

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.345
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10TH AUGUST, 2018
HEALTHCARE WORKERS/PROFESSIONALS**

***345. DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the potential for skilled healthcare workers and professionals in the healthcare sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to scale up the short-term healthcare courses through its available robust platform;
- (c) if so, the details and the objectives thereof along with the names of courses included in the said MoU;
- (d) whether the Government will provide any financial assistance to the said University and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the 8th BRICS Health Ministers' meeting related to healthcare sector was held in Durban, South Africa recently and if so, the details including the objectives thereof?

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

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.345* FOR 10TH AUGUST, 2018**

(a) As per National Health Profile 2018, the present workforce for skilled health workers and professionals is approximately 66.5 Lakhs which includes Nurses-28.78 Lakhs, Pharmacists-9.07 Lakhs and Allied Health Professionals- 8 Lakhs (estimated).

(b) to (d): Yes. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have been signed as per details given below:

1. Under the National Health Mission, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has signed MoUs with IGNOU for design, development and implementation of a certificate programme in Community Health for Nurses and Ayurveda Practitioners on 16th March 2016 and 3rd August 2016 respectively to design and develop Certificate in Community Health for Registered Nurses & Registered Midwives and Registered Ayurveda Practitioners. As per the MoUs, the estimated cost of Rs. 1.4374 Crore is to be borne by this Ministry.
2. Another MoU has been signed with IGNOU On 25.06.2018 to scale up short term courses for improving health care delivery. Names of the courses included in the MoU are General Duty Assistant, Geriatric Care Assistant, Phlebotomist, Home Health Aide, Diabetes Educator, Dietetic Aide, EMT-Basic, Dispensing Optician/VT, Medical Equipment Tech and Sanitary Health Inspector. As per MoU, provisions of total grants to IGNOU of Rs. 15.6 Crores over five (5) years has been made.

(e) Yes. The 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting was held on 20th July 2018 at Durban, South Africa. After the meeting, a Joint Communique on the theme: “Nourishing the path to universal health coverage through innovation and knowledge sharing” was adopted by the Health Ministers. The objective of the 8th BRICS Health Ministers Meeting was to strengthen intra-BRICS coordination and cooperation to promote public health in accordance with “BRICS Framework for Collaboration on Strategic Projects in Health”.
