

(b) Public Health being a State subject, under the National Health Mission, the Central Government provides financial support to States/UTs to strengthen their health systems including for engaging doctors on contractual basis based on the requirement posed by the States/UTs in their Programme Implementation Plans. Support is also provided for multi-skilling of doctors to overcome the shortage of specialists, mainstreaming of AYUSH etc. Other steps taken by the Central Government to encourage doctors to work in rural areas include:

- (i) Provision of financial support to State/UTs for providing additional incentives and higher remuneration to doctors/specialists to serve in such areas and improved accommodation arrangements so that they find it attractive to join public health facilities in such areas.
- (ii) To improve supply of doctors,
  - (a) norms have been relaxed for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, faculty, staff, bed/ bed strength and other infrastructure.
  - (b) maximum intake capacity at MBBS level has been increased from 150 to 250.
- (iii) To encourage doctors to serve in rural areas, Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 have been amended to provide-
  - (a) 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
  - (b) incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas up to the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has not initiated any proposal for creation of Indian Medical Service and as such no specific steps have been taken in this regard.

#### **Safety of female health workers at workplace**

294. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the workplace conditions of female health care workers in the country

is very poor and they are also reportedly subjected to discrimination and violence at their workplace;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by Government to alleviate the problems of nurses and female health workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (c) Public health being a State subject, administrative matters including working conditions of female health workers lie within the domain of the State Government. However, States have been asked to take necessary measures for enacting comprehensive legislation for improvement of their service conditions. States have also been requested to provide and ensure separate designated area/rest rooms for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) at all the designated delivery points with basic provisions for their safety, privacy and comfort and support is being provided to States under the National Health Mission for this purpose.

#### **Treatment by CGHS empanelled hospitals in emergency cases**

295. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that empanelled hospitals provide cashless services to pensioners only for the diseases for which they are empanelled, even during the emergencies;

(b) if so, the extant Rules and Regulations in this regard;

(c) whether Government plans to instruct all empanelled hospitals to provide cashless facilities to pensioners and other CGHS beneficiaries, irrespective of diseases for which they are empanelled during emergencies and shift the patients to other authorized hospital after first aid;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to check exploitation/looting of patients in emergencies by empanelled hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (d) Recently, the Government has amended the terms and conditions for empanelment of private hospital under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). Now, the hospitals are empanelled as a whole, meaning that all facilities