

Demand to set up a state medical college in Meghalaya

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I rise to reiterate the long-standing demand of the State of Meghalaya for establishment of a new medical college in Tura (Garo Hills), Meghalaya in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Commission on Macro Economics in Health (NCMH) set up to address the shortage of medical professionals in the country.

The Planning Commission's document for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has initially proposed for establishment of 60 medical colleges in deficit States under the PPP model.

Being a hilly terrain with poor road connectivity in rural areas, Meghalaya has been identified as a deficit State by the NCMH with its healthcare indices well below the national average. The national level medical institution NEIGRIHMS established in 2008 at Shillong has a low intake of 50 students for MBBS with a meagre nine seats for domiciles in Meghalaya. This is far too less to meet the growing need of doctors in the State.

The Government of Meghalaya has committed to allot 100 acres of land at Tura with supporting infrastructural amenities. The total capital outlay for the project is worked out at Rs.160 crores including the cost of setting up of a dedicated hospital with hostels and faculty/staff accommodation wing.

Considering that this project will provide a long-denied opportunity to tribal students from Meghalaya to enter the mainstream medical profession for serving the ailing humanity, I urge the Centre to respond to this demand magnanimously.

Demand to include the Rajasthani language in

Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

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