

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 255
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

SKEWED DOCTOR-PATIENT RATIO IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

255. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) the average doctor-patient ratio in Government hospitals across India, Statewise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of doctors in Government hospitals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve this situation?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): As per information available with this Ministry, 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 available for active service which gives allopathic doctor-population ratio of 1:1445. 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 available for service and considered together with allopathic doctors, which gives a doctor population ratio of 1:860. The State/UT-wise details of allopathic doctor- population ratio and total doctors (Allpathic+AYUSH) - population ratio are at Annexure.

(d) Public health and hospitals being a State subject, the primary responsibility to provide healthcare facilities to its citizens lies with the State Governments. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems including support for in-sourcing or engagement of doctors, specialist doctors and other staff on contractual basis and to improve other facilities in Government hospitals as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), based on the requirements of the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) within their overall resource envelope.

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However, Government has taken various steps to optimize the number of doctors and specialists in the country - such as increasing the number of seats in UG/PG level at various medical educational institutes/medical colleges across the country; encouraging doctors to work in remote and difficult areas; encouraging States to adopt flexible norms for engaging specialists for public health facilities by various mechanisms like 'contracting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services under National Health Mission.

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 attract human resources to address the issue of shortage of doctors and specialists in the public health facilities. Support is also provided to States/UTs in term of hard area allowance for specialist doctors who serve in rural and remote areas as well as for residential quarters for them.

Also, States are 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.

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Annexure

**States/UTs-wise average Allopathic Doctor-Population ratio and Average Total Doctors
(Allopathic+ AYUSH) Population ratio of India as on 31st March, 2019**

S. No.	Name of the State	Average Allopathic Doctor-Population ratio	Average Total Doctors (Allopathic+ AYUSH) Population ratio
1.	Andhra Pradesh	659	542
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1951	1391
3.	Assam	1800	1650
4.	Bihar	3536	812
5.	Chattisgarh	4045	2485
6.	Delhi	1252	797
7.	Goa	576	424
8.	Gujarat	1248	715
9.	Haryana	6287	1812
10.	Himachal	3015	628
11.	Jammu & Kashmir **	1143	812
12.	Jharkhand	7895	6931
13.	Karnataka	672	485
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2691	977
15.	Maharashtra	900	478
16.	Kerala	740	446
17.	Mizoram	20343	20343
18.	Nagaland	23396	10479
19.	Odisha	2495	1508
20.	Punjab	778	584
21.	Rajasthan	2224	1551
22.	Sikkim	595	595
23.	Tamil Nadu	696	643
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3692	1756
25.	Uttarakhand	1631	1107
26.	West Bengal	1705	1032
27.	Tripura	2934	2328
28.	Telangana	9477	1833
	Total	1445	860

Note - The other State / UTs do not have their own Medical Registration Council and therefore, their workers get registration with the Councils of neighboring States/MCI

** Figures of Jammu & Kashmir is as on 31st March, 2019