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Title: Regarding shortage of healthcare professionals in rural areas of the country.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Hon. Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the shortage of healthcare professions in the rural areas especially in the Primary Health Centres, in the Community Health Centres, and in the block level and district level hospitals. According to Rural Health Statistics, 2014, about 26 per cent sanctioned posts of our doctors at Primary Health Centres are lying vacant. There are about 67 per cent of the posts for total specialists sanctioned at Community Health Centres are lying vacant. Similarly, about 16 per cent of the posts for nurses sanctioned across Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are lying vacant. The vacancies are not limited to doctors and nurses posts only. In Community Health Centres, 48 per cent posts sanctioned for radiographers, 19 per cent posts sanctioned for pharmacists and 27 per cent posts sanctioned for laboratory technicians are lying vacant.

At present, the Government is offering some incentives for doctors to work in the rural areas but this incentive is not enough, and it is being given to doctors only. The Medical Council of India had submitted a proposal to the Government to make one year rural posting at a Primary Health Centre compulsory for admission to the Post Graduate Course.

Madam, I would urge upon the Government to reconsider this proposal and also to design similar incentives to encourage healthcare professionals other than doctors to serve in the rural areas. Thank you.