

the harmful effect of tobacco use. The Communications have also been addressed to the State Officials (Chief Secretary/Health Secretary/Transport Commissioners/Director General of Police/Finance Secretary/Secretary, Panchayati Raj) to sensitize them about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and request them to ensure effective compliance of the provisions under Tobacco Control Act (COTPA), 2003.

Ministry proposes to expand the coverage of a modified NTCP to all the districts of India in a phased manner during the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

#### **Improvement in rural health conditions**

3519. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has given some specific suggestions to Government on 26 November, 2011 for improvement of rural health conditions; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Central Government has already taken various measures improvement in the rural health scenario which include: -

- (i) Providing financial support for engagement of staff on contractual basis under National Rural Health Mission.
- (ii) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, such Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult areas.
- (iii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.
- (iv) To have more medical colleges where population/medical college ratio is low, it was decided to relax land requirement and other conditions. This will help in opening of medical colleges in 8 States *viz.* Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.