

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 29
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND DECEMBER, 2025**

DOCTOR - TO - PATIENT RATIO

29 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current doctor-to-patient ratio in the country, and its trend over the last ten years;
- (b) the State/UT-wise doctor-to-patient ratio in Government and private healthcare institutions;
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any study or survey to assess the adequacy of doctors in meeting healthcare demands in urban and rural areas, if so, the findings thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to improve doctor availability in underserved, rural and tribal regions; and
- (e) whether Government plans to increase the number of doctors through expanding medical education capacity and recognising foreign-trained doctors, if so, the details thereof?

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

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 29 * FOR 2ND DECEMBER, 2025**

(a) to (e) There are 13,88,185 registered allopathic doctors and 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.

There has been significant increase in Medical Colleges, Under Graduate(UG) and Post Graduate (PG) seats in the country. There is an increase in Medical Colleges from 387 to 818; UG seats from 51,348 to 1,28,875 and PG seats from 31,185 to 82,059 from 2014 to as on date.

The Government has taken various measures to improve the availability of doctors in underserved, rural and tribal areas in the country which include:-

- Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals', 137 new medical colleges are functional out of 157 approved medical colleges.
- 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 supplementation, healthy lifestyle practices, nutrition, vector control, and medication adherence. It also helps in educating families about ongoing government health programmes.
- Under District Residency Program of National Medical Commission (NMC) second/third year PG students of medical colleges are posted in district hospitals.
- Hard area allowance is provided to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters.
- Under the National Health Mission, states are allowed to offer negotiable salary to attract specialist including flexibility in strategies such as "You Quote We Pay".

Further, Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine Regulations framed by NMC deals with the temporary registration of foreign medical practitioners, allowing foreign-qualified and foreign-registered doctors (non-Indian citizens) to practice in India for specific purposes such as training, fellowship, research, observership, expert visits, voluntary service or approved postgraduate/super-specialty courses.
