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Title: Need to set up new medical colleges in the Government sector to overcome the shortage of doctors in the country.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Non-availability of doctors has a direct relationship to the number of medical colleges in a State vis-a-vis requirement as per population norm. As per the report of National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Gujarat have a large number of Medical colleges while Orissa and some other States does not have adequate no. of such colleges. Private Medical Colleges charge very high fee which becomes economically non-viable for the doctors passing out from such institutes to join government services. So, such institutions are not the solution. Government should have targeted plan to encourage establishment of new medical colleges fully in the Government sector with State and Centre on fund sharing basis.

As there is huge shortage of doctors, it would be perhaps appropriate for Medical Council of India to introduce certain courses for a shorter period, so that diploma courses for primary level of health services can be introduced in the country to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas. Criteria of number of Auxiliary Nurses, Mid-wife for 3000 population is rather high particularly for tribal districts which needs to have more number of sub-centres.