

Appointment of vacant posts under NRHM

2854. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has given any direction to the State Governments under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Scheme for appointing the existing vacancies to meet the doctors and other specialist doctors' requirement;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any time bound programme to meet the shortfalls/requirements of the doctors in these States;
- (c) if so, the steps the Central Government contemplates to strengthen the gap of the minimum requirements of the States; and
- (d) what is the outcome of the action taken by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Central Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for undertaking architectural corrections in the health system. Under the NRHM, rural health infrastructure is being expanded in all the states and states are positioning additional health human resources to bridge the gaps and compensate the HR vacancies in a time bound manner.

Under NRHM, states are improving the availability of health human resources through contractual as well as regular appointments, multi-skilling trainings and training in short courses. Incentives have been provided by various States to service providers to encourage them to work in remote rural areas. The gaps in availability of health HR is also being compensated through mainstreaming of AYUSH providers, block pooling of service providers, engagement with nongovernmental providers through contracting in for services.

The Government has also reviewed and amended the norms in medical education with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio, etc. which will facilitate setting up of more medical colleges and also enhance the intake in Post Graduate Courses and Super-Specialities.

The availability of critical health human resources has improved since the operationalisation of NRHM. At the grass root level, over 7.30 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) States have been positioned to operate as links between the citizens and public health delivery system. Over 44,500 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and 25707 staff nurses have been recruited on contract and 1388 PHCs have been strengthened with three staff nurses each. Over 9800 General duty Medical Officers and over 2300 specialists have been selected on contract under NRHM at various levels. States have also positioned more than 13200 paramedics on contract under NRHM to improve service delivery at public health facility.