

Special Identity Numbers for CGHS beneficiaries

†2832. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Special Identity Numbers (National Unique Identity Card) are being provided to employees covered under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and their family members so that their complete record can be made available at the time of treatment and the same test could not be done repeatedly;
- (b) whether Indian Association for Medical Informatics (AMI) has demanded to give Special Identity Numbers to the patients too so that they could get rid off tension of keeping and losing records apart from getting the same test done again and again; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) CGHS Delhi is now issuing individual plastic cards to its beneficiaries in Delhi with a distinct beneficiary identity number (Benid). Individual plastic cards will be issued to all eligible dependent family member of the Central Government Servant/Central Government Pensioner entitled to CGHS facility. As a result of computerisation of CGHS, medical records of all CGHS beneficiaries are available to the CGHS.

Prevention of bio-piracy in the country

†2833. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has developed a digital library database of traditional knowledge of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has signed an agreement with European Patent Office to establish a mechanism to prevent biopiracy in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent by which this library would be able to prevent piracy of patents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

- (b) A Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is being created based on the codified knowledge on Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga with the objective of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

preventing misappropriation of Traditional Medical Knowledge at the International Patent Offices. TKDL establishes 'prior art' for approximately 2.08 lakh AYUSH formulations transcribed in five international languages which are English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese and prevents the grant of wrong patents at the International Patent Offices.

(c) Yes.

(d) On 12th February 2009, TKDL Access Agreement was signed with the European Patent Office (EPO), making TKDL database available to their Patent Examiners (EPO having 35 member states) for establishing 'prior art', in case of patent applications based on Indian systems of medicine.

(e) So far, EPO has set aside its intention to grant patent in two cases based on TKDL evidence and in four cases applicants themselves have withdrawn 4-5 years old patent applications on the basis of TKDL evidence and EPO has cited TKDL evidence in 30 more cases. Therefore, TKDL has proved its efficacy in preventing piracy of Indian Traditional medicinal system at EPO.

Changes in policies on medical education

2834. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to bring about changes in policies relating to medical education like reviewing the Medical Council of India's norms on opening of private medical institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (c) Medical Council of India Regulations, namely (i) Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997, (ii) Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations 2000, (iii) Minimum Qualifications for Teachers in Medical Institutions Regulations, 1998 and (iv) Minimum Standard Requirement for the Medical College for 50/100/150 Admissions Annually 1999 have been reviewed and amended with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio, undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, minimum qualification of medical teachers etc.

Facilities for geriatric care

2835. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government hospitals have earmarked facilities for geriatric patients as per provision for medical care of senior citizen under existing law;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether every district hospital of Assam is duly headed by the medical officer with experience in geriatric care; and