

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 249*
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th AUGUST, 2026**

VACANT SPECIALIST POSTS AT RURAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

***249 SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the findings of its Health Dynamics of India report indicating that only 4,413 of 13,232 sanctioned specialist posts at rural Community Health Centres are filled and Government's assessment of the present status;
- (b) whether any district-wise or State-wise assessment has been undertaken to identify the factors contributing to specialist vacancies, if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is considering establishing a dedicated rural specialist cadre with appropriate career progression and incentives, to strengthen specialist availability in rural areas, if so, the details thereof?

**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
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(a) to (c) "Public Health & hospitals", is a State subject and therefore, the primary responsibility of strengthening public healthcare system including strengthening and administration of human resource in health is with the State/Union Territories. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides technical and financial support to the States/Union Territories to strengthen the public healthcare system including to strengthen specialist availability in rural areas based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under NHM. Government of India provides approval for the proposal in the form of Record of Proceedings (RoPs) as per norms & available resources.

As per HDI 2023-2024, as on 31st March 2024, the in- position specialists in rural Community Health Centres (CHCs) has increased from 4413 to 5223.

Details on the availability of Specialist doctors in Community Health Centres across the country are published in the Health Dynamics of India (HDI) (Infrastructure and Human Resources) and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.mohfw-dohfw.gov.in/static/uploads/2026/05/57202cf30629539e4d0fb0a2f700ac62.pdf>

Under NHM, incentives and honorarium are provided to specialist doctors to improve service delivery in rural and remote areas across the country. Measures such as Hard Area Allowance, flexibility to States to offer negotiable salaries including "You Quote We Pay", non-monetary incentives like preferential admission in postgraduate courses and multi-skilling of doctors through training in Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) and Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) to address the shortage of specialists in such areas.

Many states deploy specialists on rotational basis at CHCs to ensure specialists services. Apart from this, specialists services are also ensured through Tele consultation (e-Sanjeevani) at CHCs with specialists deployed at District Hospitals and Medical Colleges. Specialist services are also provided at Ayushman Arogya Shivirs, conducted monthly at CHCs.

Further, through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the Ministry has taken steps to address the shortage of the doctors/medical professionals in the country like

establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital, strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges by increasing MBBS and PG seats, upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks and Setting up of new 22 AIIMS across the country.

There is an increase of 118.60% in number of Medical Colleges in the country from 387 in 2014 to 846 at present, an increase of 172.38% in MBBS seats from 51,348 in 2014 to 1,39,864 at present and increase of 176.92% in PG seats from 31,185 in 2014 to 86,360 at present.

Since health is a State subject, the establishment and operationalization of specialist cadre is undertaken by the respective State/Union Territory Governments in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry and as per the local requirements.
