

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1209  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007  
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES IN RURAL AREAS  
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Karunakaran Shri P.;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to open more Primary Health Centres in Rural and Remote Areas in view of the fact that every seven minutes a woman dies of child birth related complication in every State;
- (b) if so, whether the existing Primary Health Centres are not equipped with essential medicines, doctors and para medical staff;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the number of complaints received in this regard during each of the last three years; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): The number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) functioning in the country are 22669 as on March 2006. About 7.5% of the PHCs were without a doctor, about 38.9% were without a lab technician and about 17.7% were without a pharmacist as on March 2006.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs in the country are being strengthened to provide a package of essential public health services.

- # By ensuring support for outreach services.
- # Regular supply of essential drugs and equipment, round the clock services.
- # Upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting AYUSH practitioners at PHC level.
- # Providing standard treatment protocols and training medical officers and para-medical workers in their use.