

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1319

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

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 huge shortage of doctors and paramedical staff in Government hospitals as well as in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) in rural areas despite provision of better salary and other lucrative benefits for the posting of doctors therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

(a) & (b): The State/UT wise detail of shortfall of doctors and paramedical staff in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) as per Rural Health Statistics in India, 2011 is placed at Annexure I-IX.

Various reasons attributed for shortage include non availability of requisite number of doctors and paramedics, shortage of medical colleges and training institutes in certain states and unwillingness on the part of doctors to work in rural areas and in Government health facilities.

(c) Public Health is a state subject. Financial support is provided to States under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] to strengthen the health system including engagement of doctors and paramedics on contractual basis based on the requirement proposed by the States in their annual Programme Implementation Plans. Further support is being provided under NRHM for Multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists; provision of incentives to serve in rural areas; mainstreaming of AYUSH; improved accommodation arrangements; etc., There is proposal to set up more Medical Colleges, GNM Schools and ANM Schools particularly in deficient States/ districts to produce more doctors and paramedics. 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.