

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2042#
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025**

SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

2042# SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of medical professionals and lack of medical education in the health services sector;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to increase the number of medical professionals and improve the quality of medical education;
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to address the issue of shortage of health workers, especially in rural areas; and
- (d) the steps taken to promote research and development in the health sector and the results achieved in this regard, so far?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) and (b): As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,86,150 registered allopathic doctors. The Ministry of AYUSH has informed that there are 7,51,768 registered practitioners in the AYUSH system of medicine. Assuming that 80% of registered practitioners in both the allopathic and AYUSH systems are available, the doctor-population ratio in the country is estimated to be 1:811.

The government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 101.5% in Medical Colleges from 387 before 2014 to 780 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 130% in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014

to 1,18,190 as of now and increase of 138.3% in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 74,306 as of now.

The measures/steps taken by the Government to increase the doctor/medical professional in the country include:-

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 109 new medical colleges are already functional out of 157 approved medical colleges which includes five medical colleges in the State Chhattisgarh.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- 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 66 projects are complete.
- Under the Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved. Undergraduate courses have started in 19 of these.
- DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/Dean/Principal/ Director in medical colleges upto 70 years.

Steps taken by NMC to improve the quality of medical education for MBBS students include:

- Regulations/Guidelines are revised from time to time to match with the international standards of medical education in the country.
- Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum was introduced since 2021-22 and revised from time to time.
- Mentor-mentee programme was introduced to foster teacher student relationship and individual attention.
- Family Adoption Programme (FAP) was introduced since 2021 and made mandatory from AY 2023-24 to promote communication skills and longitudinal health perspective.
- Periodic monitoring to review suitability and availability of required material and faculty by use of modern technology to reduce human intervention.

(c) : The following types of incentives and honorarium are provided for encouraging doctors to practice in rural and remote areas of the country:

- Hard area allowance to specialist 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.

- Honorarium to Gynecologists/ Emergency Obstetric Care (EmoC) trained, Pediatricians & Anesthetist/ Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) trained doctors is also provided to increase availability of specialists for conducting Cesarean Sections in rural & remote area.
- Special incentives for doctors and incentive for ANM for ensuring timely ANC checkup and recording, incentives for conducting Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health activities.
- States are also allowed to offer negotiable salary to attract specialist including flexibility in strategies such as “You Quote We Pay”.
- Non-Monetary incentives such as preferential admission in post graduate courses for staff serving in difficult areas and improving accommodation arrangement in rural areas have also been introduced under NHM.
- Multi-skilling of doctors is supported under NHM to overcome the shortage of specialists. Skill upgradation of existing HR is another major strategy under NRHM for achieving improvement in health outcomes

(d): The steps taken by NMC to promote research and development in the health sector and the results achieved are as under: -

- Promotion of multi-disciplinary research, encouraging collaboration across medical, Biomedical, and allied health sciences.
- Capacity building programs and workshops conducted across medical colleges to enhance faculty research skills, proposal writing, and publication ethics.
- Integration of research methodology training into the postgraduate curriculum to build research competencies from an early stage in medical careers.
- Encouragement for medical colleges to set up Institutional Ethics Committees (IEC) to promote ethical research practices.
- Collaboration with national research agencies like ICMR, DBT, and DST to foster collaborative research projects, especially in areas of public health importance and emerging health challenges.

There has been a greater emphasis on research addressing regional health challenges, disease burden, and healthcare delivery innovations, with enhanced faculty involvement in funded research projects supported by national and international funding agencies. This has led to an improved research culture in medical institutions, where more institutions have established Research Cells and are actively engaging in clinical and public health research.
