

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:528
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
Saroj Smt. Sushila;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) the total number of doctors and other health professionals in the country, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the requirement of doctors and other health professionals in the rural and remote areas across the country and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) the percentage of doctors currently serving in the rural and remote areas vis-avis urban areas of the country, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) the doctor-population ratio in the rural and urban areas of the country, State/ UT-wise; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government to meet the required number of doctors and health professionals, especially in the rural and remote areas across the country?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.528 FOR 3RD MAY, 2013

(a)&(b): The State/UT wise statement showing the Requirement, In Position, Vacancy of Doctors, Specialists, Nurses, Male and Female Health Workers at Sub-Centres (SCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) as per Rural Health Statistics in India, 2011, is at Annexure I to V.

(c)&(d): The percentage of doctors currently serving in rural and remote areas vis-À-vis urban areas of the country, State/UT wise is not available. The state-wise estimates of density of doctors and nurses in proportion to population in the rural areas in comparison to urban areas in the country as per HRH Technical Report, 2008 (by Krishna D.Rao et al) is at Annexure- VI.

(e) : Public Health is a state subject. Financial support is provided to states under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to strengthen the health systems including support for engagement of doctors, specialist and paramedics on contractual basis. Further, support is also provided under NRHM for multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, providing incentives to serve in rural areas, mainstreaming of AYUSH, improving accommodation arrangement in rural areas, etc.

To increase the availability of doctors, several other initiatives have been taken. Norms have been rationalised in medical education, such as relaxation in land requirements, bed strength, increase in ceiling for maximum intake for undergraduates, enhancement of teacher-student ratio in PG etc which has resulted in substantial increase in number of undergraduate and post graduate seats. There is also a proposal in the Twelfth Plan to support establishment of new medical colleges in deficient states and strengthening of Government Medical colleges to increase the MBBS seats. Government has also approved setting up of ANM/GNM Schools in different States besides setting up of Institutes of Paramedical Sciences at national and regional levels.