

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3117
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH MARCH, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

3117 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors despite increase in MBBS seats in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by Government to maintain doctors-seats ratio;
- (c) the number of medical colleges sanctioned for setting up with financial assistance from Government during the last five years in Punjab;
- (d) the number of such medical colleges operational as on date in Punjab; and
- (e) the number of post-graduate medical seats increased during the last five years?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e):As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022. Assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors, the doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:834.

The Government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 71% in Medical Colleges from 387 before 2014 to 660 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 97% in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014 to 101,043 as of now, there is also an increase of 110% in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 65,335 as of now, including, Diplomate of National Board (DNB) / Fellowship of National Board (FNB) PG seats and PG seats in College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS).

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' with preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no existing Government or private medical college. Under the scheme, a total of 157 medical colleges have been sanctioned in three phases with fund sharing between the Centre and State Governments in the

ratio of 90:10 for North eastern and Special Category states and 60:40 for others, out of which 104 Medical Colleges have been approved in the last five years (2017-2022) including 03 Medical Colleges in the State of Punjab in the districts of SAS Nagar, Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur. Medical college in SAS Nagar has become operational from academic year 2021-22. Details of funds released under the scheme to the Government of Punjab are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Location	Phase	Approved cost	Central share (60%)	State share (40%)	Amount released
SAS Nagar	Phase-I	189.00	113.40	75.60	113.40
Kapurthala	Phase-III	325.00	195.00	130	50.00*
Hoshiarpur		325.00	195.00	130	50.00*

*Release of further funds depends upon the pace of expenditure, submission of Utilization Certificates, release of corresponding State share and demand from the concerned States/UTs.

The Ministry also provides financial support to existing government medical colleges under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for upgradation of existing State Government/ Central Government Medical Colleges for increasing MBBS (UG) seats and PG seats. Under these scheme for increase of MBBS (UG) seats, support has been provided for increase of 4677 MBBS seats in 77 colleges with an approved cost of Rs. 5612.25 Cr. Further, under the scheme for increase of PG seats, support has been provided for increase of 4058 PG seats in Phase-I in 72 colleges with a cost of Rs.1498.43 Cr and 3858 PG seats in Phase-II in 60 colleges with a cost of Rs.4343.66 Cr. Under these schemes, an amount of Rs.72.00 Cr has been released to the Government of Punjab for increase of 100 MBBS seats and Rs.44 Cr for increase of 48 PG seats.

The measures/steps taken by the Government to increase doctor-patient ratio in the Country include:-

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved, out of which 97 are already functional.
- ii. CSS for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/ Central Government Medical Colleges to increase the number of MBBS (UG) and PG seats.
- iii. Under “Upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks” of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme, a total of 75 projects have been approved, of which 60 projects are complete. One each has been approved in Amritsar and Patiala districts of Punjab.

- iv. Under the Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved including one in Bhatinda. Undergraduate courses have started in 19 of these.
- v. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- vi. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as teaching faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- vii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.

The number of post-graduate medical seats increased during the last five years in the country is as under:-

Academic Year	Increase in PG seats (including DNB and CPS seats)
2018-19	2924
2019-20	4620
2020-21	8368
2021-22	4707
2022-23	3857
