

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1088

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2011

SHORTFALL OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the shortfall of doctors, nurses and other para-medical professionals against their present requirement, particularly in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the ratio of doctor-population, nursepopulation and doctor-nurse in the country;
- (c) the total number of doctors and nurses graduating from the medical and nursing colleges every year in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has drawn any action plan to increase the doctor and nurse population ratio, particularly in the rural areas of the country and constituted a high powered Committee for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Assessment of human resources for health is a continuous process and augmenting human resources for health, particularly in rural areas of the country is one of the focal areas of the Government. As per the current estimation, the doctor-population ratio works out to 1:2000 approximately. In addition there are more than six lakh practitioners of Indian system of Medicine and Homoeopathy. Similarly, the nurse-population ratio is 1:1130 and the doctor-nurse ratio is around 1:1.5.

(c) Currently, there are 335 medical colleges in the country for teaching modern system of medicine with annual intake of 41,569 who add up to the existing medical manpower. The current training capacity of nurses in the country is around 1.75 lakh per annum.

(d) & (e) In the past, the Central Government constituted various Committees to inter alia assess the requirement of human resources for the health sector. On the basis of these recommendations and consultations with Medical Council of India and other experts, the Government has taken following steps to facilitate setting up more medical colleges and nursing institutions, improve the doctor/nurse-population ratio in general and also correct the imbalance in the distribution of doctors/nurses across the country:

# Rs. 1350 crore have been earmarked for providing financial assistance for strengthening and upgradation of State Government medical colleges.

# Six AIIMS like institutions are being established in under-served States.

# Upgrading 13 existing Government Medical Colleges/Institutions in ten States.

# Liberalization of Medical Council of India's norms/regulations related to land, bed strength, etc. to enable opening up of new medical colleges.

# The ratio of post graduate medical teacher to the student has been relaxed from 1:1 to 1:2 which will result in availability of more medical specialists.

# 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.

# It has been proposed in the scheme of development of nursing services for upgradation of existing schools of nursing into colleges of nursing.