

Title: Regarding need to set up a Post graduate Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre at Jalandhar, Punjab-Laid.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (JALANDHAR): At present, there is only one Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre known as PGI at Chandigarh, which is providing medical facilities to the people of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Western U.P., Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandigarh. PGI Chandigarh hardly meets the dire and immediate needs of the people of these areas and is breaking down under tremendous load it is carrying.

Jalandhar is located in the heart of Punjab and is the best location for setting up an institution like PGI in association with the local Medical College. This will be convenient to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana; and would reduce the pressure at PGI Chandigarh, besides lead time for patients suffering from accidents, epidemic and disasters would be reduced.

The Government has already cleared the proposal for setting up six AIIMS like hospitals in the States of Bihar, Orissa, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Apart from this, the Expenditure Finance Committee has also given clearance to invest Rs.120 crores in one hospital each in six States to upgrade them to the level of AIIMS. These States are Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Jharkhand. But unfortunately Punjab is nowhere in picture.

It is requested that one such facility be also approved for Punjab based at Jalandhar. With the setting up of a Green Field International Airport between Jalandhar and Ludhiana, there is a Rs. 10,000 crores market for medical outsourcing.