

## **Odisha Cabinet approves creation of 500 more doctor posts**

BHUBANESWAR: The state cabinet headed by chief minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday approved creation of 500 more doctor posts with an aim to ensure affordable health care service to people in rural areas.

The new posts are created to work against the vacancies cause due to relieve of many medical officers for pursuing post-graduation and other higher courses or for senior residentship and tutorship insider or outside the country for a period of three years. So, the new posts will be created under leave reserve trainee reserve and deputation reserve (LTRMO), official sources said.

"Around 432 doctors take leave for higher studies every year. So, there was a combine vacancy of around 1300 doctors in the state. In order to provide uninterrupted medical service to the general public throughout the year, creation of these 500 new posts was very much essential," chief secretary A P Padhi told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

The new doctors would be appointed in different primary healthcare centres, community healthcare centres, sub-divisional hospitals, district headquarters hospitals and in other peripheral hospitals.

Though in November, 2013, the state government had created 436 doctors under LTRMO category, it has failed to overcome the horrible state of health care system in Odisha.

"For appointment of the 500 doctors, the state government would soon start procedures. These 500 posts will be filled up through the Odisha Public Services Commission," Padhi said.