

Title: Request the Government to reduce the bank guarantee for hospital beds for setting up the new medical colleges.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, expansion of medical education in the country is the need of the hour. There is a huge shortage of doctors in the country. Doctors are reluctant to go and serve in villages. Villagers are suffering because of lack of medical facilities. The Government should give a thrust to medical field by expanding medical education.

Private parties are coming forward to set up medical colleges. However, the guidelines for setting up of medical colleges are very stringent. The guidelines say that a medical college should have at least 25 acres of land in its possession, it should set up a 300 bedded hospital, and that it should provide a bank guarantee for an amount of Rs.3 crore. These guidelines need to be amended. I would suggest that the amount of bank guarantee be reduced to Rs.1 crore, the number of beds in the hospital be reduced to 100, and that the new medical colleges be exempted from setting up a hospital for the first two years.

Sir, since the hon. Minister of Health is sitting here, I would request him to please respond to this.