

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3240
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2009
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS MEDICINES IN VETERINARY HOSPITALS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is scarcity of doctors and medicines in every veterinary hospital in the country, especially in Jharkhand and Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for deploying veterinary doctors and the distribution of medicines in State veterinary hospitals of the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) the ratio of number of veterinary hospitals and veterinary doctors to total number of animals in the country, especially in Jharkhand and Bihar;
- (e) whether the number of veterinary hospitals at present in the country is inadequate; and
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b) No, Madam. There is no scarcity of doctors in every veterinary hospital of the country. However, there are State-wise variations. As per information provided by Government of Jharkhand and Bihar, against 424 and 822 veterinary hospitals/ dispensaries, there are 753 and 839 sanctioned posts of veterinary doctors of which 613 and 603 are in position. In 2008-09, provision of Rs. 225.00 lakhs and Rs. 289.93 lakhs was made by Jharkhand and Bihar respectively for purchase of medicines.

(c). Veterinary services, including deployment of veterinary doctors, is a State subject. Hence, no funds are provided by the Union Government for deployment of veterinary doctors and supply of medicines to the States. Hence, to supplement the State efforts, funds are provided to cover animal health, including immunization through certain Centrally sponsored schemes like (i) Assistance to States for Control of Animal diseases (ASCAD), (ii) National Project on Rinderpest Eradication (NPRE) and (iii) Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP). Funds provided under these schemes to different States during last three years are at annexure I, II and III.

(d) As per livestock census, 2003, India has 311 million cattle units (one cattle unit equivalent to one large animal for five pigs or 10 sheep and goats or 100 poultry) and 52, 757 veterinary institutions (veterinary hospitals/ dispensaries/ aid centres). On an average each veterinary institutions caters to the need of about 5895 cattle units, whereas in the states of Jharkhand and Bihar, each institute provides health care to about 23,000 and 7,900 cattle units respectively.

(e)&(f) The number of veterinary hospitals in the country at present is not adequate. As per recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture (1976), there should be at least one veterinarian for every 5,000 cattle units by 2000 A.D. Presently, on an average each veterinarian is catering to the needs of 6158 cattle units and one veterinary institution covers 12-13 villages. The State Governments regularly open new veterinary institutions. The State of Jharkhand has set up 19 veterinary hospitals during 2006-08.