

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4110
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD APRIL, 2018**

DOCTOR-POPULATION RATIO

4110. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the current doctor-pouplation ratio is 1:1596, which is very low as compared to international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government contemplates to adopt various measures including the enhancement of UG seats in Medical Colleges across the country from the existing to 250 and also sufficiently increasing the PG seats;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): As per information provided by Medical Council of India, there are a total 10,41,395 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on 31st December, 2017. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 8.33 lakh doctors may actually be available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1596 as per current population estimate of 1.33 billion, which is low as compared with the WHO norm of 1:1000.

Besides, there are 7.63 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.10 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors may actually be available for active service and considered together with allopathic doctors, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1:921.

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(c) to (e) Yes. The Government has taken the following steps to increase the number of doctors.
For increasing UG Seats:-

(i) Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.

(ii) Relaxation in the norms of setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/bed strength and other infrastructure.

(iii) Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats.

(iv) Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country.

For increasing PG Seats:-

(i) The ratio of teachers to students has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and 1:1 to 1:3 in subjects of Anaesthesiology, Forensic Medicine, Radiotherapy, Medical Oncology, Surgical Oncology and Psychiatry in all medical colleges across the country. Further, teacher: student ratio in public funded Government Medical Colleges for Professor has been increased from 1:2 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects and for Asso. Prof. from 1:1 to 1:2 if the Asso. Prof. is a unit head. This would result in increase in number of specialists in the country.

(ii) DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.

(iii) Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges from 65-70 years.

(iv) Strengthening/ upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/Increase of PG seats.

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