

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH March, 2022**

ENHANCEMENT OF HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

**3707 SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:
SHRI P.C. MOHAN:
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGHCHANDEL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any estimates regarding healthcare/medical professionals in the country, including surgeons and specialist doctors, nurses and para-medical staff, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the shortage of above personnel in the country, if so, the details of such vacancies in Government hospitals as on date and the steps taken to fill the same category-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of above personnel affected by COVID-19 between March and June 2021;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review the strength of the said personnel and the facilities provided to them post COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken special measures to enhance the healthcare/Medical workforce and healthcare facilities to tackle the likely future wave of COVID-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Uttarakhand and economically backward regions like Bundelkhand?

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

(a) to (e): As per information available, there are 13,01,319 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on November, 2021. The doctor-population ratio is 1:834 in the country assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors. Also, there are 2.89 lakh registered dentists, 32.63 lakh registered nursing personnel and 13 lakh Allied and Healthcare Professionals in the country. Health is a State subject and the primary responsibility to fill the vacancies of health

personnel in Government hospitals lies with the concerned State Government. Therefore, details of such vacancies are not maintained centrally.

Further, data on Healthcare Workers who contacted COVID-19 is expected to be maintained by respective States/UTs. Government of India has given first priority to Health Care Workers for COVID-19 vaccination so that they are conferred full protection provided by vaccine against COVID-19. Covid vaccination in India started on 16th January 2021 and the first group taken up for this vaccination are the Healthcare Workers. As a matter of abundant precaution, for those Health Care Workers (HCWs) & Front Line Workers (FLWs) who have received two doses, another booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine started from 10th January 2022.

The Government has taken following steps to further increase the availability of doctors in the country. The number of UG seats have increased from 51,348 before 2014 to 89875 seats as of date which is an increase of 75%. The numbers of PG seats have increased by 93% from 31,185 seats before 2014 to 60202 seats.

The steps to increase the seats include: -

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district/ referral hospital under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved and 71 are already functional.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Central Sector Scheme for upgradation of Government Medical Colleges by construction of Super Specialty Blocks. A total of 75 projects have been approved and 55 have been completed.
- iv. Under Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved. Undergraduate courses have started in 19 AIIMS.
- v. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- 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.
