

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1129  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011  
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND PARA-MEDICAL STAFF  
Bhujbal Shri Sameer

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors and para-medical staff in Primary Health Centres/Community Health Centres/Sub- Centres of the country under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet the shortage;
- (d) the number of sanctioned posts of doctors/specialist doctors laying vacant under NRHM;

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (e): A state-wise statement showing shortfall in doctors and Para-Medical staff in Primary Health Centres[PHCs]/Community Health Centres[CHCs]/ Sub Centres [SCs] as per the bulletin on Rural Health Statistics in India, 2010 is annexed.

Various reasons attributed for the shortage include, non availability of requisite number of doctors and paramedics, shortage of medical colleges and training institutes, unwillingness to work in difficult and hard to reach areas, lack of accommodation, unavailability of general infrastructure in rural areas etc.

A total of 6148 posts of doctors at PHCs and 4156 posts of Specialists at CHCs are lying vacant across the country.

Augmentation of human resources is one of the thrust area under the National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. Financial support is provided under NRHM for engagement of staff on contractual basis. Multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, provision of incentives to serve in rural areas, improved accommodation arrangements, measure to set up more medical colleges, GNM Schools, ANM Schools to produce more doctors and paramedics are also measure taken to bridge the gap in availability of human resources.A statement showing the staff appointed under NRHM on contractual basis across the country as on 31st March, 2011 is as under:

Sno Designation No of staff added

1	Specialists	7063
2	General Duty Medical Officers	9432
3	AYUSH Doctors	11575
4	Staff Nurses	33667
5	ANM	60268
6	Para Medics	21740
7	AYUSH Para Medics	4616

The posts in the /2 health facilities are filled up by respective State/ UT Governments. They are impressed upon from time to time to fill up the vacant post.

(f) to (g): ASHAs are trained on different modules to orient them about the healthcare issues of the community especially related to the health of mother and child. The main function of ASHA is to provide an interface between the community and the health facility. They generate awareness about health and demand for healthcare services available in the public health system. However, they are also being trained to provide basic home based newborn care.