

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 94
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS**

†*94. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the acute shortage of doctors in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of doctors needed in the country vis-à-vis availability, State-wise including in Haryana;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit to address the present shortage of doctors; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 94* FOR 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019**

(a) to (d) As per information provided by Medical Council of India (MCI), there are a total 11,59,309 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on 31st March, 2019. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 9.27 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1456 as per current population estimate of 1.35 billion, which is lower than the WHO norm of 1:1000. Besides, there are 7.88 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.30 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors may be actually available for service and considered together with allopathic doctors, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1:867.

Shortage of doctors varies in different States. Public health and hospitals, being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of doctors in public health facilities lies with the State/UT Governments and no data with regard to shortage of doctors in the States is maintained centrally. The details of number of allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils / MCI including Haryana is at Annexure.

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). States are encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging specialist doctors for public health facilities. 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.

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

- i. Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with district/referral hospitals in underserved districts of the country.
- ii. Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- iv. 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.
- v. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.

- vi. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- vii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- viii. 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.
- ix. By amending the regulations, it has been made mandatory for all medical colleges to start PG courses within 3 years from the date of their MBBS recognition /continuation of recognition.
- x. Colleges are allowed to apply for PG courses in clinical subjects at the time of 4th renewal. It will serve to advance the process for starting PG courses by more than 1 year.
- xi. Provision has been made in the regulations to offer less number of seats to the applicant medical college, in case, it falls short of minimum prescribed requirements of applied intake to avoid wastage of human resources.

- xii. A Consortium (a group of 2 or upto 4 private organizations) has been allowed to establish a medical college.

Annexure

**Number of Doctors Registered with State Medical Councils / Medical Council of India
as on 31st March, 2019**

S.	Name of the State	Number of Registered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100587
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	973
3.	Assam	23902
4.	Bihar	40649
5.	Chattisgarh	8771
6.	Delhi	21394
7.	Goa	3840
8.	Gujarat	66944
9.	Haryana	5717
10.	Himachal	3054
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	15038
12.	Jharkhand	5829
13.	Karnataka	122875
14.	Madhya Pradesh	38180
15.	Maharashtra	173384
16.	Kerala	59353
17.	Mizoram	74
18.	Nagaland	116
19.	Orissa	22521
20.	Punjab	48351
21.	Rajasthan	43388
22.	Sikkim	1405
23.	Tamil Nadu	135456
24.	Uttar Pradesh	77549
25.	Uttrakhand	8617
26.	West Bengal	72016
27.	Tripura	1718

28.	Telangana	4942
29.	Medical Council of India*	52666
	Total	11,59,309

Note - The other State / UTs do not have their own Medical Registration Council. Hence, their workers get registration with the Councils of other neighbouring States.

* 52666 doctors were registered only with MCI. They are presumably working in States / UTs which do not have a medical register or anywhere in the country.