

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1491

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

Ajmal Shri Badruddin

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors in rural areas, especially in rural/tribal/ minority dominated areas of Assam and other North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the details of doctors, nurses and other trained medical staff in Government hospitals in rural/tribal/minority dominates areas of Assam and other North-Eastern States;
- (c) the number of vacancies of doctors, nurses and other trained medical staff in Government hospitals unfilled till date;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to engage more doctors and other medical staff to meet the shortage and provide basic medical facilities to the people of Assam and other North-Eastern States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Public Health is a state subject. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), financial support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen the health system including engagement of doctors, nurse and other trained medical staff on contractual basis, based on the requirement proposed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans.

A Statement regarding shortage of doctors at PHCs, Total Specialists at CHCs and Nursing staff at PHCs and CHCs in rural areas including Assam and other North-Eastern States as per RHS 2012 is placed at Annexure I, II & III respectively.

A statement regarding shortage of doctors at PHCs, Total Specialists at CHCs and Nursing staff at PHCs and CHCs in tribal areas of Assam and other North Eastern States as per RHS 2012 is placed at Annexure IV, V and VI respectively.

(d) & (e) Public Health is a state subject. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), financial support is provided to States to strengthen the health system including engagement of doctors, nurse and other trained medical staff on contractual basis, based on the requirement proposed by the states in their Annual Programme Implementation Plans. A statement regarding the approvals given to Assam and other North Eastern States in FY 2013-14 under NRHM is placed below at Annexure VII.

Further, to increase the availability of doctors, several initiatives have been taken to rationalize the norms in medical education, such as, relaxation in land requirements, bed strength, increase in ceiling for maximum intake for undergraduates, enhancements of teacher- student ratio in PG etc which has resulted in substantial increase in number of undergraduate and post graduate seats. Further, in order to incentivize the doctors to work in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India with the approval of Central Government has also amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide-

- (i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
- (ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.