

**Establishment of Medical Colleges in Odisha's Kalahandi region**

\*162. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests for establishment of Medical Colleges in the undivided Kalahandi region of Odisha State have been received by the Ministry; and

(b) if so, the places where these Medical Colleges are sought to be established and the response of the Ministry to the requests from the Odisha State Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any proposal for establishment of new medical college in Odisha during the year 2015-16. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Establishment of New Medical Colleges attached with District/ Referral hospitals", Government has identified 58 district hospitals in 20 States/UTs for upgradation into medical colleges, including 5 district hospitals in Odisha, at Balasore, Bolangir, Koraput, Baripada and Puri. Government has approved establishment of new medical colleges in all the 5 district hospitals in the State. A sum of ₹ 35.00 crore has also been released so far by the Government to the State Government during the financial year 2014-15 for the purpose. As of now, there is, therefore, no scope for addition of any more Medical College in Odisha.

**Inclusion of tobacco products in GST**

\*163. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tobacco products including cigarettes, bidis and pan masala will be included in the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST);

(b) whether this will not lead to reduction of tax on these products which adversely affect the health of the people; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that States will lose their right to impose a punitive tax on these products?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) As per provisions of the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014 tobacco will be subjected to GST. The rate of duty to be charged on this product will be recommended by the GST Council as proposed in the Article 279A of the Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014.