

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2463
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
SHORTAGE OF NEPHROLOGISTS
Thota Shri Narasimham

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

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of nephrologists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of nephrologists in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note that majority of these nephrologists are based in big cities and urban areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of nephrologists in the country and to ensure their uniform availability particularly in the underserved areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b): The Government is aware that there is shortage of doctors, particularly specialists in the country. The data relating to number of Nephrologists in the country is not maintained centrally. However, as per information furnished by Medical Council of India (MCI), the total number of seats in Nephrology in India at various Medical Colleges/Institutes is 93. MCI also informed that as per records available with them, 17 Nephrologists have obtained additional qualification registration from MCI from 2008 till date.

(c) & (d): No such information is available in this Ministry.

(e): In order to meet the shortage of doctors/specialists in the country, the Government has already taken a large number of steps 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. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.
- iv. 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.
- v. Establishment of eight AIIMS-like institutions (six in first phase and two in second phase) in the country under PMSSY.
- vi. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- vii. The ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and 1:1 to 1:3 in subjects of Anaesthesiology, Forensic Medicine, Radiotherapy, Medical Oncology and Surgical Oncology.
- viii. Postgraduate and Graduate medical degrees, when both degrees are obtained from five English speaking countries (US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) have been recognized in India. Similarly, PG degrees of these five countries are also recognised.