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Title: Regarding reported non-grant of Central Government permission for renewal of seats of 3<sup>rd</sup> year BDS course of Dental Wing, SCB Dental College and Hospital, Cuttack.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you, Madam, for allowing me to raise this important issue at a time when the hon. Health Minister is present in this House.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the issue of non-grant of Central Government permission for renewal of third-year BDS course in the Dental Wing of the Sriram Chandra Bhanj (SCB) Dental College and Hospital, Cuttack.

The seats for the third-year BDS course in the Dental Wing of the SCB Dental College and Hospital, Cuttack, which was already granted, has been reduced this year by 30 seats. The Dental Council of India has given four reasons for reducing it, and the Government is insisting on it. One reason that is given is that adequate floor space is not there. How much is their requirement? The requirement is 50, 000 square feet of space, and already 30,000 square feet of space is there. Another 20 square feet of space is under construction, and it will be completed by the Month of November.

But citing that example, the enhancement of seats is being stopped. Second is relating to the purchase of dental chairs. We need 100 dental chairs – already 50 dental chairs are there 40 are in the process of procurement, already allotment is there, and it is going to be available in the month of October. But still citing that example that this shortage is there, seats are not being given. Third is adequate posts are not there. The Government has already sanctioned the posts, and the Public Service Commission is going to recruit the personnel, and it is going to be done within this academic year. There is hardly any problem in that. The fourth is about adequate and sufficient library material, which is required. That is in the process, and the Government of Orissa has assured the Central Government. The Secretary of Health and Family Welfare has written to the Government of India.

The larger question is without giving a hearing to the Principal of the Dental College, this decision has been taken. A letter was sent that he should be present here and that letter was received later. I would urge upon the Government to please consider it. Do not play with the lives of the students of the dental college of SCB Medical College and Hospital. I would like to get a response from the Minister. The State Government and I have appraised the Government. Please respond to it. It would be helpful.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (BHADRAK): I associate myself with whatever he has stated.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your name to the Table.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Madam, the hon. Minister is here. Please allow the hon. Minister, if he is willing to say something. I request the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, to respond to the queries which were raised.

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon. Minister wants to respond, please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Let me tell this House that we do not interfere in the working of MCI, which was there earlier, and now with the Board of Governors, at any stage. We have not recommended even a single case. I would also like to inform the hon. House about a dental college in Jammu which was having some deficiencies which were brought to my notice when I was the Chief Minister. It is almost three years since then and at that time we were assured that they would fill up the gaps which were there. Till date they have not done that. This time the Dental Council recommended the de-recognition of that college and as Minister I have signed that.

I wanted to set an example. If we want education, it should not be mere education, but it has to be quality education. Sometimes, the State Governments come to MCI or the Board of Governors or the Government of India saying that it is under Government control. I think it is the responsibility of the Government to provide quality education and to create infrastructure and full faculty. It is much more important because if the Governments cannot provide the faculty and infrastructure, how can the Medical Council or the Dental Council blame the private sector? Persistently and continuously, whether it is the medical colleges or Government colleges of my State or Orissa, or for that matter any State, they cannot ask for concessions under the garb that they are run by the Government. It means the Government itself is not providing quality education.

Whatever the hon. Member has said, he raised four or five points, the Medical Council will not go by the Government's

promise that they will conduct the elections, they will go to the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Commission will appoint, I think these things are common. It is not only for you, even in case of my State also, instead of taking concession every time, we should build the infrastructure and appoint the faculty.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The work is in process and the Government has written a letter. The Under Secretary has written a letter.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you can meet the hon. Minister later. Maybe, the hon. Minister should invite the hon. Member to his office and discuss the matter. On this issue, Shri Kailash N. Singh Deo and

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi are allowed to associate.