

(c) the details of actions taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A news item published in the newspaper Hindustan Times dated 2nd March 2005 reported that the number of tobacco users among the teenagers in metros has almost doubled since 2001. The said study was not commissioned by the Government and details of the report are not available.

(c) While information, educational and communication activities are undertaken from time to time through print, electronic and other media, the Government in order to discourage the consumption of Tobacco Products has enacted the "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" banning smoking in public places including educational institutions; sale of tobacco products to minors; and sale around educational institutions specially to protect the health of children and youth. The State Governments, which are the main implementing agencies, have been requested to put in place appropriate mechanisms for proper enforcement.

Upgradation of Medical College in Kolkata

3112. SHRI MUKUL ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Medical College Hospital in Kolkata to the standard of the AIIMS in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the present status of the proposal; and

(c) whether the upgraded institution would be under the control of the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been

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decided to upgrade Govt. Medical College, Kolkata with a capital outlay of Rs. 120 Crores (approx.), of which the Central Government will invest Rs. 100 Crores as one time measure and remaining Rs. 20 crores will be borne by the State Government, which will also meet expenditure on manpower and maintenance. Necessary assessment report and gap analysis of the institution for preparation of project report, is being carried out. The management of the medical college institution will continue to remain with the State Government.

Medical colleges in scheduled areas

3113. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many medical colleges have been started in scheduled areas of Central India, such as Gumla, Jasspur, Simdega, Sarguja, Dhumka, Palamu and Hazaribagh district of Chhattisgarh/Jharkhand States; and

(b) whether Government have any special plans to encourage private sector companies to start medical colleges by giving infrastructure and financial incentives in these Scheduled areas as these centres can function as growth centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Central Government is permitting opening of new medical colleges under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations made thereunder. Any person fulfilling the qualifying criteria prescribed in the MCI Regulations can apply to the Central Government for permission. The essentiality and feasibility of having a medical college at a particular place is to be decided by the concerned State/UT Governments. No proposal for starting new medical college at Gumla, Jasspur, Simdega, Sarguja, Dhumka, Palamu and Hazaribagh district of Chhattisgarh/Jharkhand States has been received. However, in Chhattisgarh, Medical Colleges are located at Raipur, Bilaspur and