

The stakeholders are being made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through various anti-tobacco campaigns *vide* different mode of communication.

Government of India has notified rules to regulate films and TV programmes depicting scenes of tobacco usage to spread awareness. Such films and TV programmes are statutorily required to run anti-tobacco health spots, disclaimers and static health warnings.

The Ministry has started National Toll-free Helpline in 2008, with a primary aim to report violations under various provisions of COTPA 2003. In addition, this Helpline provides information on harmful effects of consumption of tobacco, and on how to quit tobacco use, including after-effects of quitting tobacco.

The Ministry has also started National Tobacco Quitline to provide tobacco cessation services to the community and has launched a pan-India "mCessation" initiative to reach out to tobacco users who are willing to quit tobacco use and to support them towards successful quitting through text-messaging *via* mobile phones.

Fire safety audit of hospitals

1718. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked all the State Governments to get fire safety audit conducted for all public health facilities beginning with District hospitals and medical colleges by appropriate Government bodies or authorized enlisted agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the State Governments had submitted their safety audit reports, if any, conducted to the Central Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Government of India has written to all the State/UT Government to get fire safety audit conducted for all public health facilities beginning with District hospitals and medical colleges by appropriate Government bodies or authorized enlisted agencies.

(c) to (e) 'Public Health and hospitals' is a State subject and it is the primary responsibility of State/UT Governments to ensure adherence of healthcare facilities to safety norms including fire safety audit. The safety audit reports for public health facilities in States/ UTs are not maintained centrally.

Internship by medical students in rural areas

1719. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government currently proposes to introduce any criteria for those seeking admission in the Government Medical Colleges to serve at least for one year during their internship in the rural and remote areas where there are no medical professionals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which Government would introduce such criteria in the Government Medical Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal as on date. The issue of compulsory rural service comes under the ambit of State Governments, who are principal employers of doctors. 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% of the seats in Post Graduate Diploma Courses shall be reserved for Medical Officers in the Government service, who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas. After acquiring the PG Diploma, the Medical Officers shall serve for two more years in remote and/or difficult areas; and
- II. Incentive at the rate of 10% of marks for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto a 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.