

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO08.03.2011**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**NURSE PATIENT RATIO IN THE COUNTRY**

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Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan

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

- (a) the present nurse-patient ratio in the country and how it compares with the international ratio;
- (b) whether it is a fact that most of the nurses working in Government hospitals, centres etc. are overworked, which has resulted in the loss of their efficiency; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and what corrective measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 280 FOR 15TH MARCH, 2011

- (a) The overall nurse patient ratio varies from state to state and district to district in the same state in different parts of the country. As per World Health Organization (WHO), there is no standard ratio of nurse to hospital beds. It depends greatly on availability, patient need for nursing, support to nurses in giving patient care and their expected roles and responsibilities. According to International Council of Nurses, Victoria (Australia) and California (USA) have set mandatory trend of 1:4 to 1:6 nurse patient ratio with one in-charge per shift. This ratio varies to meet the needs of different units and shifts according to acuity of care, size and location.
- (b) No such complaint has been received from Government Hospitals.
- (c) Does not arise.