

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Ayurveda	Unani	Homoeopathy	Total
35.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		443704	51110	293455	788269

Ayurveda: Figures in no states of Andhra Pradesh (2017), Bihar (2016), Chhattishgarh (2017), Rajasthan (2017), Tamil Nadu (2016), Telangana (2017) and West Bengal (2017) has been repeated as the current year information not available.

Unani: Figures in no states of Andhra Pradesh (2017), Bihar (2016), Chhattishgarh (2017), Rajasthan (2017), Tamil Nadu (2016) and Telangana (2017) has been repeated as the current year information not available.

Homoeopathy: Figures in no states of Andhra Pradesh (2017), Assam (2017) and Punjab (2017) has been repeated as the current year information not available.

Note: figures in no Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been indicated Nil in all streams as there is no separate Board/Council for registration of practitioners in these states. Note: figures in r/o Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Chandigarh have been indicated Nil in Ayurveda, Unani, as there is no separate Board/Council for registration of practitioners in these states. Note: "The information of Ayurveda, Unani for the state of Andhra Pradesh (as on 31.03.2014) and Ayurveda for the State of Bihar (as on 31.03.2016) is updated based on the information received from CCIM.

Source: State Boards/Councils

People qualified to run Pathology Labs

†*175. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paramedics are running pathology labs in the country, if so, the number thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, people having the degree in Pathology accredited by Medical Council of India (MCI) can run a pathology lab, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the guidelines of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) which provide accreditation to the medical laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) As per Constitutional provisions, 'Health' is a State subject. The States are primarily responsible for implementing guidelines/protocols for Medical Diagnostic/Pathological Laboratories in their States as per the applicable provisions of law in the respective State/UT. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not maintain details in this regard.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP(C) No. 28529/2010 in the matter of North Gujarat Unit of Association of Self Employed Owners (Paramedical) of Private Pathology Laboratories of Gujarat Versus North Gujarat Pathologists Association and Ors., *vide* order dated 12.12.2017, took a view that the stand of the Medical Council of India that Laboratory Report can be countersigned only by a registered medical practitioner with a post graduate qualification in pathology is correct. Subsequently, the Medical Council of India (MCI) issued a speaking order No. MCI-211(2) (Gen.)/2014-Ethics/100760-100762/dated 03.04.2019, *inter-alia*, clarifying as under:—

“5., the Registered Medical practitioner shall sign/countersign the Laboratory Reports in their respective field of specialization/subject. That is to say that a Pathologist shall sign/countersign a Pathological Report, a Microbiologist shall sign/countersign a Microbiological Report and a Biochemist shall sign/countersign a Biochemical Report, so on and so forth.

8. The position regarding medical qualifications of authorised signatory constitutes part of statutory rules notified by the Government of India. It constitutes the law of the land and is required to be followed by all concerned. Thus, any ambiguity arising out of the order dated 12.12.2017 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court stood dispelled with effect from the date of the notification of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, *i.e.* 21.05.2018.

9. Based on aforesaid, it is stated that the authorised signatory of the laboratory test report should be in conformity with the rules laid down by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India under the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010....”

3. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a notification dated 21.05.2018 notifying amendments to the Clinical Establishments Rules, 2012 prescribing minimum standards for Medical Diagnostic/Pathological Laboratories.

4. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) has informed that they have published guidance document NABL 112 “Specific Criteria for Accreditation of Medical Laboratories” for use of its accredited laboratories, as available on its website www.nabl-india.org. Directorate General of Health Services have, however, clarified that the “*accreditation*” is a voluntary process and not a pre-requisite for registration of Medical Diagnostic/Pathological Laboratories under the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.