

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the district hospitals identified and criteria adopted for the purpose, State/UT-wise;

(c) the funds earmarked and allocated for the purpose, State/UT-wise; and

(d) the time by when all the district hospitals are likely to be upgraded to medical colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) There is a proposal in the Twelfth plan to support establishment of new medical colleges in some districts of underserved states by upgrading existing district hospitals. Opening of the new medical colleges and funds to be released for these medical colleges will depend *inter alia* on the plan allocation and priorities finalized.

Odiya language for All India Medical Entrance Test

2700. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has already allowed language other than English and Hindi in the All India Medical Entrance Test; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider allowing Odiya students to appear in the All India Medical Entrance Test, to be conducted by CBSE, in Odiya language?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is conducting National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses in six regional languages, viz. Gujarati, Bengali, Tamil, Marathi, Telugu and Assamese in addition to Hindi and English.

(b) It has been decided to conduct NEET-UG only in those regional languages in which the State Governments were conducting the State level Medical Entrance Examinations in regional languages prior to NEET. Since the State Government of Odisha was not conducting Medical Entrance examination in Odiya language, the same has not been selected as a language for conducting NEET-UG, 2013.