

same with the States and Union Territories. Further action lies within the purview of the State/UT Governments.

- (d) Does not arise.

Hiring of consultants by the Ministry

928. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government uses consultants for carrying out work of the Ministry; and

- (b) if so, the details of consultants, and corresponding projects they have been hired on, and the fees paid to them, in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Yes.

- (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Medical college in Kupwara district, J&K

929. MIR MOHAMMAD FAYAZ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to open any medical college in the rural areas of Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will become operational; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) The Ministry is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Establishment of new Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals. Under the Phase-1 of the scheme, 58 districts have been identified in underserved areas in the country. It includes 5 in Jammu and Kashmir, namely, Anantnag, Baramulla, Rajouri, Doda and Kathua. Further, with the objective of ensuring at least one medical college for every 3 Parliamentary Constituencies and at least 1 Government Medical College in each State of the country, Phase-II of this Scheme has been launched during 2018. Under Phase-U of the Scheme, 24 new medical

colleges in 8 States are being established. During analysis, no such block (consisting of 3 Parliamentary Constituencies) has been identified in Jammu and Kashmir State.

However, the State Government/any Registered Society/Trust/Company is free to set up the Medical College with prior permission of the Central Government under Section 10A of the IMC Act, 1956.

Quota for Government in-service doctors in DNB courses

930. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons due to which the National Board of Examination has refused to allocate seats to in-service candidates for Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses run in Government hospitals;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has been requesting to provide seats to in-service candidates working in rural areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Ministry is going to take to give weightage for Government or rural service before deciding the eligibility for DNB courses before NEET and/or quota for Government in-service doctors in DNB courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) The National Board of Examinations (NBE) has informed that the allotment of DNB seats is done through a national level centralized merit-based counseling on pan India basis with provision for only constitutional reservation for SC/ST/OBC categories. There is no provision for quota for in-service candidates in the DNB programme since it is a national level centralized counselling.

(b) and (c) Yes, NBE has received communications from the Government, of Karnataka requesting provision for weightage for service in public health institutions in rural areas in the qualifying examination and earmarking of 100% DNB seats, for in-service doctors for the DNB courses organised in Government hospitals in the State of Karnataka.

NBE has further informed that the Government of Karnataka has decided to accept the general candidates for DNB courses under a bond to serve in Government hospitals for 3 years after clearing their DNB courses which has been agreed to by NBE.