

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010
FAMILY MEDICINE
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government recognizes the role of specialists in family medicine in order to provide affordable and universal health care to people;
- (b) if so, the steps taken so far to promote family medicine and to deal with the shortage of family physicians indicating the number of such physicians in the country;
- (c) the number of colleges having programme for imparting training in family medicine alongwith the criteria fixed therefor, State/UT-wise?
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to develop family medicine as a well defined academic speciality by outlining a well defined policy involving various issues such as academic acceptance, accreditation, uniform training, curriculum and faculty development etc.; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 456 FOR 10 December 2010

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Central Government in consultation with the Medical Council of India (MCI), has notified Family Medicine as one of the subjects in which postgraduate degree and diploma can be awarded by Indian Universities. The Central Government has also approved the curriculum of MD (Family Medicine) proposed by the Medical Council of India and circulated it recently among the States with the request to introduce it in medical colleges. The Central Government under the scheme of `Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges` will provide financial support to State medical colleges to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new courses including MD (Family Medicine).

(c) The National Board of Examinations (NBE) is conducting three-year DNB (Diplomate of National Board) course in Family Medicine in more than 200 medical institutions/hospitals spread all over the country with an intake of around 719 seats. Any medical graduate with MBBS qualification can register with the accredited institutions for training. State-wise details are annexed.

(d)& (e) The issues raised in the Question have been examined in detail prior to the notification of the MD course referred to in (a) above.