

- (ii) Support to States/UTs in term of hard area allowance for specialist doctors who serve in rural and remote areas as well as for residential quarters for them.
- (iii) The States are encouraged to adopt flexible norms for engaging specialists on even contractual basis at public health facilities. These include various mechanisms for 'contracting in' and 'contracting out' of specialist services, methods of engaging specialists outside the government system for service delivery at public facilities and the mechanism to include requests for these in the state Program Implementation Plans (PIP) under the National Health Mission.
- (iv) States have also been allowed to offer negotiable salaries to attract Specialists including flexibility to strategies such as 'You quote, we pay'. Financial support is also provided to States, *inter alia* performance-based incentives, providing accommodation and transport facilities in rural and remote areas, sponsoring training programmes etc. to all human resource to address the issue of shortage of doctors and other personnel in the public health facilities.

Centralised health record for citizens

2367. DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking steps to create centralised health record for all citizens of the country in order to streamline the health information and facilitate effective management of the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set any time-frame to implement the said programme;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has earmarked any fund for the implementation of the programme; and

(f) if so, the details of the funds allocated and spent till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India has issued guidelines/standards with an objective to introduce a uniform standards based system for creation of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) by the Health care

providers by formulation EHR Standards 2016. This uniform standard helps ensure the interoperability within different system.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has set up National Resource Centre for EHR Standards (NRCeS) to augment facilitation for adoption of the notified EHR Standards in technical association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune for providing assistance in developing, implementing and using EHR standards effectively in healthcare Information Technology (IT) applications.

(e) and (f) The estimated cost is ₹ 23.59 crores, out of which an amount of ₹ 4 crores have been released to Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune for setting up of National Resource Centre for EHR Standards (NRCeS).

Utilisation of illegally occupied lands by wakf properties

2368. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large parts of the Wakf Board's immovable properties have been illegally transferred, sold or leased or encroached in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to free these illegally occupied lands for the utilisation of Wakf properties in the country?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):

(a) and (b) As per Section 32 of the Waqf Act, 1995 as amended, the general superintendence of auqaf in a State is vested with the State Waqf Board (SWB) and it is the duty of the concerned SWB to ensure that Waqf properties are properly maintained, controlled and administered. Further, as per section 51(1A) of the Waqf Act, any sale, gift, exchange, Mortgage or transfer of the waqf property has been declared void *ab initio* w.e.f 1st November, 2013. As per the provision of Section 54, the Chief Executive Officer of the Waqf Board is empowered to remove the encroachment from the Waqf property. Such removal is normally carried out with the help of State Government machinery. As per the available information with Central Waqf Council received from various State Waqf Boards, 49,118 waqf properties are facing encroachment.

(c) Major provisions added in the amended Waqf Act 1995 giving more power to State/UT Waqf Boards to deal with encroachment on waqf properties *inter alia*