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This Ministry has been regularly compiling and disseminating information on rural health care delivery system through the annual publication titled "Rural Health Statistics", based on data received from the States and Union Territories. The relevance of reliable and up-to-date statistics on rural health care system in formulation of appropriate schemes/programmes and in their effective implementation, particularly in the context of strengthening the rural health care infrastructure and human resources, is well known. The previous issue of this publication containing data up to March 2015 was released in August 2015. The present issue contains data up to March 2016. The support and cooperation received from the States/Union territories in facilitating quick release of this publication is laudable. I place on record this Ministry's appreciation for the efforts made by the concerned officials of all the States/Union territories towards this.

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( Dr. Arun K Panda )

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