

1	2	3
2015	304	187
2016	320	175
2017	382	464
2018	526	459

Shortage of nurses

2974. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of nurses in the country;
- (b) whether Government is taking steps to open more nursing colleges and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government plans to broaden the syllabus of nursing so as to train nurses to prescribe certain drugs and anaesthesia and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per Indian Nursing Council (INC) records, there are around 29.1 lakh nursing personnel registered in the country as on 31.12.2017. Assuming 60% availability in the case of Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (RN&RM) and 80% availability in the case of Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM)/Lady Health Visitors (LHV), it is estimated that around 19.63 lakh nursing personnel are available for active services, which gives a Nurse-Population ratio of about 1:663 (Population taken as 130 crores). There are around 8500 Nursing Institutes in the country producing about 3.2 lakh nursing personnel annually, to meet the requirement of nursing personnel in the country.

(b) Under the Central Sector Scheme "Development of Nursing Services", fund to the tune of ₹ 6.00 crore/school are earmarked for upgradation of school of nursing into college of nursing. Proactive measures relaxing criteria for opening of nursing colleges in the country have been taken.

(c) Revision of curriculum/syllabus related to nursing education is a continuous and ongoing process.