

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.441
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 03RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

SHORTAGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

441. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

DR. UMESH G. JADHAV:

SHRI SHA.BRA.DR.JAI SIDDESHWAR

SHIVACHARYA MAHASWAMIJI:

SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

SHRI SANGANNA AMARAPPA:

SHRIMATI GOMATI SAI:

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

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of reports that suggests that there is acute shortage of doctors and other health professionals in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) The details of Doctor-population ratio, Hospital Beds-Patient ratio and Nurses-Patient ratio in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) The number of doctors and other health professionals required in the country along with the details of proactive measures taken by the Government particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic to increase the Doctor-population ratio, Hospital Beds – Patient ratio and Nurses-Patient ratio as recommended and at par with the WHO and UN Health indices and norms, State/UT-wise;
- (d) Whether the Government has launched any health mission or chalked out any action plan to address such shortage of doctors and specialists at the ground level and also reduce the burden on secondary and tertiary level hospitals in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) The details of other measures taken by the Government to improve health facilities in government hospitals in the country; and
- (f) Whether the Government has fixed any timeline to overcome the shortage of health professionals in the country and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (f): As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022. Assuming 80% availability of registered

allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors, the doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:834. Also, there are 35.14 lakh registered nursing personnel in the country giving a nurse to population ratio of 2.06 nurses per 1000 population and 13 lakh Allied and Healthcare Professionals in the country.

The primary responsibility for administering healthcare professional and availability of sufficient number of beds as per need in Government hospitals lies with the concerned State Government. As per the information published in National Health Profile (NHP), 2021, the details of beds available in Government health facilities in States/ UTs is available at page No. 417, Table No. 6.2.2 having url: <https://www.cbhidghs.nic.in/showfile.php?lid=1160> .

The government has increased number of medical colleges and subsequently increased MBBS seats. There is an increase of 69% in Medical Colleges from 387 before 2014 to 654 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 94% in MBBS seats from 51348 before 2014 to 99763 as of now and increase of 107% in PG seats from 31185 before 2014 to 64559 as of now.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided to the State/UTs to strengthen their health care system based on the proposal received from the States so as to provide universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services all over the country. The states are also encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging doctors and specialist for public healthcare facilities.

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) with an outlay of Rs. 64,180 Crores aims to support for infrastructure development for Sub-Health Centres, Urban Health and Wellness Centres, Block Public Health Units, Integrated District Public Health Laboratories and Critical Care Hospital Blocks.

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) seeks to create an interoperable digital health ecosystem for the country and as on 31.01.2023, 32.12 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs) created.

Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) provides health coverage to 10.74 crore families up to Rs.5.00 lakh per family per year and 22.87 crore Ayushman Cards have been created as on 29.01.2023.

Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) scheme envisages to deliver Comprehensive Primary Health Care by transforming Sub-Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs), both Rural & Urban, into Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) to achieve Universal Health Coverage and total HWCs as on 01.02.2023, are 156414.

To strengthen health facilities and improve availability of health professionals in the country the central government started various central sector/centrally sponsored schemes, including 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' for setting up of medical colleges and PMSSY for establishing new AIIMS and upgradation of existing medical colleges. Under the scheme 'Development of Nursing Services' funds are provided to States to upgrade Schools of Nursing into Colleges of Nursing.
