

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:816
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
PHARMACY DEGREE COLLEGES
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) the number of pharmacy degree colleges indicating the number of seats therein in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is shortage of pharmacists in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated number of pharmacists vis-a-vis their present requirements in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to increase the number of pharmacists and raise the quality of pharmacy education in the country;
- (e) whether the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has urged the Government not to permit the opening of new pharmacy degree colleges in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) State-wise number of pharmacy degree colleges with their intake approved by Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), a statutory body under this Ministry is given at Annexure.
- (b) to (d) Although no major shortage of pharmacists have been reported but several steps have been taken to augment the training capacity of pharmacists and simultaneously raise the quality of pharmacy education to meet the overall growing requirements including that of drug Industry. The following steps have been taken by Pharmacy Council of India/Ministry:-
 - (i) Framing of Education Regulations, 1991 for the purpose of registration as a pharmacist.
 - (ii) Introduction of Pharm D. Course of 6 years duration as a registrable qualification to practice the profession of pharmacy in 2008.
 - (iii) Conduct of continuing Education Programmes in the country for updating & acquisition of new skills.
 - (iv) A scheme to provide financial assistance to the State pharmacy institutions/ State pharmacy Councils through one time grant under the Scheme "Strengthening and upgradation of Pharmacy Institutions"" with an total outlay of Rs. 85.00 crores to be shared between the centre and the state in the ration 85:15 has been approved for implementation.
- (e) & (f) All the State Governments have been urged by PCI to plan out the need of total number of pharmacists required in the state while considering the proposal of new diploma/degree pharmacy institutions.