

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 284
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021**

“DOCTOR TO PATIENT RATIO IN INDIA”

284 # SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Doctor to Patient ratio in India is below the WHO standards;
- (b) if so, the details of Doctor to Patient ratio in rural as well as in urban areas of the country;
- (c) the steps that Government has taken or is planning to take to bridge this gap and ensure increase in the availability of doctors per 1000 population so as to meet the WHO standards; and
- (d) by when India will meet the WHO standards vis-a-vis Doctor to Patient ratio?

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

(a) to (d): The doctor-population ratio as per WHO recommendation is 1:1000. 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.

Further, there are 596 (313 Government + 283 Private) medical colleges including AIIMS in the country with an intake capacity of 88120 MBBS seats.

The Government has taken following steps to further increase the availability of doctors in the country. The numbers of PG seats have increased by 78% from 31,185 seats before 2014 to 55,595 seats including DNB and CPS seats. The number of UG seats have increased from 51,348 before 2014 to 88,120 seats as of date which is an increase of 72%.

The steps to increase the seats include: -

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district hospital under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved and 70 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 53 have been completed.
- iv. Under Central Sector Scheme for setting up of new AIIMS, 22 AIIMS have been approved. Undergraduate courses have started in 18 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. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- vii. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.

- viii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- ix. The ratio of teachers to students has been rationalized to increase the number of postgraduate medical seats in the country.
- x. 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.
- 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.
