

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6186

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2013

UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Kurup Shri N.Peethambara;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a number of quacks and unregistered medical practitioners operating particularly in the rural and remote areas across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated number of quacks and unregistered medical practitioners operating in the country;
- (c) the number of complaints against the practice of such quacks and unregistered medical practitioners received and the action taken/proposed against them during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the legislation and mechanism to monitor the activities of quacks and unregistered medical practitioners in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the existence of unqualified medical practitioners in the country. However, the details relating to unqualified medical practitioners are not centrally maintained.

(c): Insofar as practice of modern system of medicine is concerned, the Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 empowers the State Governments to monitor and take action against unqualified medical practitioners. Therefore, no such data is maintained at the Central level.

(d) & (e): The IMC Act, 1956 already has provision which prohibits a person, other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register, to practice medicine in the State and the Act also empowers the State Governments to take action against any such person who violates the said provision of the IMC Act. The Central Government on its part has also strengthened the healthcare delivery system at the grassroots level under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to discourage the practice of modern medicine by unqualified medical practitioners.