

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 353
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5TH APRIL, 2022**

PATIENT TO DOCTORS & NURSES RATIO IN THE COUNTRY

353 # SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of Patient to Doctors & Nurses in the country is not adequate, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken or are being taken to increase the number of seats in various medical institutes or colleges throughout the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 353* FOR 5TH APRIL, 2022**

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 and 13 lakh Allied and Healthcare Professionals in the country.

As per Indian Nursing Council records, there are around 33.41 lakh registered nursing personnel which includes 23,40,501 Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (RN&RM) and 10,00,805 Nurse Associates (9,43,951 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) and 56,854 Lady Health Visitors (LHV)) in the country. The nurse-population ratio in the country at present is 1.96 nurses per 1000 population.

The Government has taken various steps to increase the number of seats in various medical institutes/colleges in the country. As a result, the number of UG seats have increased from 51,348 before 2014 to 89,875 seats as on date which is an increase of 75%. The numbers of PG seats have increased by 93% from 31,185 seats before 2014 to 60,202 seats.

Various steps to increase the medical seats include the following: -

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical colleges by upgrading district/ referral hospitals under which 157 new medical colleges have been approved.
- 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.
- 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.

Further, the Government has taken following steps to increase the nursing seats in the country:-

- (i) For Nursing Educational Programmes Student patient ratio has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:3
- (ii) The land requirement for Nursing Educational Institutes from 3 acres has been relaxed to construct building of 54,000 sq. ft. for School/College of Nursing including Hostel.
- (iii) To open GNM and B.Sc. (Nursing) programme 100 bedded parent hospital is essential since 2013-2014. However, this is relaxed for hilly and tribal areas.
- (iv) Relaxed norms for teaching faculty to start B.Sc. (N) Programme.
 - At least 2 M.Sc. (N) faculty to be available
 - Qualification and Experience of the Nursing Teachers has been relaxed.
- (v) Relaxation for opening M.Sc.(N) programme. Super speciality Hospital can start M.Sc. (N) without having under graduate programme.

- Relaxation of student teacher ratio for M.Sc.(N) programme has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:10
- (vi) Age of superannuation increased for Faculty in Nursing to 70 years
- (vii) Maximum of 100 seats will be granted to the institutions for B.Sc.(N)/GNM programmes which are having parent hospital with 300 beds without insisting on Medical College
- (viii) Distance from school to hospital has been relaxed.
- (ix) Eligibility Criteria for admission to nursing programmes relaxed:
- a. Aggregate Marks for Diploma and Degree has been relaxed.
 - b. Candidates from recognized State Open School and National Institute of Open School (NIOS) are also eligible.

Further, for making rapid growth in the number of allied medical seats in the country, the Government has enacted National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021 and an Interim Commission has been notified under the provisions of NCAHP Act, 2021.
