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Title: Need to improve the patient-doctor ratio in the rural areas of the country.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): With ever-growing population, need for doctors is increasing manifold but the reality is that there has been a problem of shortage of doctors particularly in the rural area for a long time. In the recent past, gap has widened due to the explosion of population in the country. Today there is a doctor per 2000 population. People in the rural areas face the brunt as they have to travel a long distance to get medical treatment. There has been a talk of fresh graduate doctors to serve in the rural areas for a certain period. I think this is a step in the right direction. The other issues I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that we spend thousands of crore of rupees on doctors by providing them every possible and conceivable facility and infrastructure to get training and excel in their fields but once they come as a doctor they go to foreign countries in search of greener pastures. This brain-drain should be stopped lock, stock and barrel. Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to make effective steps to stop this brain-drain and make earnest efforts to provide maximum health care services at the doorstep of each needy and poor patient in the rural areas by improving patient-doctor ratio considerably taking into account the ever-growing population and shortage of doctors in the country.