration with 6-months of internship and is proposed to be taught in the District Hospitals and is especially designed for those who have completed their schooling and passed their qualifying examination from notified rural areas of the district. These professionals will be posted at the Sub-Centers.

(c) & (d) Yes. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) opposed the nature and length of the BRHC course.

(e) The Central Government, in consultation with Medical Council of India, made the following amendments to its Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations to encourage doctors to serve in the rural areas:

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

In addition, following measures have also been taken to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas:

Financial assistance is provided to States under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to engage doctors and specialists. As on 31.3.2011, 9432 doctors and 7063 specialists were engaged by States on contract basis.

Financial assistance is also provided under NRHM for engaging AYUSH doctors on contract basis and collocate them in PHCs/CHCs. As on 31.3.2011, 11,575 AYUSH doctors were engaged by the States.

Payment of incentives to doctors and specialists in hard to reach and difficult areas.

Multiskilling of doctors by training them in Life Saving Anesthesia Skills (LSAS) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (CEmOC).