

Steps taken to address shortage of Doctors and Healthcare Resources

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new medical colleges, 157 Government Medical Colleges Approved; 137 Already Functional

National Health Mission Provides Financial, Technical and Human Resource Incentives to States/UTs for Strengthening Healthcare Systems and Addressing Workforce Shortages

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'Public Health' & 'Hospitals' are State subjects. Accordingly, respective State Governments make efforts for ensuring availability of doctors and healthcare resources in government hospitals across the country. Information related to vacant posts of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff in State Government Hospitals is not maintained centrally.

So far as Central Government hospitals i.e. Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital (VMMC & SJH), Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences & Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (ABVIMS & Dr. RMLH), Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals (LHMC & Associated Hospitals), and Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC) are concerned, details of vacant posts of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff, as informed by these hospitals, are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Hospital	Doctors			Nursing Personnel			Paramedical Staff		
		S	F	V	S	F	V	S	F	V
1.	VMMC & SJH	632	513	119	2759	2342	417	162	122	40
2.	ABVIMS & Dr. RMLH	453	351	102	1559	1459	100	498	344	154

3.	LHMC & Asso. Hospitals	386	298	88	1181	959	222	631	384	247
4.	RHTC	46	30	16	41	05	36	90	48	42

*S- Sanctioned, F- Filled, V- Vacant

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' with preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no existing Government or private medical college. The fund sharing mechanism between the Centre and State Governments is in the ratio of 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States, and 60:40 for others. Under the Scheme, 157 Government medical colleges have already been approved. Out of which, 137 medical colleges have become functional.

Also, under National Health Mission (NHM), financial and technical support is provided to the States/UTs to strengthen their healthcare systems based on the Programme Implementation Plans submitted by the States/UTs within their overall resource envelope. In order to address shortage of human resources, under NHM, the types of incentives and honorarium provided for encouraging healthcare service providers.

Types of incentives and honorarium provided for encouraging doctors and other staff to address shortage of human resources under National Health Mission (NHM).

(i) Hard area allowance to specialist doctors for serving in rural and remote areas.

(ii) Honorarium to Gynecologists/ Emergency Obstetric Care (EmoC) trained, Pediatricians & Anesthetist/ Life Saving Anaesthesia Skills (LSAS) trained doctors is also provided to increase availability of specialists in rural & remote areas.

(iii) Incentives for doctors and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) for ensuring timely Antenatal Care checkup and recording, for conducting Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health activities.

(iv) States are also allowed to offer negotiable salary to attract specialists including flexibility in strategies such as “You Quote We Pay”.

(v) Non-Monetary incentives such as preferential admission in post graduate courses for staff serving in difficult areas and improving accommodation arrangement in rural areas have also been introduced under NHM.

(vi) Multi-skilling of doctors is supported under NHM to overcome the shortage of specialists. Skill upgradation of existing human resources is another major strategy under NHM for achieving improvement in health outcomes.

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

SR

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