

## Healthcare delivery system gets a boost

# MORE THAN 10,700 NEW POSTS CREATED

Bhubaneswar, dated the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013

In a move that would prove to be a boon to the stuttering healthcare delivery system in the State, the Government on Thursday announced creation of as many as 10,301 new posts in the ranks of nurses, technicians, grassroot-level health workers, and other paramedics. It has also created about 406 posts of Dental Surgeons to be appointed in the peripheral health institutions.

The new paramedics posts include 5,164 auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANMs), 991 male health workers (MHW), 2,934 staff nurses, 954 laboratory technicians and 258 radiographers. The posts would be opened in the peripheral health institutions from the sub-centres, PHCs to CHCs and DHHs. "The new posts would not only strengthen healthcare services at the grassroots, but also enable us to meet the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) stipulated under the NRHM programme. The recruitments for the posts would be conducted soon", Health and Family Welfare Minister Damodar Rout said on Thursday.

The IPHS has set uniform norms for qualitative improvement in the healthcare delivery system in the country. Each sub- centre is stipulated to have two ANMs and one MHW while one staff nurse has to be appointed if number of deliveries is more than 20 per month. For the PHCs, which act as first referral unit from sub-centres, a minimum of three staff nurses along with one MHW and ANM, a lab technician and one attendant have to be posted, besides the doctors.

A CHC is required to have 12 staff nurses, two public health nurses, two pharmacists, two laboratory technicians and a radiographer while the sub-divisional hospitals should have a minimum of 18 staff nurses, four laboratory technicians and one radiographer. The DHH should have at least 45 staff nurses, six technicians and two radiographers.

There are as many as 6,688 sub centres, 1,305 PHCs, 377 CHCs, 22 sub-divisional hospitals and 32 DHHs in the State and most of them are grappling with inadequate staff which has become a major hindrance in view of increasing patient load across the institutions.

The Government has also finally moved to appoint dental surgeons in all the DHHs along with subordinate units like the CHCs. Presently, there are posts of dental surgeons in only 13 DHHs as per the old 13 districts. Nineteen more had been appointed on contractual basis to fulfill the requirements after the districts were divided and increased to 30. "The contractual posts will be regularised and the recruitment to the newly created ones would be conducted in two phases", Rout said.

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