

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631

ANSWERED ON:18.11.2016

Shortage of Manpower in Health Sector

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

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the availability and shortage of human resources in health care sector particularly in the rural and remote areas of the country and if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the details of doctor-patient ratio in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that there is huge shortage of doctors, specialists, nurses, technicians and other health workforce in various hospitals, primary and community health centres in the country, particularly in rural, remote and hilly areas and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to address the said issues and developing better doctor-patient ratio in urban and rural areas as per the norms of World Health Organisation (WHO); and

(d) whether the Government proposes to start new medical courses and any other mechanism to ensure quality healthcare and overcome the shortage of doctors in hospitals and polyclinics across the country, if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) to (c): As per information provided by Medical Council of India (MCI), there are a total 9,59,198 doctors registered with the State Medical Council/MCI as on 30-06-15. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 7.67 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1681.

As per Rural Health Statistics (RHS), details of shortage of human resources in public health facilities is at Annexure.

The Government has taken various measures to increase the availability of doctors in the country including schemes for establishment of new medical college, increase of Under Graduate (UG) seats in existing Government medical colleges and relaxing norms to facilitate setting up of new colleges. In the last 2 years, 68 new medical colleges have been set up with an increase in intake capacity of 11835 MBBS seats.

Public health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of doctors in public health facilities lies with the State Governments. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for engagement of doctors on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Support is also provided to States/UTs by giving hard area allowance to doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters so that they find it attractive to serve in public health facilities in such areas.

Further, in order to encourage doctors to work in remote and difficult areas, the MCI, with the previous approval of Central Government, has 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% the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(d): Currently there is no such proposal.