

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29TH DECEMBER, 2017
SHORTAGE OF SPECIALIST DOCTORS/STAFF**

***168. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:**

SHRI KUNDARIYA MOHAN BHAI KALYANJI BHAI:

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

(a) whether there is a shortage of specialist doctors/staff in Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and CGHS dispensaries in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has taken measures to appoint specialized doctors/ staff in PHCs, CHCs and CGHS dispensaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether greater fiscal autonomy has helped States to recruit better staff for CHCs and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168* FOR 29TH DECEMBER, 2017**

(a) to (c) 'Public health and hospitals' is a State subject. Shortage of specialists, doctors and staff in PHCs and CHCs varies from State to State depending upon their policies and context. However, under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for engagement of specialist doctors/staff on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

Support is also provided to States/UTs for hard area allowance to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters so that they find it attractive to serve in public health facilities in such areas. They are also advised to fill up vacant positions.

To encourage doctors working in remote and difficult areas, the MCI with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide :-

- (i) 50% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult areas; and
- (ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Further, the Ministry has also requested the State/UTs to come up with suitable HR policy in health to attract and retain doctors in Government services.

In so far as CGHS Dispensaries are concerned, there are total 234 posts sanctioned of Non-teaching specialist cadre in CGHS Dispensaries across the Country, out of which 172 posts are filled. Recruitment being a continuous process, the Ministry regularly sends requisitions for all the vacant posts to UPSC. In order to retain the strength, the Govt. has introduced Dynamic Assured Career Progression Scheme (DACP), whereby time-bound promotions are given to doctors without linkage to vacancies. Recently, the retirement age of the doctors has also been enhanced to 65 years to cope-up with the shortage of the doctors in dispensaries, hospitals etc.

(d) There has been no study to determine whether or not greater fiscal autonomy has helped States to recruit better staff for CHCs.
