

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH JULY, 2025**

BENEFITS OF INCREASE IN MEDICAL COLLEGES AND MBBS SEATS

100 SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether any strategy has been devised to effectively leverage the benefits of the increase in number of medical colleges and seats in MBBS;
- (b) whether the Ministry has carried out any assessment of the influence of increase in medical colleges and seats on primary healthcare delivery through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs; and
- (c) if so, the major findings thereof and the steps taken to improve service delivery based on those findings?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION
NO. 100 FOR 29TH JULY, 2025.**

(a) to (c): The government has increased number of Medical Colleges, Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) seats. The number of Medical Colleges have increased from 387 to 780; UG seats from 51,348 to 1,15,900 and PG seats from 31,185 to 74,306 from 2014 to as on date.

There are 13,86,157 registered allopathic doctors and 7,51,768 registered practitioners in the AYUSH system of medicine. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a doctor to population ratio of 1:1000. 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.

Public Health is a State subject, the matter regarding engagement of available medical professionals in the country in various healthcare setups comes under the purview of State Governments. However, to bridge healthcare delivery gaps, the government continues to support States/UTs through various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes/programmes by providing financial assistance, capacity building, provision of essential medicines, diagnostics, teleconsultation services, etc. to ensure effective and accessible primary healthcare.

The Family Adoption Programme (FAP) has been incorporated into the MBBS curriculum to provide equitable healthcare access to rural population. FAP involves medical colleges adopting villages, and MBBS students adopting families within these villages. This enables regular follow-up of adopted families for vaccination, growth monitoring, menstrual hygiene, Iron & Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, healthy lifestyle practices, nutrition, vector control, and medication adherence. It also helps in educating families about ongoing government health programmes. Further, the District Residency Programme (DRP) notified by the National Medical Commission (NMC) provides for a compulsory three months posting cum training of PG medical students at District Hospitals as a part of the course curriculum. DRP benefits the public by strengthening healthcare delivery in rural and underserved areas.

Launched in 2018, 1,78,154 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) have been established as on 15.07.2025 by transforming existing Sub-Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to provide comprehensive primary healthcare closer to people's homes. Services have expanded from basic maternal and child care to twelve (12) comprehensive healthcare packages. With these reforms, annual footfall rose from 13.49 crore in FY 2019-20 to 128.08 crore in FY 2024-25. Over 117 crore individuals have been screened for hypertension, diabetes, oral, breast, and cervical cancers. Availability of medicines at AAMs and teleconsultations with specialists have improved accessibility, reduced costs, and addressed provider shortages.
