

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1938
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

AVAILABILITY OF DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS

1938. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has devised any plan for providing meaningful incentives to encourage the availability of medical doctors in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) if not, reasons therefor?

**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 medical doctors in rural areas, lies with the State Governments. However, in order to encourage the availability of medical doctors in rural areas of the country, several steps have been undertaken under National Health Mission (NHM), which inter-alia includes:

- Á States are encouraged to adopt flexible norms to enable engagement of specialists in public health facilities. These include various mechanisms of 'contracting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services and methods of engaging specialists outside the government system for service delivery at public facilities.
- Á States have also been allowed to offer 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, providing accommodation and transport facilities in rural and remote areas, sponsoring training programmes etc. to be able to engage doctors and specialists in the public health facilities in rural areas.
- Á Support is also provided to States/UTs in term of hard area allowance for doctors and specialists who serve in difficult and remote areas.
- Á States are also advised to put in place transparent policies of posting and transfer, and ensure rational deployment of doctors. 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.

(c): Does not arise.