

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2905  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2016**

**SHORTAGE OF NURSES**

**2905. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:  
SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:**

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

- (a) the total number of nursing students passing out every year along with nurse patient ratio in the country;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that there is a severe shortage of nurses in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons there for along with the concrete steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation;
- (c) whether nursing students are facing employment crisis due to mushrooming of private nursing colleges in the country, if so, the details thereof along with corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Indian Nursing Council proposes to monitor the quality of nursing colleges/nurses to reduce the unemployment rate; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

- (a): There are around 8000 Nursing Institutes in the country producing about 3 lakh nursing personnel annually. The nurse-patient ratio varies from state to state, district to district and institution to institution.
- (b): As per INC records, there are around 26 lakh nursing personnel registered in the country as on 31-12-2014. Assuming 60% availability in the case of RN&RM and 80% availability in the case of ANM/LHV, it is estimated that around 17.1 lakh nursing personnel may be actually available for active services, which gives a Nurse-Population ratio of about 1:748 (Population taken as 128 Crores).
- (c): Health being a State subject, the matter pertaining to employment of nurses, improving and regulating the service conditions of the nurses working in public as well as private hospitals in the country comes under the purview of the State Governments.

(d) & (e): Indian Nursing Council is conducting yearly, periodical and surprise inspections to monitor the quality of nursing colleges. In addition to that, Indian Nursing Council has taken many pro-active steps to improve the quality of nursing education such as:

- i. Student patient ratio has been changed from 1:5 to 1:3.
- ii. The land from 5 acres has been relaxed to construct building of 54,000 sq. ft. For School/College of Nursing and Hostel.
- iii. Conducting Capacity building training of teachers of pre-service education.
- iv. Relaxing norms for teaching faculty to start B.Sc. (N) Programme.
  - At least 2 M.Sc. (N) faculty to be available
  - Qualification and Experience of the Nursing Teachers has been relaxed.
  - Sharing of teaching faculty for both Diploma and Graduate Programme.
- v. Relaxation for opening M.Sc. (N) programme:
  - Super speciality Hospital can start M.Sc.(N) without having under graduate programme.
  - Student teacher ratio for M.Sc (N) programme has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:10
- vi. Age increased for Teaching Faculty up to 70 years.