

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to take to correct the imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b). As per information available from the States/UTs, 21006 Medical Officers including Specialists are working in the rural areas of the country under the Government set up, serving an average rural population of 28,200 approximately.

Over and above these Medical Officers under State Government/U.T.s, there are other Private medical Practitioners serving the rural areas, including Medical Practitioners of I.S.M. Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani and Sidha Systems.

The State Governments have been urged to fill up the vacant post of Medical Officers in the rural area besides establishing more primary Health Centres so as to reach the norm of one PHC FOR 30,000 population in general areas and 20,000 population in tribal and hilly areas.

Unrecognised Medical Colleges

6559. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of medical colleges in the country which have not been recognised by the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether Government are aware that the students in many of these colleges are facing lot of difficulties because of these colleges running without recognition of the medical college; and

(d) the steps Government propose to

take to stop this kind of practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b). The recognition of medical qualifications granted by the universities or medical institutions to which the medical colleges are affiliated, is done by the Central Government. Medical Council of India however conducts inspections of the medical colleges to ensure that they are complying with the minimum standards laid down by it. The Medical Council if necessary can make a representation to the Central Government for derecognition of particular college under the IMC Act, 1956. According to the Medical Council of India, some medical colleges do not fully conform to the requirements.

(c) The students have joined these medical colleges knowing fully well that these colleges did not fulfil the minimum requirements laid down by the Medical Council of India. However, since the medical degrees of the universities, to which these colleges are affiliated, are recognised, there is no difficulty for the candidates of these colleges getting the degree or practising profession in the State concerned.

(d) The Government have already informed the various State Government that they should not establish new medical colleges in the light of the large scale availability of qualified medical practitioners in the country. The Central Council of health and Family Welfare has also been passing resolutions advising the State Government against the establishment of new medical colleges in the country. A bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act is already before Parliament in which a provision is proposed for getting the prior permission of the Medical Council of India and the Government of India before establishing new medical colleges.