

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:583  
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009  
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS UNDER NRHM  
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has failed to achieve its target due to shortage of doctors in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the targets fixed under the scheme;
- (c) whether a large number of sanctioned posts of specialized doctors are also lying vacant;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up the vacant posts; and
- (f) the manner by which the various targets are sought to be achieved keeping in view the vacant posts of the specialized doctors?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) It is not correct to conclude that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has failed to achieve its target. NRHM is being successfully implemented in all the states and sector wide reforms are being successfully implemented as per targets contained in the Framework for Implementation of NRHM. There is indeed shortage of doctors & specialists in rural areas in the country and many posts are vacant. Under NRHM, states have undertaken path breaking steps to compensate these shortages so that the targets of NRHM can be attained in timely manner. States have undertaken comprehensive rationalization of Human Resources (HR) policies to optimize utilization of available HR. States have also deployed innovative strategies including contractual appointments, multi-skilling trainings, pooling of doctors etc. to ensure availability of critical skills at all levels. The training capacity in states for critical cadres has been augmented and norms for post graduate trainings have been amended to allow higher intake. The availability of services in underserved areas is being augmented through innovative pro poor partnerships with private providers.