

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:706

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007

NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar; Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended an independent regulatory framework for medical colleges in India in place of the Medical Council of India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the panel's recommendations; and

(d) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V.RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended constitution of a Standing Committee within the structure of the proposed Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE) and amendment of Indian Medical Council Act such that the Medical Council of India functions as a professional association with powers to conduct nation wide examinations and to provide licenses to those who wish to join the profession. Relevant extracts are annexed.

(c) & (d): The recommendations of the NKC have been sent to the concerned Ministries for their comments/examination and no time frame has been set for final decision.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION – COMPILATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER, 2007

MEDICAL INSTITUTION

Regulation and accreditation

Regulation:

At present, medical education in India is regulated by the Medical Council of India (MCI). This system of regulation is neither adequate nor appropriate to meet the needs of the profession. Therefore, in conformity with our recommendations on Higher Education, we propose constitution of a Standing Committee within the structure of the Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE). The primary function of the Standing Committee will be to ensure that medical practice and teaching are updated and revised regularly and minimum quality standards are maintained. The members of the Standing Committee would include faculty from recognized universities, practicing physicians, members of civil society, students and a director from autonomous institutions representing educators. The Chairman and the members of the Standing Committee would be accountable to IRAHE. The Standing Committee would look into manpower planning and development based on disease-profile, doctor-population ratio and skill-mix ratio.

Professional Councils:

The Indian Medical Council Act should be amended such that MCI functions only as a professional association, with powers to conduct nationwide examinations, and to provide licenses for those who wish to join the profession. Similar changes are needed for all the other Councils viz. Nursing Council, Pharmacy Council, Dental Council and Rehabilitation Council.

Accreditation:

IRAHE should be empowered to license suitable agencies for accreditation. Accreditation agencies could award different degrees of accreditation, such as "Full", "Provisional" or "On Probation" and have the power to de-recognize. Institutions would have to ensure transparency in their admission processes, able and responsible faculties, a multidisciplinary academic learning environment, transparency in assessment of students and close linkages with regional health care and delivery systems, in order to be accredited.