

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14th MARCH, 2017**

MANDATORY RURAL SERVICE BY SPECIALIST DOCTORS

1416. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that, specialist doctors are not coming forward to serve in rural areas in spite of handsome salary, additional incentives and relaxations by both State and Central Governments;
- (b) whether Government in consultations with State Governments proposes to make rural service mandatory for every specialist doctor; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) to (c): As per Rural Health Statistics (RHS), there is shortage of specialist doctors in rural areas.

Public health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of specialist doctors in public health facilities lies with the State Governments. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for engagement of specialist doctors on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Support is also provided to States/UTs for hard area allowance to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters so that they find it attractive to serve in public health facilities in such areas.

There is currently no proposal under consideration with Union government to make rural services mandatory for every specialist doctor.