

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2789  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12<sup>TH</sup> March, 2021**

**SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS AND PARAMEDICS**

**2789. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
DR. VISHNU PRASAD M.K.:  
SHRI D.K.SURESH:  
SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:  
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:**

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

- (a) whether as per the recent studies the country has a very poor doctor to patient ratio and if so, the details thereof along with number of allopathic doctors and nurses registered across the country, State/ UT wise;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the adverse impact of shortage of Doctors on implementation of various flagship schemes in health sector, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to increase number of doctors and para medics in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase number of medical colleges and seats in allied institutions to bridge the gap and meet the shortage of doctors and paramedics in the country and if so, the details thereof along with necessary steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring in a national policy by making it mandatory for all PG doctors to work in rural areas for three years and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of doctors in rural parts of the country?

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

(a): As per information provided by the National Medical Commission (NMC), 12.89 lakh allopathic doctors are registered in the country as on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 10.31 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. The details of number of doctors registered with the concerned State Medical Council, State/UT-wise, is at **Annexure-I**. Besides, there are 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors available in the country. Considering the above, the doctor – population ratio in the country is 1:845.

Further, as per records of the Indian Nursing Council (INC), there are around 22,72,208 Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (RN&RM), 9,34,583 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) and 56,842 Lady Health Visitors (LHV) in the Country. The detail of total number of nurses registered across the country, State/UT wise is at **Annexure - II**.

(b) & (c): Public health and hospitals being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of doctors in public health facilities lies with the State/UT 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, based on the requirements made by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

The Government runs a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical colleges attached with district/referral hospitals, under which establishment of 157 medical colleges has been approved in three phases, of which 47 have become functional. The Government also runs two Centrally Sponsored Schemes for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.

Further, the Government has taken various steps to increase the availability of doctors in the country which include: -

- I. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- II. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- III. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- IV. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- V. Provision has been made in the Regulations to offer less number of seats to the applicant medical college, in case, it falls short of minimum prescribed requirements of applied intake to avoid wastage of human resources.
- VI. A Consortium (a group of 2 or upto 4 private organizations) has been allowed to establish a medical college.
- VII. Viability Gap Funding Scheme for establishment of new medical colleges in Public-Private Partnership mode.

As far as allied and healthcare professionals are concerned, there is no Central Regulatory body at present for allied and healthcare professionals. The Government has introduced the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020 in the Rajya Sabha to regulate and standardise the education and practice of allied and healthcare professionals.

(d): The policy of compulsory rural services of MBBS/PG doctors is decided by the concerned State Government. Each State has its own bond policy for the medical graduates passing out from the medical colleges, keeping in view of the healthcare needs of the State.

(e) To increase availability of doctors in the rural areas, the following steps have been taken:

- I. Two years post MBBS Diploma courses in eight disciplines have been started by the National Board of Examinations to be run mostly in the District hospitals, thereby improving availability of trained healthcare manpower at district level.
- II. Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 have been amended to include District Residency Scheme for compulsory three months training of PG medical students at District Hospitals. Under the Scheme, the second/third year PG students of medical colleges would be posted in the district hospitals for a period of three months.

Further, to encourage doctors working in remote and difficult areas, under the Regulations it has been provided that: -

- I. 50% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and/or difficult and/or rural areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult and/or rural areas.
- II. Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote and/or difficult or rural areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.
- III. 50% seats in Diplomate National Board (DNB) courses have also been reserved for in-service doctors of the State.

**Annexure –I**

Number Of Doctors Registered with State Medical Councils / Erstwhile Medical Council of India as on  
31.12.2020

<b>NameofStateMedicalCouncil</b>	<b>Number of Registered Doctors</b>
AndhraPradeshMedicalCouncil	105795
ArunachalPradeshMedicalCouncil	1246
AssamMedicalCouncil	24960
BiharMedicalCouncil	47486
ChhattisgarhMedical Council	10020
DelhiMedicalCouncil	26686
GoaMedicalCouncil	4035
GujaratMedicalCouncil	71348
HaryanaDental&MedicalCouncils	15679
HimachalPradeshMedicalCouncil	3942
Jammu&Kashmir	16648
JharkhandMedicalCouncil	6926
Karnataka MedicalCouncil	131903
MadhyaPradeshMedicalCouncil	42596
MaharashtraMedicalCouncil	188540
MedicalCouncilofIndia	52666
MizoramMedicalCouncil	118
NagalandMedicalCouncil	141
Orissa Council ofMedicalRegistration	26924
PunjabMedicalCouncil	51685
RajasthanMedicalCouncil	48229
SikkimMedicalCouncil	1501
TamilNaduMedicalCouncil	148216
TravancoreMedicalCouncil,Cochin	70619
UttarPradesh MedicalCouncil	89286
UttaranchalMedicalCouncil	10241
WestBengalMedicalCouncil	77664
TripuraMedicalCouncil	2681
TelenganaMedicalCouncil	11556
<b>GrandTotal</b>	<b>1289337</b>

@ the erstwhileMCIhadstoppedtheregistrationsince2015

## Annexure - II

<b>STATE WISE NUMBER OF REGISTERED NURSES IN INDIA</b>				
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>Total No. of Registered Nurses &amp; Auxiliary Nurses in India as on 31.12.2019</b>		
		<b>ANM</b>	<b>RN &amp; RM</b>	<b>LHV</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	139128	242853	2480
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4163	4090	159
3	Assam	28814	23993	386
4	Bihar	11847	11075	511
5	Chattisgarh	14782	21984	1352
6	Delhi	4835	73513	0
7	Goa	156	477	0
8	Gujarat	51130	131091	0
9	Haryana	29771	35304	694
10	Himachal Pradesh	12007	26611	500
11	Jharkhand	7896	4977	142
12	Karnataka*	54039	231643	6840
13	Kerala	31019	288971	8507
14	Madhya Pradesh*	39563	118793	1731
15	Maharashtra	78304	147494	685
16	Meghalaya	2016	7742	237
17	Manipur	4184	10431	0
18	Mizoram	2370	4335	0
19	Orissa	67654	82189	238
20	Punjab*	23029	76680	2584
21	Rajasthan*	108688	200171	2732
22	Tamil Nadu	59167	308812	11262
23	Tripura	2350	5358	148
24	Uttar Pradesh	75671	111860	2763
25	Uttarakhand	9410	15519	37
26	West Bengal	68982	70442	12854
27	Telangana	3372	14495	0
28	Sikkim	236	1305	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>934583</b>	<b>2272208</b>	<b>56842</b>

**Source :** Respective State Nurses Registration Council

**ANM:** Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, **RN & RM:** Registered Nurses & Registered Midwives,

**LHV:** Lady Health Visitors, **NA:** Not Available

**Note - \*** Last Year Data upto 31.12.2018