

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1022
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

DOCTOR-POPULATION RATIO

1022. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI PINAKI MISRA:

SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM:

SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

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

- (a) whether the doctor/population ratio is low in the country as per the WHO recommendations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the number includes AYUSH practitioners along with allopathic doctors, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of allopathic doctors registered in the country and the number of such doctors serving the Government and the public sector institutions;
- (d) whether the Government has analyzed the reasons for which the doctors prefer private practice over serving in Government institutions, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of specialist in Community Health Centres (CHCs) especially in the rural/remote areas of the country;
- (f) whether the Government has issued any directions/guidelines to States in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

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(g) the corrective measures being taken by the Government to tackle the situation and improve the doctor-population ratio in the country?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c): As per information provided by Medical Council of India (MCI), there are a total 11,46,044 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on 31st December, 2018. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 9.17 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1472 as per current population estimate of 1.35 billion, which is lower than the WHO norm of 1:1000. Besides, there are 7.63 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.10 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors may be actually available for service. There are also about 2.5 lakh registered dentists in the country. Further, the data regarding number of doctors serving in Government and public sector institutions is not maintained centrally. However, Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) has informed that there are 1.15 lakh Government allopathic doctors in the country as per National Health Profile, 2018.

(d) to (g): Public health and hospitals is a State subject. Shortage of doctors in public health sector varies from State to State depending upon their policies and context. 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/staff on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

The Government has taken various steps to ensure the availability of specialist doctors in CHCs especially in the rural/remote areas, these efforts include:

(i) Support is provided to States/UTs for hard area allowance to specialist 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.

(ii) The States are encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging specialists at public health facilities. These include various mechanisms for 'contacting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services, empanelling private medical facilities to provide requisite Specialists and other methods of engaging specialists outside the government system for service delivery at public facilities and the mechanism to include requests for these in the state Program Implementation Plans (PIP) under the National Health Mission.

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Also, States are advised to put in place transparent policies of posting and transfer, and ensure rational deployment of doctors. As the posts required for health facilities are filled up by respective State/UT Governments, they are impressed upon from time to time to fill up the vacant posts.

Further, the Government has also taken several steps to further increase the number of doctors in the country. These include:

(i) 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, Surgical Oncology and Psychiatry. Further, teacher: student ratio in public funded Government Medical Colleges for Professor has been increased from 1:2 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects and for Asso. Prof. from 1:1 to 1:2 if the Asso. Prof. is a unit head. The same has also been extended to the private medical colleges with certain conditions. This would result in increase in number of PG seats in the country.

(ii) DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.

(iii) Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.

(iv) Relaxation in the norms of setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.

(v) Requirement of land for establishment of medical college in metropolitan cities as notified under Article 243P(c) of the Constitution of India has been dispensed with.

(vi) Strengthening/upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/Increase of PG seats.

(vii) Establishment of New Medical Colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country.

(viii) Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats.

(ix) Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.

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