

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4850

ANSWERED ON:02.09.2011

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

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

- (a) the total number of registered medical practitioners indicating their current ratio with the population in the country as compared to the world average and the World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark;
- (b) the estimated shortfall of medical practitioners at present in the country;
- (c) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has prepared a document viz. Vision 2015 which envisages to achieve the doctor-population ratio of 1:1000 by the year 2031; and
- (d) if so, the plan chalked out and implemented so far to achieve this target?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), the total number of registered medical practitioners (allopathic) in the country till 31st July 2011 is 8,56,065 out of which approximately 6 lac are presently active practitioners. The current doctor-population ratio has been worked out to be approximately 1:2000.

The current doctor population ratio in India is low which needs to be improved. The Central Government has already taken various measures by relaxing MCI norms required for setting up of medical colleges to increase the availability of medical practitioners and make the doctor population ratio comparable to that of developed countries.

(c): Yes.

(d): A large number of steps have been taken to address shortage of doctors, specialists and faculty in the country:

1. The norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure have been relaxed.
2. Teacher-student ratio has been relaxed to increase the seats at Postgraduate level.
3. DNB qualifications have been recognized for appointment to various faculty posts in medical colleges.
4. Maximum intake capacity at MBBS level has been increased from 150 to 250.
5. Maximum age for appointment of faculty has been enhanced from 65 to 70 years.
6. 46 new medical colleges have been set up between 2009-11.
- 7 Under the scheme of 'Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges', financial support to State Government medical colleges is being provided to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new postgraduate medical courses.