

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:150

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006

TASK FORCE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Patil Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar;Singh Shri Sugrib;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on Medical Education for National Rural Health Mission under the Chairmanship of Shri Javed Chawdhary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Task Force had submitted its Report;
- (d) if so, the details of the major recommendations made by The Task Force and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to suggest State Governments to increase the retirement age of doctors from the present 60 years to 65 years;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether any guidelines have been issued to the States for opening of new health centres and to appoint doctors in rural areas of the country; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) : The Government had constituted a Task Group on Medical Education for National Rural Health Mission under the Chairmanship of Sh Javed Chawdhary. The task group has submitted its recommendations and the same are being considered by the Department. The major recommendations of the task group include :

1. Introduction of Modules on Social Sciences and Allied Disciplines at different stages of the MBBS graduate course & inclusion of a Rural Orientation Package.
2. Involving the Medical colleges in management of Public Health facilities.
3. Changing the format of Internships and spreading it over public health facilities in rural areas
4. A three-year degree course – B.Sc. (Health Science) qualifying the students to be called Community Health Practitioners who would be linked to a MBBS graduate doctor for the purpose of referral.
5. Incentives for Government doctors so as to attract and retain them in Government cadres.
6. Reservation in post-graduate seats for government doctors who have served in rural areas. Rural stint be made eligibility criteria for applying for PG.
7. Relaxation of norms for setting up new Medical Colleges in high focus states.

The guidelines w.r.t. various recommendations contained in the report of the Task Group shall be finalised after the report is accepted.

(g) & (h) : Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) comprehensive strengthening of health facilities including infrastructure and manpower augmentation is envisaged. The approved Framework for Implementation of NRHM envisages setting up of new health centres on basis of a composite criteria of population, work-load and distance. The framework also urges states to sanction adequate number of posts of doctors, fill up all the vacant posts and also appoint doctors on contract wherever required. The proposals in this regard are being prepared as part of the Annual Programme Implementation Plans by the states.