

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2612  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011  
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is a large scale shortfall of doctors, lab technicians and pharmacists and other health workers including ANWs & ANMs in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether patients in rural areas suffer a lot due to absenteeism of a large number of doctors from duty, posted in the rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts and to ensure proper healthcare facilities for the rural poor in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As per Rural Health Statistics in India 2010, there is a shortfall of 2433 doctors at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 11361 Specialists at Community Health Centres (CHCs), 14225 Lab Technicians at PHCs and CHCs, 7655 Pharmacists at PHCs and CHCs, and 15079 Health Workers [Female]/ ANMs at PHCs and CHCs.

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.

(c) & (d) Health being a state subject, Health Centres, Hospitals etc. are managed by respective State/UT Governments and day to day functioning of Health Centres/Hospitals including absenteeism of doctors is handled by them.

(e) 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, efforts to set up more medical colleges, GNM Schools, ANM Schools to produce more doctors and paramedics are also measures taken to bridge the gap in human resources. As on 30 the June, 2011, a statement showing the staff appointed under NRHM on contractual basis across the country is as under :

S. No.	Designation	No of staff added
1	Specialists	3592
2	General Duty Medical Officers	9982
3	AYUSH Doctors	11072
4	Staff Nurses	30682
5	ANM	61062
6	Para Medics	26048
7	AYUSH Para Medics	4345

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