

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1133

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014

SHORTAGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Galla Shri Jayadev;Kharge Shri Mallikarjun ;Kher Smt. Kirron;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Sahu Shri Tamradhwaj;Singh Shri Ganesh;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar;Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

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

- (a) whether the ratio of medical and para-medical professionals in the country vis-a-vis its population, particularly in rural areas is inadequate compared to global ratio and the standards laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the total number of registered doctors, nurses and other medical and paramedical professionals vis-a-vis their requirement in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the density of doctors, nurses in proportion to population in the rural areas in comparison to urban areas in the country;
- (d) the present status of the proposal for introduction of Bachelor of Science (Community Health) course and the modalities worked out for its introduction in the country; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to meet the requirement of doctors, nurses and other medical and para-medical professionals, particularly in the rural and remote areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

- (a): Yes. As per the Report of the Steering Committee on Health for the 12th Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission, we have 19 health workers (doctors-6, nurses & midwives-13) per 10,000 people in India. Additionally, there are 7.9 Lakh AYUSH practitioners registered in the country (approx. 6.5 per 10,000). WHO norms provide for 25 per 10,000 people.
- (b): As per information provided by Medical Council of India and Indian Nursing Council, the total number of registered doctors and nurses is at Annexure I & II
- (c): The percentage of doctors currently serving in rural and remote areas vis-À-vis urban areas of the country, State/UT wise is not available. The state-wise estimates of density of doctors and nurses in proportion to population in the rural areas in comparison to urban areas in the country as per HRH Technical Report, 2008 (by Krishna D. Rao et al) are attached as Annexures III and IV.
- (d): States/UTs have been asked to include the course in their Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission (NHM). The Central Government, till now, has received willingness from the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Assam to introduce the course.
- (e): The Government has already taken a large number of steps to increase the availability of health professionals in the country which include:
 - i. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure.
 - ii. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
 - iii. Relaxation in teacher - student ratio to increase the seats at Postgraduate level.
 - iv. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.
 - v. Financial support to State medical colleges, under the scheme of "Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges", to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or to start new postgraduate medical courses.
 - vi. Financial assistance to strengthen and upgrade the schools and colleges pharmacy and paramedics.

vii. Establishment of 127 ANM and 137 GNM Schools across the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services.

viii. Norms to start B. Sc. (Nursing) & M. Sc. (Nursing) have been relaxed.

ix. Admission for Nursing allowed for married candidates.