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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH JANUARY, 2018

WORKING HOURS FOR DOCTOR

3175. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

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

(a) whether the Government has laid down norms to fix the working hours for medical practitioners and doctors in all the Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the standard of treatment in hospitals has gone down as the doctors and para medical staff have to work more than fixed hours and due to negligence; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b):   'Public health and hospital' being State subject, it is the primary responsibility of the respective State / Union Territory (UT) Government to prescribe norms for fixing working hours for the doctors and other medical practitioners working in their hospitals. As such, no information in this regard is centrally maintained.

As far as three Central Government hospitals namely Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Medical Institute of Sciences, New Delhi are concerned, the working hours for doctors and other medical practitioners normally do not exceed 40 hours per week. However, the duty timing and working hours of doctors and medical practitioners are guided by exigencies of the work and depending on whether they are on emergency duty.

(c) & (d):   As regard standards of treatment, adequate residents / doctors are available in these Central Government hospitals to provide optimum patient care. Further, whenever there is increase in work load necessitating increase in number of doctors, new posts are created to ensure that required manpower is available to deliver desired level of clinical care and to ensure that there is no medical negligence.