

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2533
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
QUALITY ASSURANCE IN PHARMACY EDUCATION
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) the measures taken so far by the Government to raise the quality and standards of pharmacy education in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Pharmacy Council of India has formed a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism called the National Task Force for Quality Assurance in Pharmacy Education and proposed to introduce the same in every pharmacy college from the next academic year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the likely impact of the proposed move in pharmacy education in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The following steps have been taken in the recent times to improve the quality and standard of pharmacy education in the country which are as follows:-

- (i) Regulations framed under Pharmacy Act, 1948 are amended/updated from time to time.
- (ii) Introduced Pharm D. Course of 6 duration as a registrable qualification to practice the profession of pharmacy in 2008.
- (iii) Funds are provided through Pharmacy Council of India to identified institutes to update the skills and acquisition of new skills by the pharmacists.
- (iv) A scheme has been framed to "Strengthen and upgrade the State Pharmacy Institutions" by providing Central financial assistance to meet 85% of the cost of such upgradation. An outlay of Rs. 85.00 crores has been made under the scheme.
- (v) Web based faculty data of individual pharmacy institutions is uploaded on the website of Pharmacy Council of India.

(b) & (c) Yes, a working group was constituted to establish the National Task Force for Quality Assurance. The recommendations of the working group were considered by the Central Council and the Central Council recommended constitution of a "Board for Quality Assurance in Pharmacy Education" to carry out the recommendations relating to accreditation criteria etc. made by the working group.

(d) The proposed move is directed towards improvements / overall growth of pharmacy education in India with regard to:

- (1) a firm foundation in pharmaceutical, bio-medical, social/behavioral/administrative and clinical sciences both at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
- (2) establishment of organizational structure and relationships to advance the outcome of pharmacy programmes, research and other scholarly activities.
- (3) introduction of mechanisms leading to student assessment by validated methods.