

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2654
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH AUGUST, 2025**

SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

2654 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the manner in which the centre's idea of faculty sharing among medical institutions address the shortage of healthcare professionals improve the quality of medical education and training in the country;
- (b) the significance of adding 10,000 new medical seats in terms of addressing India's doctor-patient ratio;
- (c) whether this decision reflect Government's efforts to make healthcare more accessible by producing more qualified healthcare professionals; and
- (d) whether these initiatives support India's goal of achieving universal health coverage, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d): The government has increased number of Medical Colleges, Under Graduate(UG) and Post Graduate(PG) seats. There is an increase in Medical Colleges 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.

To address shortage of medical professionals in the country, the Government is implementing following schemes:

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 131 new medical colleges are functional out of 157 approved medical colleges.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme has a component related to "Upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks/Trauma care centres, etc." Out of 75 projects, 71 projects are complete under this component. The other component is for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved.

Further, National Medical Commission (NMC) has relaxed infrastructure/faculty norms for establishment of new medical colleges and/or increase of Under Graduate (UG)/ Post Graduate (PG) seats, which includes:

- i. Mandatory land requirement for setting up a medical college has been removed.
- ii. The number of subjects in the MBBS curriculum has been reduced from twenty three (23) to twenty (20).
- iii. Stepwise and need based approach has been permitted for increase in infrastructure, equipment and manpower.
- iv. PG courses can now be started with two (2) seats with a minimum number of twenty (20) beds and only two faculty without the need for senior resident as against the previous requirement of three faculty and a senior resident.
- v. Medical institutions have been allowed to apply for starting of PG courses after one year of starting UG courses.
- vi. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as 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.
- viii. Non-medical graduates with MSc and PhD (relevant medical) qualifications from NMC-recognized/accredited Medical Colleges/Institutes can be appointed as faculty.
- ix. Non-teaching Consultants/Specialists /Medical Officers and Diploma holders have been made eligible for Assistant Professor.
