

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 896
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH February, 2021**

NATIONAL POLICY ON HEALTH

896 SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government contemplates to formulate a national policy on health with special focus on providing quality health care to the economically weaker sections of the country
- (b) if so, the details thereof and
- (c) whether Government also proposes to make it mandatory for specialist doctors to serve in rural areas for a specified period?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): The Government has formulated the National Health Policy, 2017, which aims at attainment of the highest possible level of good health and well-being, through a preventive and promotive health care orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence.

One of the key principles of the policy is to reduce inequity which would mean affirmative action to reach the poorest. It would mean minimizing disparity on account of gender, poverty, caste, disability, other forms of social exclusion and geographical barriers.

The policy also recognizes the special health needs of tribal and socially vulnerable population groups and recommends situation specific measures in provisioning and delivery of services.

The policy of compulsory rural services is decided by the State/UT Governments. Each State/UT have their own bond policy for specialist doctors, keeping in view the healthcare needs of the State.

To encourage doctors working in remote and/or difficult and/or rural areas, the erstwhile Medical Council of India with the approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide :-

- I. 50% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and/or difficult and/or rural areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult and/or rural areas; and
- II. Incentive at the rate of upto 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote and/or difficult or rural areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.