

(c) The Hon'ble Apex Court *vide* its judgement dated 18.07.2013 in NEET related cases quashed the implementation of NEET. The Central Government filed a petition before the Hon'ble Apex Court to review its decision. As such, the matter is sub-judice.

#### **Emphasis on health in rural districts**

2087. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that special emphasis is required on health in rural districts;
- (b) if so, whether there is any special scheme for rural districts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The health indicators like Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio, Total Fertility Rate, Malnutrition amongst children etc. of rural areas are poor in comparison to urban areas. Therefore, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in 2005 to support the States/UTs to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable 'groups. Public health being a state subject, under NRHM, financial support is provided to states to strengthen their healthcare delivery system based on the requirements projected by them in their Programme Implementation Plans. Support is provided for setting up or upgradation/renovation of public health facilities, augmentation of Human Resources, Drugs and Equipment etc. Support is also provided for various free services such as immunization, family planning services, maternal and child healthcare services including those under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, screening of children up to eighteen years for Disease, Deficiency, Defects and Developmental Delays including Disability and medical follow up including treatment up to tertiary level under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram for adolescent health, emergency patient transport and referral services, free diagnosis and treatment for communicable diseases like TB, Leprosy and Vector Borne diseases like Malaria, and HIV/AIDS.