

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2837**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026**

**HEALTH WORKFORCE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION IN MAHARASHTRA**

**2837. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:**

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

- (a) the details of initiatives to strengthen the healthcare workforce and medical education in Maharashtra over the last five years;
- (b) the number of medical colleges, nursing institutes and skill development programs established or upgraded in the State;
- (c) what measures are being taken to ensure adequate training, deployment and retention of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, particularly in rural and remote areas; and
- (d) how the Ministry supports Maharashtra in continuous medical education, telemedicine integration and research programs to improve healthcare quality, reduce regional disparities and enhance overall health outcomes?

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

(a) to (d): The Government of India has undertaken several steps to strengthen the healthcare workforce in the country:

- The number of Medical Colleges have increased from 387 to 818; Under Graduate (UG) seats from 51,348 to 1,28,976; and Post Graduate (PG) seats from 31,185 to 85,020 from 2014 to as on date. In the State of Maharashtra, a total of 28 medical colleges have been established in the last 5 years with 3824 UG seats. As on date, there are 85 medical colleges with 12,824 MBBS seats in Maharashtra.
- Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of New Medical Colleges Attached with Existing District/Referral Hospitals', 157 medical colleges have been approved, of which 137 are currently functional. Out of these, 2 medical colleges have been approved in Maharashtra.
- Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges financial assistance is provided to increase MBBS and PG seats. Under the Scheme, 700 UG seats in 14 medical colleges and 692 PG seats in 11 medical colleges have been approved based on the proposals received from the State Government.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), establishment of 22 All

India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has been approved in various States/UTs in the country till date including one in Maharashtra.

- Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Augmenting Nursing Education, 157 Nursing Colleges are being established in the Country out of which six (06) Nursing colleges have been approved in Maharashtra.
- Under the Central Sector Scheme 'Development of Nursing Services' financial assistance is provided to States/UTs to upgrade schools of Nursing into Colleges of Nursing. Under this Scheme, eight (08) Schools of Nursing in the State of Maharashtra have been approved for upgradation to Colleges of Nursing.

Further, the National Medical Commission (NMC), being the apex statutory body constituted under the NMC Act, 2019 to regulate and oversee medical education in the country has undertaken several measures to strengthen medical education nationwide:

- The Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) Curriculum has been introduced to ensure that medical graduates acquire the necessary clinical skills, knowledge, attitudes, and professional competencies required for effective patient care.
- The Medical Institutions (Qualifications of Faculty) Regulations have been notified to ensure the availability of competent teaching faculty, thereby improving the overall quality of medical education and training and facilitating the expansion of undergraduate (MBBS) and postgraduate (MD/MS) seats in medical colleges across India.
- The Maintenance of Standards of Medical Education Regulations has been notified to maintain standards of medical education by Annual Evaluation of medical colleges through Annual Disclosure Reports.
- To strengthen and promote a robust research culture in medical colleges, research has been integrated as a mandatory component of postgraduate medical training including structured research training, completion of a dissertation or thesis, and an online course in Research Methodology for all PG students in accordance with the provisions of the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations (PGMER). PGMER also encourages collaborative research with leading scientific organizations and institutions of Eminence, including interdisciplinary research with AYUSH.
- Quantification of the Clinical Material/ investigation workload required for Post-Graduate Courses, Ratio of recognized Post-Graduate Faculty to the number of Students and Bed/Faculty requirement for Post Graduate seats has been elaborated under minimum Standard Requirement for Post Graduate Courses.

Moreover, the Government has taken various measures to improve the availability of healthcare professionals in rural and remote areas in the country which include the following:

- 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.
- Under District Residency Program of 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.
- Honorarium to Gynaecologists/Emergency Obstetric Care (EmoC) trained,

Paediatricians & Anaesthetist/ Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) trained doctors is provided to increase availability of specialists for conducting Cesarean Sections in rural & remote area.

- Special incentives for doctors and incentive for Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) for ensuring timely checkup and recording for antenatal care and adolescent reproductive and sexual health are available.
- States are allowed to offer negotiable salary to attract specialists including flexibility in strategies such as "You Quote We Pay".
- Non-Monetary incentives such as preferential admission in postgraduate 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.

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