

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Public health and hospitals is a State Subject. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), to strengthen secondary care and make them affordable for all including economically poor people, financial and technical support is already being provided to States for strengthening their healthcare systems including for strengthening districts hospitals for multi-specialty care and as sites for skill based training and teaching, particularly for clinical learning for different levels of health care workers. Guidelines have already been issued under NHM to States which contains a roadmap for identification and strengthening of district hospitals for multi-specialty care and developing it as a training site.

To improve availability of doctors and specialists in underserved areas, the Government is upgrading District Hospitals to Medical Colleges in 82 districts which do not have any Medical College thereby providing at least one Medical College for every three contiguous Parliamentary Constituencies.

Guidelines on examination of rape victims

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

(a) whether there are any guidelines that the rape victims should be examined by qualified forensic pathologist to prevent denial of justice to the victims in view of lack of proper evidence;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to avoid unnecessary visits of doctors in the court to submit evidence; and

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain India's forensic report and the percentage of conviction of the accused in rape cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per Section 164A of Criminal Procedure Code, rape victim's examination shall be conducted by Registered Medical Practitioner (RPM) employed in a hospital run by the Government or a local authority and in the absence of such a practitioner, by any other RPM, with the consent of such woman or of a person competent to give such consent on behalf of the said victim.

(b) As per available information, no guidelines have been issued.

(c) As per available information, no such study has been conducted.