

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4561
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH JULY, 2019**

SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER IN HEALTH SECTOR

4561. SHRI SHIVAKUMAR C. UDASI:

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

- (a) whether healthcare in the country has been steadily improving and medical is tourism booming, but there still is a lack of manpower in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to overcome the shortage?

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

(a) & (b): Public health and hospitals being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of healthcare professionals in public health facilities lies with the State/UT Governments. 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 doctors on contractual basis, based on the requirements posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

Under NHM, States are encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging specialist doctors for public health facilities. These include various mechanisms for 'contracting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services, methods of engaging specialists outside the government system for service delivery at public facilities, offering negotiable salaries to attract Specialists including flexibility in strategies such as 'You quote, we pay'.

Financial support is also provided to States for providing performance-based incentives, hard area allowance, providing accommodation and transport facilities in rural and remote areas, sponsoring training programmes, etc for engaged human resources to address the issue of shortage in the public health facilities.

Also, States are advised to put in place transparent policies of posting and transfer, and ensure rational deployment of healthcare professionals. As the posts required for health facilities are filled up by respective State/UT Governments, they are impressed upon from time to time to fill up the vacant posts.

Further, there are 536 medical colleges, 313 dental colleges, approx. 80,000 MBBS and 47,000 Post Graduate medical seats, approx. 27000 BDS and 6300 MDS seats available in the country. Besides, there are around 8,500 Nursing Institutes producing about 3.2 lakh nursing personnel annually.

As per the information available with the respective Councils, 9.27 lakh allopathic doctors, 2.01 lakh dentists and 19.63 lakh nursing personnel may actually be available for active services.

The Government has taken several steps to increase the number of doctors in the country. These include:

- I. The ratio of teachers to students for Professor has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and 1:1 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects in Government funded medical colleges and in Private medical colleges with 15 years standing. Further, for Associate Professor, the said ratio has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 and 1:3 if he/she is a unit head in all clinical subjects in Government medical colleges and in Private medical colleges with 15 years standing. This would result in increase in number of PG seats in the country.
- II. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- III. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- IV. Relaxation in the norms of setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- V. Minimum requirement of land for establishment of medical college in metropolitan cities as notified under Article 243P(c) of the Constitution of India has been dispensed with.
- VI. Strengthening/upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/Increase of PG seats.
- VII. Establishment of New Medical Colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country.
- VIII. Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats.
- IX. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.