

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1271

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014

QUACKS AND UNREGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Kumar Dr. Virendra ;Sreeramulu Shri B.

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

- (a) whether a large number of quacks and unregistered medical practitioners are operating, particularly in the rural and remote areas across the country, and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has drawn any action plan to identify and check the activities of such unqualified medical practitioners in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such unqualified medical practitioners detected and punished during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide proper medical facilities in rural and remote areas so that the rural masses do not remain dependent on quacks and unregistered medical practitioners for healthcare and treatments?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): So far as modern system of Allopathic Medicine is concerned, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, prohibits a person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State. Punishment of imprisonment or a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to Rs.1,000/- or both is also prescribed. For Indian systems of medicine, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970, provides that no person other than a practitioner of Indian medicine who possesses a recognized medical qualification and is enrolled on a State Register or the Central Register of Indian Medicine shall practice in Indian medicine in any State. Action against the quacks and fake doctors is taken under the relevant act by the States from time to time and no data on the subject is maintained at the Central level.

(d): In order to encourage the doctors working in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India, with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide –

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.