

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2055
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH MARCH, 2026**

**DILUTION OF QUALIFYING STANDARDS FOR POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL
ADMISSION**

2055 MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the qualifying cut-off marks for postgraduate medical admissions were drastically reduced in 2025;
- (b) whether Government acknowledges that such reductions have made candidates with extremely low or even negative scores eligible for counselling, raising concerns over academic standards and merit in postgraduate medical education;
- (c) whether the primary reason for reducing cut-offs was the failure to fill over 18,000 PG medical seats even after multiple rounds of counselling; and
- (d) whether Government has assessed the risk of compromising the quality of specialist training and patient safety by admitting candidates with very low performance scores?

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

(a) to (d): The Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) conducts counselling for postgraduate medical courses in accordance with the scheme laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The NEET-PG counselling conducted by MCC covers 50% All India Quota (AIQ) seats and 100% seats of Central/Deemed Universities across the country. Further, counselling for the State quota PG seats and seats in private medical colleges is conducted by the respective State counselling authorities.

The decision to revise the qualifying percentiles was taken following the completion of Round-2 counselling by MCC wherein it was reported that out of 29,476 seats offered by MCC for counselling, 9,621 seats remained vacant. Further, as counselling for 50% seats is conducted by respective state authorities, it was assessed that approximately 20,000 seats (including DNB seats) were vacant after two rounds. Hence, consistent with past academic years which had proven effective in ensuring maximum seat utilisation, the Government reduced the qualifying

percentile for eligibility to PG Counselling 2025 to ensure precious PG medical seats do not remain vacant. The revised qualifying percentiles for NEET PG 2025 are as under:

- UR Category: Eligibility reduced to above 7 percentiles
- UR–PwD Category: Eligibility reduced to above 5 percentiles
- SC / ST / OBC Categories: All candidates declared qualified

The Candidates appearing in NEET-PG are MBBS graduates, who have passed the examinations conducted by the respective universities and also undergone rigorous internship and are therefore academically eligible for postgraduate training. NEET-PG is primarily a ranking exam rather than a competency-evaluation test for candidates and performance in the entrance examination does not replace or reduce the rigorous training, supervision and assessment processes prescribed by the National Medical Commission (NMC).
