

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2031

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011

DOCTOR POPULATION RATIO

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

- (a) the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recommended norm of the ratio of doctor per thousand population and their present ratio in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether an Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission has set any target of availability of one allopathic doctor per thousand people by 2028 and recommended opening of a number of medical colleges for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the follow up action taken/proposed by the Government on these recommendations; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to raise the number of para medical staff according to WHO norms as per the recommendation of the above Group?

**Answer**

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

(a) As per information given by World Health Organisation (WHO), there are no specific standard/norms by WHO which prescribes doctor-population ratio. 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. Thus, the current doctor-population ratio works out to be approximately 1:2000.

(b) & (c) The High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage for India by the Planning Commission in its report, inter-alia recommended increase of availability of doctors to 1:1000 population with specific thrust on underserved population through establishment of an estimated 187 new medical colleges in high focussed State during 12th and 13th Five Year Plans.

(d) & (e) To improve the human resources in health sector including current doctor population ratio in the country, the Central Government has already taken various measures, like:

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 medical colleges is being provided to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new postgraduate medical courses.
8. Financial support is also provided to under National Rural Health Mission for engagement of staff on contractual basis.
9. Schemes have also been initiated for providing financial assistance to strengthen and upgrade the teaching institutions for nurses and paramedical personnel.
10. The Government has also approved establishment of eight AIIMS-like institutions (six in first phase and two in second phase) in the country under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yozana (PMSSY).