

**Physiotherapy Council**

\*144. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:†  
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a Physiotherapy Council;

(b) if so, the details including the courses incorporated under the purview of the proposed Physiotherapy Council;

(c) whether the class-I Physiotherapy course recognized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare O.M. No. 2867/61/MI/MPT dated 30th December, 1964 and record office of Army Medical Corps instruction No. 91 dated 6th September, 1976 is also incorporated under the purview of the proposed Physiotherapy Council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, whether Army Medical Corps will be consulted before finalizing the form of the Physiotherapy Council?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

Government is in the process of introducing a Paramedical and Physiotherapy Councils Bill with a view to establishing the following Councils for regulating the education and profession in the respective disciplines:

(i) Physiotherapy Council;

(ii) Medical Laboratory Technicians Council; and

(iii) Radiology Technicians Council.

The Physiotherapy Council will also deal with Occupational Therapy.

Adequate provisions have been made in the proposed Bill for protecting the interests of the existing qualified professionals including any courses recognized by this Ministry earlier in the respective fields including physiotherapy.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. Vijayaraghavan.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: This is a serious issue. Now-a-days, the physiotherapy institutes are mushrooming, especially in the Southern India. They conduct right from the certificate courses to the post-graduate courses. They are even conducting postal courses. But they do not provide sufficient training. After minting a lot of money, they have made a cartel also. Now, they want to control the entire system. So, I would like to know how the hon. Minister is going to make the quality education available in this field. Are you going to control the mushrooming of such institutes? Do you have a mechanism to check what they are doing? What is your approach towards these kinds of institutions?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I understand the concern of the hon. Member. Shortly, we are going to introduce a Bill, the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill, in Parliament with a view to regulate the educational as well as professional sectors, where all these paramedical persons are involved. The concern of the hon. Member will be addressed in the proposed Council.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, there are professionally trained people. They are not going into these institutions. They are in the Army service. They had about 44 months' training in the Army. And, they are practising and providing services in the medical colleges, etc. They do not come under the purview of this Bill. After this Bill, all these fake degree and diploma holders will begin to practise. And, those who have been in the Army service, and had undergone 44 months' training, will be out of the service. So, this thing has also to be ensured. The trained people should get a chance to practice and the quality should be ensured. So, what be your approach towards the Army personnel, who have been trained properly?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I need your guidance on this issue. The Paramedical and Physiotherapy Council Bill has already been passed in the Cabinet. It is supposed to be introduced in Parliament. At that point of time, we are going to have a lot of deliberations. At this time, I am not in a position to make any recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Bill come.

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Sir, I would like to seek clarification on one aspect from the hon. Minister. This is a long-pending issue, that is, for almost last three decades. While we are contemplating the idea of

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forming the Council, is there any court verdict, which is standing in the way of the formation of this Council because there are some professional disputes, like, the certification question, qualification question, etc.?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already answered this issue. It is going to be submitted as it has been passed by the Cabinet. I don't foresee any other circumstance where this is going to be checked because very soon it is going to be introduced.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHING: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Minister that in my State we have hundreds of Herbalists and also Physiotherapists who may not be professionally trained, but who have learned through hundreds of years of experience. The hon. President of India had very kindly invited 20 of them to the Rashtrapati Bhawan. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Health Ministry has involved any of them in the formation of this Council and other Councils because this is part of our ancient culture, and is part of Ayurvedic medicine in India?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Pertaining to ayurvedic medicine, I want to say that it does not come under this Council; it comes under the other Ayurvedic Council. And, Sir, I would like to state that in the proposed Bill, protection is given to the existing professionals and they would also be involved in the coming Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether ayurvedic...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. There is no need to give any reply.

#### **Cost of production of medicines**

†\*145. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it compulsory for pharmaceutical companies to print the cost of production of medicines on each and every medicine pack;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

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†Question Nos. 145 and 146 were taken together.