

colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' seven districts namely Bharatpur, Dungarpur, Barmer, Alwar, Churu, Bhilwara and Pali have been identified in Rajasthan for establishment of new medical colleges in consultation with the State Government. The Detailed Project Reports (DPR) in respect of all districts except Alwar have been received and approved by this Ministry.

(b) An amount of ₹ 130.20 crore has been released to the State Government till March, 2016. As per the MoU signed with the State Government of Rajasthan, the State Government is responsible for framing the timelines for the project.

Overhauling of MCI

1084. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started work on a major overhaul of the Medical Council of India (MCI) as it looks to create more medical colleges and produce more doctors to cater to the growing healthcare need, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has set up a three-member committee to prepare a blue print to revamp the current set up, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) A Group of Experts (GoE) was constituted in July, 2014 to study the existing Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and to make recommendations to the Government to make MCI modern and suited to the prevailing conditions. The GoE has submitted its final report. The report of the GoE was placed before the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The latter has recently presented its report to the Ministry. A four-member Committee headed by Vice Chairman NITI Aayog has been constituted to suggest an implementation framework for restructuring of MCI.

Poor funding of TB control programme

1085. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor funding is hampering the TB programme in India, according to experts;

(b) whether the slashing of the health budget by 20 per cent by Government in December, 2014, citing fiscal deficit and under utilisation of funds, has led to a setback to the programme; and