

those students from attending higher classes who have supplementaries in more than one subject with a view to protect the interests of the students belonging to SC/ST and other backward classes, vulnerable and women sections of the society; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) A few representations have been received by the DCI in this regard. The BDS Course Regulations framed under the Dentists Act, 1948, *inter-alia*, envisage that any candidate who fails in one subject in a BDS examination is permitted to go to the next higher class and appear for the subject and complete it successfully before he is permitted to appear for the next higher examination of BDS Course. This concession has been given to all the candidates including SC/ST and other Backward Classes. The DCI on 31.12.2008 issued detailed instructions in this regard to all the dental colleges and the universities to which the dental institutions are affiliated to follow this provision of the Regulations strictly for maintaining the highest standard of dental education.

Change of curriculum in BDS and MDS programmes

788. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the catastrophic changes made by Dental Council of India (DCI) during the last four years in BDS and MDS programmes/ curriculum aimed at promoting the financial interests of private dental colleges has come in for strong criticism in prominent press sections and the concerned quarters;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the remedial action taken by Government to protect the interests of the students community particularly belonging to poor and weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The BDS and MDS Course Regulations framed in 1983 have been revised in 2007 incorporating some new subjects in dentistry in consultation with the State / U.T. Governments and other dental experts to bring them at par with the international standard. The duration of BDS course is now 5 years integrated course. Dental Council of India has instructed all States / universities in the country to phase out four years tuition fees into five years to avoid financial burden on students.

Reducing of child mortality rate

789. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken, if any, during the last five years aimed at reducing the child mortality rate in the rural and urban areas respectively indicating volume of fund allocated for the purpose, year-wise;

(b) whether Government has also put in place adequate mechanism for monitoring implementations therefor;