

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:166

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) The density of health professionals in proportion to population in the rural areas in comparison to urban areas, indicating the ratio of doctor-population and nurse-population in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) The present status of the proposal for introduction of Bachelor of Science (Community Health) course and the modalities worked out for its introduction in the country;
- (c) Whether the Government proposes to allow overseas and Non-resident Indian (NRI) doctors to practice in the country, and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the existing policy of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) The other measures being taken by the Government to increase the number of health professionals in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 166 FOR 18TH JULY, 2014

(a): The percentage of doctors currently serving in rural and remote areas vis-à-vis urban areas of the country, State/UT wise is not available. The state-wise estimates of density of doctors and nurses in proportion to population in the rural areas in comparison to urban areas in the country as per HRH Technical Report, 2008 (by Krishna D. Rao et al) are attached as Annexures-IA and I-B.

(b): The Cabinet had approved on 13.11.2013 the introduction of a course namely, Bachelor of Science (Community Health). The main objective of the proposed course is to create mid-level health professionals who would possess the necessary public health and ambulatory care competencies to serve the rural population and will primarily be deployed at Sub Centres. The curriculum of the course has been prepared in consultation with Medical Council of India (MCI) and has taken into consideration the views of various stakeholders. The degree for the course will be awarded by the respective State Universities and it will be accredited by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) to ensure uniformity in the content and delivery of the course. Further, the States have also been requested to furnish details of financial implications for introducing the course in their Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

(c) As per provisions contained in section 14 of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956, person possessing qualification in any country outside India which is recognized in that country and registerable is entitled to obtain temporary registration for practice in the institution to which he is attached for the time being for the purposes of teaching, research or charitable work.

Further, the Central Government had proposed to amend the IMC Act, 1956 by way of IMC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013 on 21st May, 2013 inter-alia allowing Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) to practice medicine in the Country. Subsequently, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013 to replace the Ordinance was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August 2013. The Bill however could not be taken up for consideration and passing. As the said replacement Bill could not be passed at the expiration of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament in terms of sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of Article 123 of the constitution, the aforesaid Ordinance ceased to operate on the 16th September, 2013. In view of this, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance 2013 was notified on the 28th September, 2013. However, the Indian Medical Council (Second Amendment) Bill, 2013 to replace the said Ordinance could not be introduced in the Rajya Sabha, despite all efforts, during the winter session 2013 of Parliament as the House has been adjourned sine die on Wednesday, the 18th December, 2013.

(d) The Government has already taken a large number of steps to reduce the shortage of doctors and other 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 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 125 ANM and 133 GNM Schools across the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services.
- ix. Establishment of 6 colleges of nursing at sites of AIIMS like institutions being set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yozana (PMSSY).
- x. 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, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Lucknow and in Bhagalpur under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- xi. Norms to start B. Sc. (Nursing) & M. Sc. (Nursing) have been relaxed.
- xii. Admission for Nursing allowed for married candidates.