

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1384
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th JULY, 2023**

NURSES TO PATIENT RATIO

1384: SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA

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

- (a) whether the country has been able to fulfill the World Health Organization (WHO) norms of nurses to patient ratio;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to improve the working conditions of nurses;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government is taking any steps to increase the number of nurses; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) As informed by Indian Nursing Council (INC), there are 36.14 lakh nursing personnel in the country resulting in a nurse to population ratio of 2.10 nurses per thousand population. There are 5203 Nursing institutions including 715 government institutions producing nearly 3.55 lakh nursing personnel annually, to meet the requirement of nursing personnel in the country

(c)and(d) Government ensures adequate working conditions for all health care personnel including nurses in various healthcare establishments and makes efforts to improve them. These working conditions are governed by various Acts and government orders, which are framed to provide a conducive working environment to health professionals in order to enhance patient care and contribute substantially to the overall healthcare outcomes.

(e) to (f) In order to promote nursing education in the country, the central government is implementing a central sector scheme “Development of Nursing Services” under which Schools of Nursing (SoN) are given Grants-in-aid to upgrade them into Colleges of Nursing (CoN). Further, establishment of 157 new nursing colleges has been announced in the budget speech 2023-2024.

Other steps taken by the Government to increase nursing manpower in the country are as follows: -

- i. The requirement of land for School/College of Nursing and Hostel has been relaxed.
- ii. Relaxation in the norms of having a 100 bedded parent hospital for hilly and tribal areas has been done.
- iii. The student teacher ratio for M.Sc.(N) programme has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:10.
- iv. Student patient ratio for Nursing Institutions has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:3.
- v. Maximum number of 100 seats for Nursing College to be given to parent hospitals with 300 beds without insisting for a Medical College.
- vi. Distance from school/college to hospital relaxed.
- vii. Eligibility criteria to admission for Diploma and Degree has been relaxed.
- viii. Relaxation in norms for opening M.Sc. (N) programme by allowing Super Speciality Hospital to start M.Sc. (N) without having under graduate programme.
