

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:453

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005

GUIDELINES FOR DISABLED PERSONS FOR APPEARING IN MBBS EXAMINATION

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

(a) whether the Medical Council of Indian (MCI) has any methodology to enable disabled students to appear for the MBBS examination conducted by the AIIMS;

(b) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has asked the MCI and AIIMS to lay down methodology/guidelines for the benefit of disabled persons in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the time by when necessary guidelines are likely to be issued?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 453 FOR 27TH APRIL, 2005

The Medical Council of India (MCI) had examined the matter for reservation for admission of persons with disabilities to medical courses and has provided for reservation of physically handicapped with the locomotory disorder of the lower limbs. These guidelines have been circulated to all the medical colleges. The AIIMS is also providing 3% reservation for admission to MBBS courses for orthopaedically handicapped persons. The visually handicapped and persons with hearing impairment have not been considered as corrected vision is an absolute necessity for study and practice of medicine. Likewise, the hearing impairment interferes with the rigours of training required during medical education.

The National Human Rights Commission had desired to consider and work out the modalities for examining blind students in the light of experience of AIIMS in the case of one Shri CSP Anka Toppo who was granted MBBS degree by AIIMS though he had become visually handicapped during his course of study and internship for MBBS at AIIMS. The MCI had constituted a Sub-Committee which met on 24.1.2003 and discussed the various issues pertaining to visually handicapped persons to be examined, evaluated and awarded MBBS degree. The Committee was of the view that allowing the visually handicapped persons to practice medicine and prescribe drug may cause enormous harm to the public. In case of the person who becomes visually handicapped before appearing in the course and does not qualify first professional examination, he/she should be discharged from the course. In case of candidate who has passed the first/second professional examination and becomes blind in the final professional, he/she should still be discharged from the course as a visually handicapped person is not in a position to pursue the medical course and complete the internship. These recommendations of the sub-committee duly approved by the General Body of the Council in its meeting held on 12.10.2004 were sent to the National Human Rights Commission vide MCI letter dated 17.1.2005 for their information. The Sub-committee of MCI has also analysed the avenue of employment of MBBS candidates who became visually challenged after completion of their studies and has recommended that they may be accommodated in teaching, research and counseling.