

- (c) whether the cost of producing generic medicines is considerably less;
- (d) whether efforts are being made by the Central and State Governments to make cheap generic medicines accessible to the patients; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (e) Health is a State subject and it is the responsibility of State Government to provide medicines to the patients in accordance with requirement and available resources. However, as far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated Hospitals are concerned, all medicines are provided free of cost to indoor patients. Medicines, which are not available in the Hospitals, are procured from authorized local chemist by the Hospital authority on emergency basis. In OPD also, medicines are dispensed free of cost to the patients on the prescription of the doctor of these Hospitals as per hospital formulary.

For making available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, Department of Pharmaceuticals launched Jan Aushadhi Campaign in November, 2008 by way of opening up of Jan Aushadhi Drug Stores. Since November, 2008, 170 Jan Aushadhi Stores have been opened in various parts of the country, out of which 99 are functional. A New Business Plan has been approved particularly to address the shortcomings and challenges identified in scaling up the activities.

Creation of central cadre of doctors

293. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the fact that only 33 per cent of Government doctors work in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the availability of doctors in rural areas;
- (c) whether Government is considering the creation of a central cadre of doctors in the form of an Indian Medical Service or otherwise; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) As per Rural Health Statistics, 2014, there is a shortage of doctors in rural areas.

(b) Public Health being a State subject, under the National Health Mission, the Central Government provides financial support to States/UTs to strengthen their health systems including for engaging doctors on contractual basis based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. Support is also provided for multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, mainstreaming of AYUSH etc. Other steps taken by the Central Government to encourage doctors to work in rural areas include:

- (i) Provision of financial support to State/UTs for providing additional incentives and higher remuneration to doctors/specialists to serve in such areas and improved accommodation arrangements so that they find it attractive to join public health facilities in such areas.
- (ii) To improve supply of doctors,
 - (a) norms have been relaxed for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure.
 - (b) maximum intake capacity at MBBS level has been increased from 150 to 250.
- (iii) To encourage doctors to serve in rural areas, Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 have been amended to provide-
 - (a) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
 - (b) incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas up to the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not initiated any proposal for creation of Indian Medical Service and as such no specific steps have been taken in this regard.

Safety of female health workers at workplace

294. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the workplace conditions of female health care workers in the country