

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:205

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012

FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Singh Shri Sukhdev

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

- (a) the current policy of the Government for recognition of graduate and post-graduate medical degrees of foreign countries along with the exemptions, if any, made in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether a number of Indian students who have graduated from medical institutions abroad have not been awarded registration in India for their failure to qualify the screening test conducted by National Board of Examinations for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating 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 review the existing system of screening test; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.205 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2012

(a) The existing policy entails that an Indian citizen possessing primary medical qualification from any medical institution outside India has to qualify the Screening Test for getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India or any State Medical Council.

However, in order to meet the shortage of faculty in the country, Part II of Schedule III of IMC Act has been amended in March, 2008 recognising postgraduate medical qualifications from five English speaking countries namely Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America. Similarly, Screening Test Regulations have also been amended in December, 2011 allowing exemption of a person seeking provisional or permanent registration from the Screening Test if he/she holds an Under Graduate medical qualification from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America and the holder thereof also been awarded a Post Graduate medical qualification in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America and has been recognized for enrolment as medical practitioner in that country.

(b) Yes.

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

Year	No. of students appeared	No. of students qualified
2009	6262	1017
2010	10115	2680
2011	13270	3576
2012	14476	3150

(d)&(e): Screening Test has been prescribed to ensure 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 proper standard of medical education in the foreign countries, which are at par with standard of medical education in India. Presently, the Screening Test is conducted by the National Board of Examinations and the Screening Test has proved to be effective in maintaining the standards. As such, presently there is no proposal to review the existing system of screening test.