

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1376

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2012

WORKING CONDITION OF NURSES AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF

Dhanaplan Shri K. P.;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) the number of registered nurses and paramedical staff working in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the poor working and service conditions of nurses and paramedical staff in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of representations/reports received by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce a legislation to regulate the working condition of the nurses and paramedical staff in order to protect their rights;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to standardize the mid service training programme for nurse midwives and other health workers?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) A statement containing details of nurses registered in the Country as on 31.12.2011 is enclosed at Annexure. No such data is centrally maintained for Paramedical staff working in the country.

(b) to (e): The representations/reports received from various quarters regarding service conditions of nurses and paramedical staffs are addressed appropriately.

Health being a State subject, the matter pertaining to improving and regulating the service conditions of nurses working in the private hospitals comes under the purview of the State Government in which the private hospitals are located. All the State Governments have been asked vide letters dated 7th July, 2010 and 24th February, 2012 to take necessary measures for enacting a comprehensive Legislation for improvement of service conditions including the nurses working in the private sector.

Further, Indian Nursing Council has taken an initiative and issued a circular on 23rd September, 2011 to all the State Governments stipulating that in case the unethical practice of obtaining service bond/forcefully retaining the original certificate of the student comes to notice then penal action would be taken against such erring institutions.

(f) Guidelines have been prepared by the Government to upgrade the knowledge & skills of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs)/ Staff Nurses (SNs) and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) for Antenatal Care and Skilled Attendance at Birth. Besides this, the standard technical protocols for care during pregnancy & childbirth has also been prepared and disseminated to the States. Based on these guidelines, ANMs/SNs & LHVs are being imparted a 3 week training for Skilled Birth Attendants (SBA) by the States under the National Rural Health Mission.