

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:188

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2013

SHORTAGE OF HEALTH ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Dome Dr. Ram Chandra;Kashyap Shri Virender;Ramkishun Shri ;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Sемmalai Shri S. ;Shekhawat Shri Gopal Singh

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

- (a) whether there is a shortfall of health and allied health professionals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the norms/standards laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding the ratio of health/allied health professionals in proportion to the population;
- (d) the availability of health and allied health professionals vis-a-vis population in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the action plan chalked out by the Government to meet the shortage of health and allied health professionals in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) As per the Report of the Steering Committee on Health for the 12th Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission, we have only 19 health workers (doctors, nurses & midwives) per 10,000 people in India as against WHO norms of 25 per 10,000 people. Additionally, there are 79 Lakh AYUSH practitioners registered in the country (approx. 6.5 per 10,000).

(d) As per the 12th Five Year Plan document of the Planning Commission, we have 241 health personnel against one Lakh population in India.

(e) The Government has already taken a large number of steps to reduce the shortage of health and allied health professionals in the country which include:

- i. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure.
- ii. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- iii. Relaxation in teacher - student ratio to increase the seats at Postgraduate level.
- iv. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.
- v. Financial support to State medical colleges, under the scheme of "Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges", to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or to start new postgraduate medical courses
- vi. Financial assistance to strengthen and upgrade the schools and colleges of nursing, pharmacy and paramedics.
- vii. Establishment of eight AIIMS-like institutions (six in first phase and two in second phase) in the country under PMSSY.
- viii. Establishment of 6 colleges of nursing at sites of AIIMS like institutions being set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yozana (PMSSY).
- ix. Establishment of one National Institutes of Paramedical Sciences (NIPS) at Najafgarh, Delhi and eight Regional Institutes of Paramedical Sciences (RIPS) at Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Bhopal, Nagpur, Bhubneshwar, Hyderabad, Lucknow and in Bihar under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- x. Norms to start B. Sc. (Nursing) & M. Sc. (Nursing) have been relaxed.

xi. Admission for Nursing allowed for married candidates.