

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1898
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
SCREENING TEST FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian students who graduate from a medical institution abroad have to qualify mandatory screening test conducted by National Board of Examinations (NBE) for getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India (MCI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the same while Regular Medical Practitioners (RMPs) in India are exempted from such test;
- (c) the number of the students who appeared in the said Screening test and the number out of them succeeded during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign medical graduates/overseas Indian doctors/foreign doctors to serve in health care centres across the country without appearing in the Screening test, particularly in view of shortage of medical professionals in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken/proposed to make the test more transparent with well defined syllabus and publication of model question papers and correct

Answer

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

(a): Yes.

(b): As per the Screening Test Regulations, 2002, an Indian citizen possessing primarily medical education awarded by any medical institution outside India who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India or any State Medical Council on or after 15.3.2002 shall have to qualify a Screening Test. Screening Test has been prescribed to satisfy that citizens of India who obtain medical qualification from universities or medical institutions outside India have acquired adequacy of knowledge and skills as per the norms of MCI and to ensure that such students have secured the standards of medical education in the foreign countries, which are at par with standard of medical education in India.

(c): As per information provided by NBE, the details number of students who appeared in the Screening test and the number out of them succeeded during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:

Year	No. of students appeared	No. of students qualified
2008	4211	1326
2009	6170	1044
2010	10115	2680
2011	13270	3576

(d) & (e): Section 14 of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 allows foreign medical graduates/overseas Indian doctors/foreign doctors to practice without appearing in the Screening Test subject to certain conditions.