

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2059
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

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

- (a) whether as per joint study conducted by FICCI-Ernest & Young on Indian Healthcare scenario has predicted a shortfall of 45,000 doctors and 3,50,000 para medics in India by 2012;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) its likely impact on overall health care system in the country particularly in rural areas?

Answer

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

(a) The joint study conducted by FICCI-Ernest & Young on Indian Healthcare scenario has predicted a shortfall of 453785 doctors and 1290174 Nurses in India by 2012.

(b) & (c)As on March 2006, about 7.5% of the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) were without a doctor, about 38.9% were without a lab technician and about 17.7% were without a pharmacist. In the Community Health Centres (CHCs), out of the sanctioned posts, about 59.4% of surgeons, 45.0% of obstetricians and gynecologists, 61.1% of physicians and about 53.8% of paediatricians were vacant. Overall about 54.5% of the sanctioned posts of specialists at CHCs were vacant. Moreover, there is a shortfall of 70.2% of specialists at the CHCs as compared to the requirement for existing infrastructure on the basis of existing norms.

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHCs are being strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioner and skilled nurses at PHC level.

The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs/ Nurses is being done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/strengthening of nursing & ANM schools, as incorporated in the PIP of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved.