

As far as grant or denial of permission to the existing Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani colleges for conducting under graduate courses is concerned, except for the requirement of land, all other basic criteria as mentioned above i.e. related with requirement of teachers, number of beds in hospital and average daily attendance of patients in OPD and IPD, are being followed.

This Ministry is not aware of any order(s) of Hon'ble Supreme Court with respect to the standards for recognition of medical colleges in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine.

(b) and (c) No. As the minimum standards requirements for the infrastructure for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) Colleges have not yet been notified, the question of relaxation of the norms does not arise. The Central Government in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been deciding the question of grant or denial of permission for fresh admission to the existing medical colleges for conducting Under Graduate courses on the basis of basic parameters of infrastructure, which have been followed since 2008-09 in consultation with the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) as given above at para (a).

(d) to (f) In view of the reply to parts (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

Shortage of female doctors

709. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is facing acute shortage of female doctors;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to shortage of female doctors, many health plans of Government have been affected;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being proposed by Government to meet this dire shortage of female doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (d) The doctor-population ratio in the country is low. As per Rural Health Statistics 2009, a total of 2710 PHCs out of 23391 are functioning with lady doctors across the

country. Besides, there are female doctors working as Specialists in CHCs, General Duty Medical Officers, etc. The Central Government has already initiated the following measures to facilitate setting up of medical colleges to increase number of doctors/specialists in the country:

- 1) Requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/bed strength, other infrastructure, etc. has been relaxed.
- 2) Maximum intake capacity at MBBS level, has been increased from 150 to 250.
- 3) Maximum age for appointment of faculty has been enhanced from 65 to 70 Years.
- 4) DNB qualifications have been recognized for appointment to various faculty positions.
- 5) Teacher - student ratio has been relaxed to increase the seats at Postgraduate level.
- 6) The Central Government under the scheme of 'Strengthening and Upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges' is providing financial support to State medical colleges to increase postgraduate seats in various disciplines or start new postgraduate medical courses.
- 7) Financial support is also provided under NRHM for engagement of staff on contractual basis.
- 8) Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, General MBBS doctors are trained in Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) to multiskill them in order to meet the shortage of gynaecologists.

Study on epidemiology of diseases

710. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any study of epidemiology to ascertain the causes, distribution and control of diseases including mental and physical disorder in the population across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome thereof;