

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2520
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10th AUGUST, 2021**

Increase in medical and nursing seats in Government and private colleges

2520 # Shri Vivek Thakur:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that COVID-19 pandemic has re-affirmed that increasing human resources in health sector is extremely important;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that massive increase in number of medical and nursing seats in Government and private colleges is mandatory with an out of the box thinking to prepare for future India;
- (c) whether Government is planning to increase the number of medical and nursing seats;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e) COVID-19 pandemic has re-affirmed the importance of adequate number of qualified and skilled human resources in health.

The number of MBBS Seats in the country have increased by 53.22% from 54,348 seats in 2014 to 83,275 seats in 2020 and the number of PG seats have increased by 80% from 30,191 seats in 2014 to 54,275 seats (including DNB & CPS seats) in 2020. The number of nursing seats in the country have increased as below:

- i. ANM seats have increased by 5.73% from 52,479 in 2014 to 55,490 in 2020
- ii. GNM seats have increased by 12.38% from 1,15,844 in 2014 to 1,30,182 in 2020
- iii. B.Sc. (N) seats have increased by 21.24% from 83,192 in 2014 to about 1,00,865 in 2020
- iv. M.Sc. (N) seats have increased by 23.53% from 10,784 in 2014 to about 13,322 in 2020.

The Government has taken various steps to further increase the availability of doctors and nurses in the country which include:-

- i. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for establishment of new medical college by upgrading district hospital in underserved districts of the country.
- ii. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Strengthening/ upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS and PG seats.
- iii. Viability Gap Funding Scheme for establishment of medical colleges in Public-Private Partnership mode.
- iv. A Consortium (a group of 2 or up to 4 private organizations) has been allowed to establish a medical college.
- v. Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement for faculty, staff, bed strength and other infrastructure.
- vi. Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- vii. DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- viii. Enhancement of age limit for appointment/ extension/ re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/ director in medical colleges upto 70 years.
- ix. By amending the regulations, it has been made mandatory for all medical colleges to start PG courses within 3 years from the date of their MBBS recognition /continuation of recognition.
- x. Provision has been made in the Regulations to offer less number of seats to the applicant medical college, in case, it falls short of minimum prescribed requirements of applied intake to avoid wastage of human resources.

- xi. Under the Central Sector Scheme - Development of Nursing Services, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 7 crore for each institution is provided to schools of nursing to be upgraded to college of nursing.
- xii. The requirement of land to construct building for School/College of Nursing and Hostel has been relaxed.
- xiii. The requirement of a 100 bedded parent hospital has been relaxed for hilly and tribal areas for School/College of Nursing and Hostel.
- xiv. The student teacher ratio for M.Sc.(N) programme has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:10.
- xv. Student patient ratio for Nursing Institutions has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:3.
- xvi. Distance from Nursing School to hospital has been relaxed from 15 km to 30 km. However, for hilly and tribal areas the maximum distance is 50 km. Superspeciality hospital can start M.Sc.(N) without having under graduate programme.