

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2194
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
VACANT POSTS OF DOCTORS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether 30 per cent posts of doctors are lying vacant in Rural Health Centres and Government Hospitals in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts;
- (d) whether the proposal for providing services of trained doctors from the 'Indian Systems of Medicine' to the Government Hospitals is under the consideration of the Union Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): As against 24476 sanctioned posts of doctors, there are 20308 doctors in position in 23236 PHCs in the country as on September, 2005. As far as position of Specialists in the Community Health Centres (CHCs) are concerned, there are 3550 Specialists in position as against their sanctioned number of 7582 posts. Reasons are varied like non availability, delays in recruitment, inappropriate personnel policy of the states and lack of basic amenities and incentives for specialists to work in the rural areas.

A number of States have taken various initiatives such as:

Rationalisation of postings of specialists;

Compulsory rural/difficult area posting for admission to post-graduate courses and as a pre-requisite for promotion, foreign assignment or training abroad;

Compulsory rotation of doctors on completion of prescribed tenure as per classification of locations;

Contractual appointment of doctors;

Option to forgo non-practicing allowance and undertake practice without compromising on assigned duties, as per the service rules; offering incentive in form of allowance etc.

Also, a Task Group of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has recommended following measures to ensure the services of doctors in rural areas :

- Increase in the age of retirement of doctors to 65 years preferably with posting near hometown;
- Decentralization of recruitment at district level;
- Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;
- Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third;
- Increasing the admission capacity in medical colleges for Anesthesia;
- Reviving the Diploma Course in Anesthesia;

-To start one year Certificate Course in Anesthesia for Medical Officers working in the system at present to be given by National Board of Examination.

-Recognition of five hundred bedded Hospitals to provide the facility for conducting the above course;

-Hiring of private practitioners on case-to-case basis.

Contractual appointment of doctor/specialists are being done by State/UTs under NRHM. The States are encouraged to hire the Specialists on case to case basis.

(d) to (e): Under NRHM, a Primary Health Centre (PHC) has been upgraded with the services of an Indian System of Medicine (ISM)

practitioner as per the local needs. Co-location of AYUSH facilities at the PHC level is encouraged. At the level of Community Health Centres (CHCs), one ISM specialist and one General Duty ISM doctor as per the need of the State have been approved.