

(d) if so, how can it be prudent without increasing the infrastructure in district hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The Central Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for "Establishment of Medical Colleges attached with existing District/Referral hospitals". In the first phase 58 districts have been identified. This initiative would result in increase of 5800 MBBS seats in the country.

Criteria for identification of districts under the scheme:

- (i) District Hospitals/Referral Hospital with bed strength of 200 or more.
- (ii) Districts where there is no medical college.
- (iii) Preference to underserved areas.

No districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been identified in the scheme.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Reduction in Ministry's budget**

1910. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether budgetary allocation of funds to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been reduced in the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what is the rationale behind it?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) The Central Government's budgetary allocation for the health sector for the year 2015-16 is ₹ 24549.00 crore as against ₹ 24400.00 crore in 2014-15 (RE).

In view of the acceptance of the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, it has been decided by Government to devolve significantly higher share of the net tax receipts to the States. The State Governments would now be in a much better position to provide the requisite outlay from their part. At the same time, adequate budgetary resources have been provided by the centre for the schemes to ensure that there is no problem in delivery of health care services.