

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE EDUCATION
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has made recommendations as regard the health care education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government implemented these recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIDINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) & (b) The main recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission as regard the health care education are as follows:

Constitution of a Standing Committee within the structure of the Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE).

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.

IRAHE should be empowered to license suitable agencies for accreditation.

Policies of admission and fee structure of private college have to be regulated, not only to stop them from becoming sources of political and financial power but also to arrest falling standards.

All institutions must constitute Curriculum Committees that plan curricula and instructional methods, which are regularly updated.

Attracting and retaining quality faculty should be accorded top priority. Measures such as opportunities to attend international conferences regularly, sabbaticals, dual appointments, rewarding research, fast-track promotions, and dissociating remuneration from government pay scales should be explored.

The medical profession needs to be structured like a pyramid with the base made up of general physicians. At present there is little if any space for such doctors in postgraduate courses. Therefore, adequate representation should be given to general physicians while carrying out expansion of post graduate seats such that fifty percent seats are reserved for general physicians.

New streams for post graduation should be looked at based on needs.

Admission to post graduate courses should be done on the basis of credits received in the National Exit Examination and pre and post internship clinically oriented exams after internship.

Need to reserve post graduate seats (upto 20% of total available seats) for graduates who have worked in rural areas for at least 3 years.

The number of medical colleges in relation to population in some states is much higher than in other states. The Central Government should aid new colleges in these states to address this regional disparity. For instance, north eastern states require urgent attention in this context. The Central Government can develop a list of priority sites for establishing new colleges where the impact of new clinical facilities would benefit the surrounding rural population.

Further at least one institution should be identified in each State that can serve as a center of excellence and role model for the other institutions of the state.

Medical education cannot be standalone. It requires support in the form of trained nurses, pharmacists, paramedic workers. It must all also serve the essential purpose of delivering health care to the people. Therefore, we also set out some recommendations on education for supporting services and public health.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is considering setting up of an overarching regulatory body viz. National Council for Human Resources in Health (NCHRH) with a dual purpose of reforming the current regulatory framework and enhancing the supply of skilled manpower in the health sector. The draft Bill of the NCHRH has been prepared in which most of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission have been incorporated. Apart from this, the Central Government has amended Medical Council of India Regulations to provide incentives for the rural posting in the form of reservation in Post Graduate Diploma in Medical courses and additional marks in the entrance examination for admission in Post Graduate medical course.