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

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1207**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND JULY, 2019**

**OVER BURDENED CGHS DISPENSARIES**

**1207. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:**

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that all CGHS dispensaries, particularly those in Delhi-NCR are struggling with the paucity of doctors, space and other basic facilities, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to take some major steps in view of the increasing burden on each dispensary and consequently consumption of excess time in service delivery therein; and

(c) if so, whether Government would facilitate OPD consultation in private hospitals without referral letters for patients aged 60 years and above also, in the line of such facilities being provided to patients aged 75 years?

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

(a) & (b): There is some shortage of General Duty Medical Officers (GDMOs) under CGHS. The space and other facilities are adequate despite some constraints. Government have taken steps to deal with shortage of GDMOs, such as, enhancement of retirement age of GDMOs to retain the talent, introduction of time-bound promotions for doctors upto Senior Administrative Grade, increase of duration of Study Leave to pursue higher studies/ research work, Foundation Training Programme for newly recruited Medical Officers, electronic submission of Annual Performance Appraisal Report on Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window software, etc. Recruitment of GDMOs to fill up the vacant posts through Union Public Service Commission is undertaken every year. These efforts have resulted in consistent decline in shortage of GDMOs of Central Health Service from 30.03% (as on 01.01.2015) to 14.23% (as on 01.01.2019). Government has put in place online appointment system for consultation at CGHS Wellness Centres to avoid long waiting time.

(c): Presently, there is no such proposal. However, vide OM dated 15.01.2018, instructions have been issued to simplify referral system under CGHS in respect of all CGHS beneficiaries in all CGHS cities. As per these instructions, all CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to seek OPD consultations from specialists at private hospitals empanelled under CGHS after being referred to by any Medical Officer/ CMO of the CGHS Wellness Centre.