

- (vii) For on the spot testing of adulterants in milk and milk products in remote areas, mobile food testing laboratories, referred to as Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) equipped with rapid milk analyzer (MilkoScreen™) have been made available to governments of States / Union Territories.
- (viii) Food Safety Departments of States/UTs are regularly instructed to maintain strict vigil on milk chilling units to eliminate chances of adulteration and to intensify surveillance during festive seasons when demand of milk and milk products is comparatively high.
- (ix) Regular inspection, testing and sampling of milk and milk products is being done by the officials of State Food Safety Department and where samples are found non-conforming, penal action is taken as per provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Insurance claims of health workers

1040. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked various State Governments to ensure swift processing of frontline health workers' claims under the Government's insurance scheme amidst the COVID-19 pandemic;

(b) if so, to what extent have the State Governments implemented the directions of Government; and

(c) the details of pending insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) as on 31st August, 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes The Government of India has through a number of letters asked the States to ensure swift processing of claims of front-line health workers under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP): Insurance Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19.

Regular video conferences have been held with States along with the representatives of the New India Assurance Co. Ltd to coordinate and expedite the submission of claims so that the benefit reaches the bereaved family in time. All these efforts have resulted in streamlining the processing of claims.

(c) Position of pending claims is dynamic. As per the information received from the insurance company the number of claims pending as on 17th September, 2020 is 220. Out of these, in 212 cases, complete claim documents are to be submitted by the States and 8 claims approved by the insurance company are pending for the nominee details.

Doctor-Patient ratio and Nurse-Patient ratio in India

1041. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is able to adhere to the Doctor-Patient ratio and Nurse-Patient ratio as recommended by the World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering the WHO recommendations as its goal also;

(c) if so, the details of the present norms regarding the Doctor-Patient ratio and Nurse-Patient ratio followed by Government; and

(d) the average number of patient handled by a Government doctor in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (d) As per information provided by the Board of Governors in supersession of Medical Council of India (MCI), 12,55,786 allopathic doctors are registered in the country as on 30th June, 2020. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 10.05 lakh doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1343 as per current population estimate of 135 crore against the WHO norms of 1:1000. Besides, there are 7.88 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.30 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy (AUH) doctors may also be available for service and considered together with allopathic doctors, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1:825. As per information provided by the Indian Nursing Council (INC) records, there are around 8,92,829 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), 21,51,850 Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (RN&RM) and 56,644 Lady Health Visitors (LHV) in the Country. Assuming 60% availability in the case of RN&RM and 80% in the case of ANM & LHV, the nurse population ratio would come to around 1:658 as per current population estimate of 135 crore. The data on the average number of patients handled by a Government doctor in India is not maintained centrally.