

For PG courses the details of proposals received by MGI during the last three academic years are as follows:

Academic Year	Total proposal received	Accepted for assessment	Rejected for non - fulfilment of the eligibility criteria	No. of seats permitted/ increased
2012-13	5	5	0	14
2013-14	50	10	40	13
2014-15	58	40	18	0

Further, this Ministry has also received proposal from North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong, an autonomous body under this Ministry, for starting of Post Graduate and Super specialty courses in some disciplines but the proposal, when examined with reference to Medical Council of India's norms, has been found to be inadequate.

#### **Stringent checks for pesticides in fruits and vegetables**

2567. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Government Panel constituted by Government has recommended stringent checks for preventing use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables including those imported from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the panel has asked the Health Ministry for strict monitoring on use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has already started the monitoring process; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) In pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (C) No. 7495/2010-Court on its own motion *V/S.* Union of India, the

Central Government constituted a Committee of technical experts for framing a policy for periodic checks to detect pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables. The Committee has submitted its report to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on 28.5.2013.

(e) and (f) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a circular to all the Principal Secretary (Health) and Food Safety Commissioners of all States and UTs on the need of periodic inspections and monitoring of major fruits and vegetable markets, soft drink and ready-to-serve beverages w.r.t. directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter-Writ Petition No. 681 of 2004-Centre for Public Interest Litigation vs. Union of India dated 22nd October, 2013.

Presence of pesticide residues beyond the prescribed levels in fruits and vegetable is to be treated as a violation of condition laid out under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011, attracting penal action under the Act. Enforcement of the provision of the Act and Regulations, is primarily the responsibility of States/UTs. Random samples of food items are drawn by the State Food Safety Officers for testing. These are analysed by the designated food testing laboratories. Penal action is taken against offenders in case the samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the above Regulations.

#### **PHCs in Uttar Pradesh**

2568. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) functioning in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.), block-wise;

(b) whether Government has proposed to enhance the facilities of these PHCs in the current five-year plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) Public Health is a State subject. However, Under National Health Mission (NHM), financial support is provided to State/UTs to strengthen their health care system including for strengthening of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), based on the proposals of the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).