

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1229

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

AVAILABILITY OF DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS

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

- (a) whether unequal distribution of doctors and other medical professionals is a major factor responsible for the poor healthcare delivery system in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present ratio of availability of doctors and other medical professionals in rural areas in comparison to urban areas in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to improve the availability of doctors and other medical professionals including feasibility of opening medical colleges in rural areas along with the extent to which success has been achieved so far;
- (d) whether the Government has finalised Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) course to improve the availability of medical professionals in rural areas of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) course is likely to be introduced in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a): Shortage of allopathic doctors and specialists in rural areas is an area of concern for providing comprehensive health care delivery in rural areas.

(b): State-wise estimates availability of doctors and nurses in urban and rural areas as per HRH Technical Report, 2008

(by Krishna D. Rao et al) is attached as Annexure – A and B

(c): Public Health is a state subject. Financial support is provided to States under NRHM to strengthen the health system including engagement of doctors and paramedics on contractual basis based on the requirement proposed by the State in annual Programme Implementation Plan.

Further, Multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists; provision of incentives to serve in rural areas; mainstreaming of AYUSH; improved accommodation arrangements; measure to set up more Medical Colleges, GNM Schools and ANM Schools particularly in deficient States/ districts to produce more doctors and paramedics are some of the important measures taken to bridge the gap in human resources. Norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement of land, faculty, bed strength/bed occupancy and other infrastructure have been relaxed. Establishment of medical college in two pieces of land has been allowed in 8 backward States for a period of five years. During the last 4 years, 66 new medical colleges have been set up.

(d): No.

(e): No timeline can be given.