

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2858

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

MANDATORY RURAL POSTING OF DOCTORS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Haldar Shri Sucharu Ranjan; Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) the total number of medical graduates and post-graduates passing out every year and the incentives being provided to encourage them to serve in the rural areas of the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the above incentives being provided to encourage doctors to serve in the rural areas have yielded the desired results;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce the six-and-a-half year MBBS course that would make a one year rural posting mandatory for all MBBS students before they can become doctors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other measures taken/proposed by the Government to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a): Data relating to number of medical graduate and postgraduate students passing is not centrally maintained. However, the annual intake capacity of medical graduate and postgraduate students stands at 41,569 and 21,858 respectively. The Central Government, in consultation with Medical Council of India, made the following amendments to its Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations to encourage doctors to serve in the rural areas:

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(b)&(c): The data is not centrally maintained.

(d)&(e): In an overall effort to improve medical education and make it more socially oriented and suitable from the public health perspective, discussions were held with the medical Council of India (MCI) on 4th February, 2012 regarding exposing MBBS students to rural health care settings to enable them to acquaint themselves with broad community healthcare needs.

The Central Government, under NRHM, is providing financial support to State Governments for engagement of staff on contractual basis. The Central Government has also taken various steps like multi skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, provision of incentives to serve in rural areas, relaxed requirements for setting up of medical colleges, etc., to increase the availability of health professionals in the country.