

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3870

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012

BACHELOR OF RURAL HEALTH CARE

Acharia Shri Basudeb;Kumar Shri P.;Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether the Government is introducing a new medical course viz. Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC) to raise a separate cadre of health workers for rural and remote areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the main highlights of the proposed medical course indicating the details of syllabus, curriculum, criteria of selection, expected tuition fee and the number of seats in medical colleges, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the infrastructure created/being created for the implementation of BRHC and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether there has been disagreement and opposition from various quarters including the Indian Medical Association on the matter; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed by the Government to address the concern of various stakeholders before the introduction of the proposed medical course in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The purpose of the proposed 3½ year rural health care course tentatively called "Bachelor of Rural Health Care (BRHC)" course is to generate a cadre of health care providers who by the virtue of the way they are chosen, trained, deployed and supported will be motivated to live in and provide comprehensive primary health care in the rural areas at the sub-centre level. The course is especially designed for those who have their schooling and passed their qualifying examination, i.e. 10 + 2 examination, from notified rural areas of the district. It is supposed to be implemented by the States, who opt for the same, and conducted by an institution attached to the district hospital. The Central Government will provide grant-in-aid to State Governments for capacity building. Presently, the Medical Council of India (MCI) is finalizing the curriculum of the course as well as the modalities of its implementation and the proposal is also under examination by the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare.

(d) & (e) Though the proposal for BRHC has been prepared in consultation with MCI, a few associations like IMA have not welcomed the proposal. Nonetheless, in order to address the serious concern of shortage of availability of human resources in health sector in rural areas, the Government is committed to introduce the course, with inbuilt safeguards.