

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
DOCTOR PATIENT RATIO
Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) the present doctor-patient ratio in India against the doctor-patient ratio in developed countries;
- (b) steps being taken to improve the situation;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to generate employment for doctors and paramedics during the current year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 181 FOR 16.03.2005

The doctor-patient ratio varies from case to case depending upon various factors like the type of disease, nature of specialization, type of patient care required viz. indoor/out door. No statistics are being compiled about doctor-patient ratio. However, as per the figures obtained from the Medical Council of India, the allopathic doctor-population ratio at present works out to 1: 1722.

In addition to the 6,39,729 allopathic doctors registered as on 28.2.2005, about 6,94,712 Medical Practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy are registered as on 1.1.2003. Taken together, the Doctor-Population ratio comes to more than 128 per lac population (1 : 781). In addition, there are 229 Medical Colleges with annual intake of 25,682 students. The doctor population ratio is not comparable to the developed countries. However, according to Medical Council of India, there are sufficient number of doctors to take care of services all over the country including rural areas.

The National Health Policy interalia envisages increased access to the decentralized public health system by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions through increased investments. It aims at increasing the Health Sector expenditure from 5.2% to 6% of GDP with the Government contribution increasing from present 0.9% to 2% by 2010. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) also envisages increased Public investment in the health sector. Increased investments in the Health Sector would naturally result in creation of additional job opportunities for medical, paramedical as well as technical personnel.