

Title: Need to restore 150 MBBS Course seats in the Calcutta Medical College, as it is reduced by the Medical Council of India to 100.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was trying to draw your attention to a very disturbing news item appeared in today's The Hindustan Times about the Calcutta Medical College.

As we all know, the Calcutta Medical College is the oldest medical college in this country and has been the premiere institution in Asia. The Hindustan Times of today says that the Medical Council of India has drastically reduced the number of seats in the MBBS course from 155 to 100. I have been an educationist all my life. I can tell you that this will be a great blow to the medical students in West Bengal, in eastern States and all the North-Eastern States. Why has this happened? I cannot really blame the Medical Council of India. They have given three warnings in 1993, 1997 and 1998 to the State Health Department and to the State Education Department that if they do not do anything or if they do not rectify the deficiencies, they will take some drastic action. The Medical College was going down; the buildings are collapsing; there was no infrastructure, no equipment and no teaching.

I rise today to call the attention of the House, through you, that education is in the Concurrent List. The HRD Minister is present in the House. I would ask him to advise our West Bengal Government, the State Health authority and the State educational authority to do something so that the Medical College of Calcutta gets back its pride.

I would also request the Medical Council of India to give us back 150 MBBS seats that we originally had. This is my submission. Thank you.