

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2615
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
DOCTORS RATIO IN RURAL URBAN AREAS
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

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

- (a) the availability ratio of doctors vis-à-vis people separately in rural as well as urban areas in the country as on 30 June, 2001;
- (b) the above ratio in respect of Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani Doctors separately;
- (c) the percentage of total GDP earmarked for health services separately for rural as well as urban areas for the year 2001-2002;
- (d) whether the Government have made any monitoring or study to find out as to whether the allocated funds for health sector has been utilized properly or not;
- (e) the number of cases of misutilisation in regard to above notice till 30 June, 2001; and
- (f) the concrete measures taken/being taken during the remaining period of current year and in 2002-03 to improve health services particularly in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a)&(b): More than 5 lakh registered allopathic medical practitioners and about 6 lakh registered practitioners of ISM&H are available to take care of present health care services in the country. Rural/Urban break up is not available.
- (c): As per the World Health Report, 2000 the total expenditure on Health as a percentage of GDP for 1997 was 5.2. The figures are not separately available for rural and urban areas.
- (d)&(e): Funds are normally utilised with due care as per set procedure and for the purpose for which they are approved. Regular monitoring of disease control programmes is done through periodic reports submitted by State/District Societies, review meetings at district, State and Central level and field visits. Regular auditing is also done by CAG. Cases of mis-utilisation of funds that have been noticed are minimal.
- (f): Measures are continuously being taken to improve delivery of health services in the country including rural areas. Some of these include improving rural health infrastructure, mobilising external assistance to tackle the major diseases involving NGOs and Panchayati Raj institutions, upgrading rural hospitals in certain States with World bank assistance, etc.