

(b) Depiction of pictorial health warnings is an evidence based tool to create awareness about the serious and adverse health consequences of tobacco usage especially among youth, children and the illiterate. The notification issued by the Government on 15.10.2014 which specifies that the pictorial health warnings shall occupy 85% of the principal display area on both sides of tobacco product packages. This is expected to warn the users about the ill-effects of Tobacco use.

Complaints against MCI

1840. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that there are large number of complaints regarding functioning of Medical Council of India (MCI) in the past and also at present;
- (b) whether Government is planning to reconstitute/abolish MCI; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) A Group of Experts has been constituted to study the existing Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 and to look at the proposed amendments to the Act and also to make recommendations to the Government to make the Medical Council of India (MCI) modern and suited to the prevailing conditions.

Inadequate number of ambulances

1841. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the number of ambulances available to cater to the country's rural areas is only about half the required number of ambulances since the World Health Organisation prescribes that there should be at least one ambulance per 1,00,000 population in the plains, and one for every 70,000 population in hilly terrain or tribal areas;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the fact that absence of suitable transportation is one of the reasons for failing healthcare system even in places where basic health infrastructure exists;
- (c) whether Government proposes to make available the adequate number of ambulances; and