

498 posts of doctors vacant in GMC Srinagar

Hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir are facing shortage of doctors in Directorate of Health Service run hospitals as well as hospitals under the Medical Colleges, hitting patient care and depleting the skewed doctor-patient ratio further.

Government on Thursday gave details of the vacancies for doctors in various hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir in response to a question by MLA Langat, Engineer Rashid.

The documents presented in the House put the shortage of doctors in GMC Srinagar at a whopping 498. This shortage is pervasive in all GMC Hospitals as per officials.

According to the government reply, 267 posts of doctors are vacant in GMC Jammu. Similarly, both chapters of JK Health Services are also fraught with doctor shortage. While in Kashmir, there are 122 vacancies, the Jammu chapter is short by 279 doctors, the reply said.

The reply further pointed out shortage of consultants in both the divisions. “In Kashmir 105 consultant posts vacant in Kashmir. In Jammu there are 15 vacancies,” it said.

In GMC Srinagar, the maximum number of vacancies exist at entry level for faculty. The college, according to data is short by 148 lecturers.

The reply shockingly reveals shortage of 35 professors in the college. “GMC Associated Hospitals are struggling with the shortage of 112 Assistant Surgeons, while as in GMC Jammu, 48 Assistant Surgeon posts are vacant,” it said.

The Super-Speciality tertiary care hospital of Kashmir, SKIMS is also facing doctor shortage. There are 185 doctor vacancies in this hospital. “Ninety-eight Assistant Professor and 51 Associate Professors are needed by the hospital. Of the total 185 vacancies in SKIMS, 136 are Non-Plan Vacancies and 49 are Plan vacancies.”

Apart from these vacancies, eight doctors from GMC Srinagar are on deputation to GMC Jammu, the reply made clear.

Vacancies in rural areas as well as tertiary care hospitals affect the patient care adversely as doctor patient ratio increases. While experts put doctor

patient ratio in the state at 1: 1100, there are many areas where no specialist is available.

Previously, in reply to a question by Dr Shenaz Ganai, MLC Poonch, government had stated that 258 faculty positions were vacant in GMC Srinagar. In GMC Jammu, the vacant faculty positions stood at 156. The total number of faculty vacancies in GMC Srinagar constitute 50 percent of the sanctioned strength, whereas in GMC Jammu, 40 percent posts sanctioned are vacant.

The total number of faculty posts sanctioned in GMC Srinagar is 519 and in GMC Jammu, it is 390.

Government said that this shortage of faculty, that affects patient care in these tertiary care hospitals, was being addressed.

Minister of State for Health, Asia Naqash while replying the question regarding the shortage of faculty in two government medical colleges of the state and steps being taken to address this shortage, had said that 116 vacancies had already been referred to JK PSC. These 116 positions are entry level lecturer posts.