

enforce compulsory rural postings for doctors, before or after they have obtained an MBBS degree;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) At present, in order to encourage the doctors working in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India with the previous approval of Central Government, has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide:

- I. 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and
- II. Incentive at the rate of 10% the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult are as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(b) to (d) The proposal of Medical Council of India (MCI) to amend the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, which makes one year rural posting at a Public Health Centre (PHC) mandatory for a MBBS student to apply for admission in a PG course is not yet notified.

Upgradation of nursing schools

3437. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking special attention to improve the quantity and capacity of the General Nursing Midwifery (GNM) and Auxiliary Nursing and Midwifery (ANM) schools at all-India level;

(b) the financial implications at the present level of upgradation of nursing schools and colleges;

(c) the steps being taken for increasing the qualified faculty so as to improve the quality of nursing education as well as upgrade the knowledge and skills of nursing personnel in various specialty areas; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Strengthening/ Upgradation of Nursing Services (ANM/GNM)”, Government of India has approved 127 ANM and 137 GNM Schools in the country. Cost ceiling for ANM and GNM Schools are ₹ 5 crores and ₹ 10 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government and Indian Nursing Council (INC) which is the statutory body for regulating Nursing Education have taken steps to increase the qualified faculty so as to improve the quality of nursing education and skill sets which include:

- (i) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of “Development of Nursing Services”, Government of India is providing training programmes to Nurses in clinical specialty, education technology, and nursing administration.
- (ii) Student patient ratio has been relaxed from 1:5 to 1:3
- (iii) Relaxed norms for teaching faculty to start B.Sc. (N) Programme.
 - At least 2 M.Sc. (N) faculty to be available.
 - Qualification and Experience of the Nursing Teachers has been relaxed.
 - Sharing of teaching faculty for both Diploma and Graduate Programme.
- (iv) Age increased for Teaching Faculty up to 70 years.
- (v) Distance from nursing school to hospital has been relaxed from 15 km to 30 km. However, for hilly and tribal areas the maximum distance is 50 Km.

Study on health hazard posed by telecom towers

3438. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been carried out by Government to ascertain the health hazard posed by the numerous diesel-run telecom towers on humans and animals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any deaths of animals or humans have been reported due to telecom towers; and