is not considering any proposal for mandatory internship for medical professionals in rural and remote areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Health being a State subject, provision of healthcare facilities falls under the jurisdiction of respective State Governments. However, to encourage doctors working in remote and difficult areas, the MCI 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 areas as upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

Further, under, NHM, financial incentive is also provided to MBBS as well as PG doctors for serving in the rural areas. These incentives are over and above the salaries of the doctors concerned.

Fire safety norms in Delhi Hospitals

740. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 per cent of Government hospitals/private hospitals in Delhi do not have basic fire safety measures in place putting city's hospitals at risk;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as per Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)'s report, many gates and doors are found to be locked in Government hospitals resulting into the compromise of safety of doctors, staff and patients in case of fire; and

(d) if so, what steps Government is contemplating to ensure that latest standard of fire safety norms are put in place in Delhi hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Delhi Fire Services, Government of NCT of Delhi, all the major hospitals (owned by Government and Private Sector) have been provided with basic fire safety system.

(c) As per the information provided by Delhi Fire Services, Government of NCT of Delhi, in a sample test check found that some exits were locked/blocked due to security reasons and the keys were available with the hospital staff to open such exits in times of emergency.

(d) Delhi Fire Services, Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that the fire and life safety in hospital buildings in Delhi is regulated under the provisions of Building bye-laws as amended from time to time.

(i) the hospitals are inspected after completion of construction and installation of fire safety measures as per guidelines.

(ii) issue Fire Safety Certificate if the fire safety measures are found installed as per guidelines and functioning satisfactorily.

(iii) if fire safety provisions are not found working satisfactorily, then shortcomings are conveyed along with time allowed for complying, as per the provisions of rule 39 of Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010. During this period, the NOC's issued earlier remain suspended and continuing occupancy is at sole risk and responsibility of the owner/occupier. Further, actions under rule 38, 40 of aforesaid rules are also attracted.

(iv) Notices are issued under Sub Section (g) under Section 29 of Delhi Fire Service Act, 2007 issued notices for appointment of Fire Safety Officer in hospitals with more than 500 beds

(v) Delhi Fire Service conducts various awareness programs by conducting lecture and demonstrations, mock drills, publicity through media.

(vi) the Fire Safety Certificate is issued under Delhi Fire Service Act, 2007 and renewable after every 03 years. The owner/occupier has to give declaration every year in form 'K' that systems are in operation.

(vii) All other hospitals, which have been constructed prior to the enforcement of the above said Act Rules *i.e.* with effect from 01.07.2010, are being regulated in accordance with the provisions of the relevant fire safety norms in force at that time when the building was constructed. These measures provide reasonable fire safety in the buildings.

As far as three Central Government Hospitals in Delhi *viz.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and associated Hospitals are concerned, some doors and gates were found locked or blocked by condemned articles in Safdarjung Hospital during fire audit. Instructions have been issued to keep the doors and gate hindrances free. In addition, several sub-committees pertaining to each building have been constituted to ensure fire safety norms. In Dr.

RML Hospital, all the fire escape routes are closed for security reasons but the keys of the fire doors are readily available round the clock with security guards on duty. In LHMC, all the emergency doors and gates are kept hindrance free to that safety of patients, doctors and staff is not compromised in case of fire. CPWD also carries out regular fire drills in LHMC.

Banning of handling food with bare hands

741. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to put a ban on handling of food and introduce norms for places serving food as several diseases like Typhoid, Hepatitis, Food poisoning, Cholera, Diarrhoea and spread through food and water and handling of food with bare hands is a major cause behind this, moreover in our country it is customary to distribute food in hotels, restaurants, even in international chain of restaurants or Prasad at religious places with bare hands and preventing handling of food with bare hands can protect people from several diseases and save a lot; and

(b) if the norms already exist, why they are not being executed effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) While handling of food with bare hands is not prohibited, food handlers as per Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, are required to wash their hands properly before preparing food; after touching raw food or materials, specially meat/poultry or eggs; after breaks; and after using toilets. Washing of hands with soap and clean potable water and disinfecting their hands and then drying them with hand driers, cleaning cloth towels or disposable water is necessary for those handling food. A Food Business Operator, manufacturer, processor and handler is mandated to ensure complying with all such conditions.

Stopping of NHM funds

742. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to stop the release of funds under National Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government has allocated the funds for the year 2016-17, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; particularly to the State of Telangana?