

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2141
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31TH JULY, 2026**

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

2141. DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the country is facing a critical shortage of doctors with reportedly just 7 doctors per 10,000 people which is one of the lowest in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any measures to augment the number of doctors and healthcare professionals in the various medical institutions under its control in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise, particularly in the State of Punjab; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (e): As per the Indian Medical Register (IMR), there are currently 15,35,155 registered allopathic doctors and 7,51,768 registered practitioners in the AYUSH system of medicine. Assuming that 80% of registered practitioners in both the allopathic and AYUSH systems are available, the doctor-population ratio in the country is estimated to be 1:778.

The Government has taken various measures to improve the availability of doctors and healthcare professionals in the country which include: -

- Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached to Existing District/Referral Hospitals, 157 medical colleges have been approved across the country, of which 139 are functional. Under this Scheme, 03 medical colleges have been approved in Punjab at SAS Nagar (Mohali), Kapurthala, and Hoshiarpur.
Further, under the Scheme for Upgradation of Existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to Increase MBBS Seats in the Country, the Government of India has approved the addition of 100 MBBS seats in 02 medical

colleges in the State at a total approved cost of Rs. 120 crore. The entire Central share of Rs. 72 crore has been released to the State Government of Punjab.

- The Family Adoption Programme (FAP) has been incorporated into the MBBS curriculum to provide equitable healthcare access to rural population. FAP involves medical colleges adopting villages, and MBBS students adopting families within these villages. This enables regular follow-up of adopted families for vaccination, growth monitoring, menstrual hygiene, Iron-Folic Acid supplementation, healthy lifestyle practices, nutrition, vector control, and medication adherence. It also helps in educating families about ongoing government health programmes.
- Under District Residency Program of National Medical Commission (NMC), second/third year PG students of medical colleges are posted in district hospitals.
- Honorarium to Gynaecologists/Emergency Obstetric Care (EmoC) trained, Paediatricians & Anesthetist/ Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) trained doctors is provided to increase availability of specialists for conducting Cesarean Sections in rural & remote area.
- Hard area allowance is provided to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas and for their residential quarters.
- Under the National Health Mission, states are allowed to offer negotiable salary to attract specialist including flexibility in strategies such as "You Quote We Pay".
