

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2143

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the shortage of doctors in the country ;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to take any measures to make up the said shortage;
- (c) the total number of doctors registered with the Medical Council of India at present ;
- (d) the total number of doctors, being registered every year;
- (e) the total shortage of doctors in proportion to population during the current year;
- (f) whether the Government has made any State-wise assessment in this regard;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the number of medical Colleges; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (i): There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors in the country. As per information available with the Government a total of 6,53,513 Allopathic doctors have been registered with the Medical Council of India (MCI). Besides around 25000 MBBS doctors pass out of Medical Colleges every year adding to the strength of the doctors in the country. During the year 2004 and 2005 (upto October, 2005) 18541 and 9549 doctors respectively were registered with MCI. According to MCI, the doctor population ratio in the country is approximately 1:1722. Besides, there are around six lakh Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathic doctors registered with their respective Councils. If the practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy are also taken into account the ratio of availability of doctors to the population will work out much favourably. However, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors between different regions in the country. The requirement for opening of new medical colleges are assessed by the State Government concerned and Central Government grants permission on the basis of Essentiality Certificate issued by them.