

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1076
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

SHORTAGE OF NURSES IN INDIA

1076 SMT. SHANTA CHHETRI:

Will the Minister of **Health and FAMILY Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that India has only 1.7 nurses available per 1,000 population and this is less than the WHO recommendation of 2.5 nurses per 1,000 population
- (b) if so, the details of steps being taken to improve the situation for better health care services in the country and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a) As per Indian Nursing Council (INC) records, there are around 8,92,829 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), 21,51,850 Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives(RN&RM) and 56,644 Lady Health Visitors(LHV) in the Country. The Nurse population ratio in the Country at present is 1.7 nurses per 1000 population. However, the nurse- patient ratio varies from State to State, district to district and Institution to Institution.
- (b) & (c): India produces over 2.87 lakh nursing personnel annually. Some of the proactive measures taken to improve situation for better healthcare services in the country are:
 - (i) In order to increase the number of nursing seats:-
 - (a) The requirement of land to construct building for School/College of Nursing and Hostel has been relaxed.
 - (b) The requirement of a 100 bedded parent hospital has been relaxed for hilly and tribal areas.
 - (c) The student teacher ratio for M.Sc.(N) programme has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:10
 - (d) Student patient ratio for Nursing Institutions has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:3
 - (e) Admission for Nursing has been allowed for married candidates.
 - (f) Maximum number of 100 seats for Nursing College will be given to those having parent hospitals with 300 beds without insisting Medical College.

- (g) Distance from school to hospital has been relaxed from 15 km to 30 Km. However, for hilly and tribal areas the maximum distance is 50 Km.
 - (h) Eligibility Criteria to admission i.e. (Marks) for Diploma and Degree has been relaxed by 5%.
 - (i) Relaxation for opening M.Sc. (N) programme. Super speciality Hospital can start M.Sc. (N) without having under graduate programme.
- (ii) The Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care Nursing (NPCC) has been developed which prepares registered B.Sc. Nurses for advance practice roles as clinical experts, managers, educators and consultants leading to M.Sc. degree in Nursing.