

(a) whether ICMR has recently prepared guidelines on Good Clinical Laboratory Practices for laboratories engaged, in medical research as well as those catering to patient care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of laboratories engaged in medical research are not providing right reports resulting in wrong treatment of patients; and

(d) if so, the manner in which such a control would be exercised by Government on such diagnostic and pathological laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ICMR has recently prepared Guidelines on Good Clinical Laboratory Practices (GCLP) for laboratories engaged in medical research as well as those catering to patient care. Generation of laboratory results is a teamwork involving patient preparation, collection of sample and its processing, analysis, reporting of results and its transmission to the researcher/treating doctor and patient. To minimize errors, laboratories should follow laid down procedures at all times. GCLP guidelines elucidate these stepwise procedures which can be adopted by laboratories engaged in research as well as patient care. The guidelines can be accessed from ICMR website [www.icmr.nic.in](http://www.icmr.nic.in)

(c) and (d) There is no data on number of laboratories engaged in medical research which are not providing right reports resulting in wrong treatment of patients in India. However, published reports indicate the need for taking measures for detecting and preventing errors in laboratories. These include laying down rules and responsibilities and following them, conducting internal quality control procedures and external quality assurance programmes.

In India, laboratories can volunteer for accreditation of one or more services offered by them. The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has been providing accreditations services to medical laboratories since 1998 and is currently following ISO 15189: 2007 standards.

#### **Opening of new medical colleges**

636. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to relax the rules for opening new medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of proposals for new medical colleges pending for clearance with Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to clear the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government has conveyed its decision to the Medical Council of India (MCI) to revise the norms prescribed for opening of new medical colleges in MCI

Regulations on Minimum Standard Requirement for Medical colleges for 50/100/150 MBBS Admission Annually. Relaxations have been given in the norms for land requirement criteria for campus, bed strength, indoor occupancy for opening of medical colleges in the States where National Rural Health Mission is operational, North Eastern States, Hill States and Hilly districts in other States. For opening of new Medical Colleges in these areas the total land requirement will be 20 acres in not more than two pieces of land separated by a distance of 15 k.m. as against 25 acres prescribed for other parts of the country. The land separated by a road or canal connected with a bridge shall be treated as one piece of land for opening of Medical Colleges. The criteria relating to bed strength in the teaching hospitals at the time of starting Medical College has been revised to 250 beds as against the 300 beds prescribe for other parts of the country. The criteria for indoor bed occupancy in these areas has been revised to 60%. This will help in opening of new medical colleges in unserved and under-served areas of the country and also increase the number of medical colleges as well as production of doctors in the country. The Ministry has sent 68 proposals for establishment of new medical colleges during the year 2009-10, for their technical evaluation and recommendation as per the provisions of the Medical Council of India (MCI) Regulations. As per the time schedule prescribed in the MCI regulations the last date for grant of permission by Central Government is 115th July of each year.

#### **Mental healthcare facilities**

637. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7 per cent Indians or around 7 crore people in the country suffer from mental disorder in one or the other form, but the healthcare facilities are woefully inadequate;

(b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has taken up this serious issue with the Medical Council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to address this concern?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to a recent survey conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), the prevalence of mental disorders in the country is about 7% of the population. Close to 3% of the population need active treatment. Unlike in the past, effective medications have reduced the need for admission and facilitating patients to get back to their normal schedule first. Apart from 43 Govt. Mental Health Institutes, Psychiatric Wings of all Medical Colleges and General Hospitals provide treatment facilities for mentally ill patients.

There is, however, shortage of psychiatrists and mental health professionals in the country.

(b) and (c) Following the discussion held under the auspices of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that Medical Council of India (MCI) would create more awareness among medical colleges to take up Postgraduate course in Psychiatry to cover the shortage of manpower in the field, the NHRC had asked the MCI to indicate the steps being taken by it to increase the number