

5 villages *i.e.* Reddi, Korma, Kamkanar, Kaika and Palnar of Bijapur district. In Bijapur district there is one District Hospital, 05 CHC, 12 PHC and 86 SHC through which health services are provided to the people of the district.

(c) Public health being a State subject, the state govt. of Chhatisgarh is responsible for providing health services within the state. The Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the entire country to support states to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services, particularly to rural populations.

Government of India has approved the following incentives to encourage doctors to serve in remote and difficult areas:

- (i) 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; and
- (ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas up to the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(d) to (f) Public health being a state subject, any coordination in this regard is done at state level.

Screening text for doctors with foreign degrees

2418. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of doctors who completed their medical degrees abroad are failing to clear the mandatory screening test that allows them to practice in India and only 21 per cent students who received foreign medical degrees and appeared in the screening test qualified this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has received representations requesting to review the existing system of screening test; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) As per information provided by National Board of Examinations (NBE) which conducts the Screening Test, 14476 doctors who completed their medical degrees abroad appeared for the Screening Test during the year 2012 out of which 3150 candidates *i.e.* 21.76% qualified the test.

The Government has received few representations regarding review of the existing system of screening test.

The Screening Test has been introduced in accordance with the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 notified by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in order to ascertain that citizens of India obtaining medical qualification from universities or medical institutions outside India have acquired adequate knowledge and skill as per norms of MCI. Further, the Supreme Court of India in its Judgement dated 16.11.2004 in the matter of Sanjeev Gupta *versus* MCI has upheld Screening Test Regulations as well as the scheme of examination. As such, the Government is not considering to review system of Screening Test at present.

New medical colleges in Gujarat

2419. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 4259 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15 May, 2012 and state:

(a) whether permission for establishment of 3 new medical colleges and increase in No. of seats in MBBS courses in 3 existing colleges in Gujarat for the academic year 2012-13 has been accorded approval by the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Medical Council of India has granted permission for establishment of 3 new medical colleges and permitted for increase of MBBS seats in existing 2 medical colleges in Gujarat for the academic year 2012-13. The details of the colleges granted permission is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) Out of the 3 applications received for increase of MBBS seats in existing medical colleges, permission has not been granted to SBKS medical colleges,