

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2181
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST JANUARY, 2019**

OVERBURDENED TERTIARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

2181. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI:

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

- (a) whether the health system in India indicates that tertiary care is already overburdened because of the low performing primary healthcare system, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps Government is taking to increase the number of doctors at the primary level as it would reduce burden on tertiary care?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per NSS Report No. 574: Health in India published by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation based on National Sample Survey 71st round (January 2014 – June 2014), 62.2 % of spells of ailment treated in rural areas and 53.9 % in urban areas are provided by primary care level facilities {HSC, PHC, CHC, Dispensary, MMU and ASHAs in the public sector and private doctors of private clinics (without in-patient facility)}.

(b): “Public Health & Hospital” being a State subject, the primary responsibility to increase the number of doctors at primary level, public health facilities is that of respective State Government. However, support is provided to States/UTs for hard area allowance to 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 including at primary level.

Also, in order to encourage doctors to work in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India, with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide:

- i. 50% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who has served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult areas; and
- ii. Incentive at the rate of 10% the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

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