

respective statutory and other functions relating to implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. Both have their exclusive areas of jurisdiction, though DCG (I) remains in touch with state drug authorities on matters of mutual interest and concerns.

(c) The key responsibilities performed by DCG(I) and not performed by State Drug Controllers are as under:

- (1) The Regulatory Control over the import of drugs and cosmetics
- (2) Grant of permission for import or manufacture for sale of new drugs in the country,
- (3) Grant of permission to conduct clinical trials of new drug.
- (4) Convening the meetings of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board and Drugs Consultative Committee.
- (5) Grant or renewal of licences for certain categories of drugs as Central License Approving Authority.

Shortage of nurses

1484. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission's high-level expert group on health has set a target to have a minimum of two nurses and one auxiliary nurse midwife for every available doctors;

(b) if so, whether this move will help to face the shortage of nurses under National Rural Health Mission; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per Planning Commission's Report on High Level Expert Group on Universal Health Coverage for India, the availability and absorption of nurses into the universal health coverage will ensure that the ratio of nurse and midwife (including Auxiliary Nurse/Midwives (ANMs)) per allopathic doctor goes up from the present level of 1.5:1 to 3:1 by 2025.

(b) and (c) Health is a state subject and posts are created by the concerned states. However, the State/UT Governments incorporate their requirement in annual Programme Implementation Plan and funds are released to State/UT Governments as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee for actual implementation. As on 30th September, 2011, 66784 ANM and 32860 Staff Nurses have been engaged across the country on contract basis. Besides, Staff Nurses have been engaged across the country on contract basis.

The Ministry has also provided financial assistance to the State for opening of 62 ANM and 70 GNM Schools in various states under the Scheme of Strengthening/upgradation of Nursing Services.