

(b) the proposals received for setting up institutions and the criteria for approval thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the status of implementation of new regulations for upgradation and modernisation of AIIMS situated in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) Under first phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), six new AIIMS are being set up at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Rishikesh (Uttarakhand). First batch (50 in number) and second batch (100 in number) of MBBS students were admitted at each of the six new AIIMS during 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. First batch of B. Sc. Nursing students (60 in number) have also been admitted at each six new AIIMS during 2013-14. Admission process for admission of next batches of MBBS and B.Sc Nursing students in the current academic year is in progress. Outdoor Patient Department services are functional at each of the six new AIIMS. Indoor Patient Department services to cater to teaching of MBBS students are functional at five new AIIMS. Work for construction of housing complex is in progress.

(b) The Central Government had earlier received request from Governments of Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Maharashtra for setting up AIIMS in these States. The Central Government has plans to set up AIIMS in each State. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has requested Chief Ministers of various States for identifying appropriate land for setting up of AIIMS.

(c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was established under AIIMS Act, 1956. Subsequently, AIIMS Rules and AIIMS Regulations were notified in 1958 and 1999 respectively. These Rules and Regulations are operational.

New course in rural medicine and surgery

226. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared a proposal for introducing a new course in Rural Medicine and Surgery to get over the acute shortage of regular MBBS professionals willing to serve in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Medical Council of India has been assigned the regulatory functions for conducting this new course in medical education;

(d) whether there is resistance from vested interests like Indian Medical Association against introduction of this new course; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) Yes. The Cabinet had approved on 13.11.2013 for introduction of a course namely, Bachelor of Science (Community Health). The main objective of the proposed course is to create mid-level health professionals who would possess the necessary public health and ambulatory care competencies to serve the rural population and will primarily be deployed at Sub Centres. The curriculum of the course has been prepared after taking into consideration the views of various stakeholders. The proposal for B.Sc. (CH) has been prepared in consultation with MCI. The degree for the course will be awarded by the respective State Universities and it will be accredited by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) to ensure uniformity in the content and delivery of the course.

(d) and (e) A few associations including IMA have not welcomed the proposal. They have raised the following objections:

- (i) The course will produce substandard doctors who, due to compromised education and training at institutions with compromised infrastructure and teaching facilities, will be able to provide at best only compromised care to the rural masses.
- (ii) MCI stopped all Licentiate courses like LMP, LMS, LCPS, etc. created 2-years condensed course, then how can it contemplate a short term 3½ years course against its own charter.
- (iii) The course is going to produce half-baked inferior quality doctors who will lack confidence and credibility to lead the team of other health workers like Nurses having diploma (3½ years)/B.Sc. Nursing (4+1 years) or Pharmacist (4 years).

Diseases caused by arsenic pollution

†227. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a rapid increase in diseases caused by arsenic pollution;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to take any concrete steps with the help of foreign health experts for eradication of diseases caused by arsenic pollution; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.