

**Title:** Need to open a Centrally-sponsored Medical College at Murshidabad district in West Bengal.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (MURSHIDABAD): Sir, the district of Murshidabad in the State of West Bengal is unique for its demographic features. About 63 per cent of the population of the district belongs to minority community. Over the last 50 years, since Independence, a young and aspirant middle class has developed amongst the minority community with the spread of education and culture in the district.

Now, quite naturally, there is an ever-growing demand for higher education amongst the youth in the district, particularly those belonging to the minority community. But, there is no scope for pursuing medical education as the medical colleges in the State are too few in number and most of them are located at a considerable distance from the district. The demand for professional education, like medical education, is so strong that it warrants efforts on the part of the Government to set up one Centrally-sponsored medical college in Murshidabad. If the Government comes forward with such a proposal, the people of the district would surely respond with great enthusiasm and support in all possible ways.

The Government is, therefore, urged upon to explore the potential of such a venture in terms of existing infrastructure, local resources available and, most important of all, opening up of avenues for fulfilment of aspirations of a community - long denied of opportunities - for developing their skill.