

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th March, 2023

SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL STAFF

2122 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors, nurses, and other medical staff in the armed forces at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, service-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of doctor-patient ratio and nurse-patient ratio in the Indian Armed Forces, service wise; and
- (d) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies and maintain medical force strength of the three services at the authorised level?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI AJAY BHATT)

(a) & (b): Vacancies of doctors, nurses and other medical staff arise on account of release, resignation, premature retirement and superannuation.

Details of doctors (Army Medical Corps and Army Dental Corps) and nurses (Military Nursing Services) sanctioned and vacant in Armed Forces Medical Services as of February 2023 are at Annexure, Table-1.

The details of other medical staff (paramedics) sanctioned and vacant in Armed Forces Medical Services as of March, 2023 are at Annexure, Table-2.

(c): The details of doctor-patient and nurse-patient ratio are as under:-

Doctor – population ratio 0.64 per 1000

Nurse – population ratio 0.42 per 1000

Armed Forces Medical Services is a Tri-service Organisation. This ratio is calculated on a comprehensive basis.

(d): Recruitment of doctors, nurses and other medical staff in the Armed Forces is carried out every year by factoring in the vacancies against authorised levels.

Recruitment of other medical staff was impacted during the years 2021 and 2022 on account of COVID. Efforts are being made to cover this in future recruitment.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a)& (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2122 FOR ANSWER ON 20.03.2023 REGARDING "SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL STAFF"

Table 1: Doctors and Nurses in Armed Forces Medical Services:

| Corps Services | | Army Medical Corps | Army Dental Corps | Military Nursing Service |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Army | Authorised | 6269 | 691 | 4396 |
| | Held | 5527 | 649 | 3865 |
| | Vacancy | 742 | 42 | 531 |
| Navy | Authorised | 736 | 57 | 446 |
| | Held | 700 | 44 | 380 |
| | Vacancy | 36 | 13 | 66 |
| Air Force | Authorised | 932 | 40 | 516 |
| | Held | 898 | 30 | 433 |
| | Vacancy | 34 | 10 | 83 |
| Total | Authorised | 7937 | 788 | 5358 |
| | Held | 7125 | 723 | 4678 |
| | Vacancy | 812 | 65 | 680 |

Table-2: Other Medical Staff (Paramedics) in Armed Forces Medical Services:

| Service | Authorized | Held | Vacancy |
|-----------|------------|-------|---------|
| Army | 24640 | 23375 | 1265 |
| Navy | 3195 | 2804 | 391 |
| Air Force | 4496 | 4383 | 113 |
