

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2018**

REGULATION OF WORKING HOURS FOR DOCTORS AND PARA MEDICS

2014. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has laid down norms to regulate the duty hours of doctors and medical professionals in all the hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the extended working hours of doctors and medical staff has led to negligence of their duties and deteriorated the quality of healthcare services in the hospitals, if so, the comments in this regard?

**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 Government/Union Territory (UT) 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 maintained centrally.

As far as three Central Government Hospitals namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Safdarjung, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, New Delhi are concerned, the working hours for doctors and other medical practitioners normally do not exceed 40 hours in a week. However, the duty timing and working hours of doctors and Medical Professionals are governed by exigencies of their work and depends on whether they are on emergency duty.

(c): There has been no reported case of negligence of duty or deterioration of quality of healthcare services on account of extended working hours in these Central Govt. hospitals. As regards 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.