

thought of quitting tobacco use because of the warning label.

With the several policy interventions including large pictorial health warning, the prevalence of tobacco use among aged 15 years and above has been reduced by 6 percentage points from 2009-10 to 2016-17 as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17.

Sale data of all tobacco products is not maintained centrally.

(c) Section 7 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) stipulates that no person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him bears thereon, or on its label, the specified warning.

Further, to ensure that the warning is legible, prominent and conspicuous, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 provides that the size of the specified health warning on each panel of the tobacco package shall not be less than 3.5 cm (width) X 4 cm (height).

#### **Doctor to population ratio**

†1810. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of MBBS doctors per thousand of the population in India;
- (b) whether this ratio is not lower than the United Nations' declared criteria;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to increase the number and availability of doctors in India;
- (d) the number of proposed private medical colleges that have not yet been approved to go operational; and
- (e) whether Government is willing to bring flexibility in its policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) As per information provided by Medical Council of India (MCI), there are a total 11,59,309 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils/Medical Council of India as on 31st March, 2019. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 9.27 lakh

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

doctors may be actually available for active service. It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1456 as per current population estimate of 1.35 billion, which is lower than the WHO norm of 1:1000.

Besides, there are 7.88 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy (AUH) doctors in the country. Assuming 80% availability, it is estimated that around 6.30 lakh Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy (AUH) doctors may be actually available for service and considered together with allopathic doctors, it gives a doctor population ratio of 1:867.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to increase the number of seats in various medical educational institutes/medical colleges across the country. These include: For increasing UG Seats:—

- (i) Enhancement of maximum intake capacity at MBBS level from 150 to 250.
- (ii) Relaxation in the norms for setting up of Medical College in terms of requirement of land, faculty, staff, bed/bed strength and other infrastructure.
- (iii) Minimum requirement of land for establishment of medical college in metropolitan cities as notified under Article 243P(c) of the Constitution of India has been dispensed with.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of existing State Government/Central Government Medical Colleges to increase MBBS seats.
- (v) Establishment of New Medical Colleges by upgrading district/referral hospitals preferably in underserved districts of the country.

**For increasing PG Seats:—**

- (i) The ratio of teachers to students for Professor has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 for all MD/MS disciplines and from 1:1 to 1:3 in all clinical subjects in Government funded medical colleges and in Private medical colleges with 15 years standing. Further, for Associate Professor, the said ratio has been revised from 1:1 to 1:2 and 1:3 if he/she is a unit head in all clinical subjects in Government medical colleges and in Private medical colleges with 15 years standing. This has resulted in increase in number of PG seats in the country.
- (ii) DNB qualification has been recognized for appointment as faculty to take care of shortage of faculty.
- (iii) Enhancement of age limit for appointment/extension/re-employment against posts of teachers/dean/principal/director in medical colleges upto 70 years.

- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of State Government Medical Colleges for starting new PG courses/Increase of PG seats.
  - (v) By amending the regulations, it has been made mandatory for all medical colleges to start PG courses within 3 years from the date of their MBBS recognition/continuation of recognition.
  - (vi) Colleges are allowed to apply for PG courses in clinical subjects at the time of 4th renewal. This will serve to advance the process for starting PG courses by more than 1 year.
- (d) There are 25 colleges which were disapproved by Board of Governors for the year 2019-20.
- (e) Yes. As per Notification dated 25.06.2019 with regard to Establishment of Medical College Regulations (Amendment), 2019, it is prescribed as under:—
- “(i) The Board of Governors in super-session of Medical Council of India or the Central Government on the recommendation of Medical Council of India as the case may be may consider grant of permission for establishment of a new Medical College or renewal of permission of existing Medical College to the lower prescribed intake capacity, in the event the applicant college falls short of the requirements prescribed in the Minimum Standard Requirement Regulations for the intake capacity for which the Medical College has applied. Such permission shall be granted only on the furnishing of an undertaking by the applicant that the grant of permission with reduced intake is acceptable to it for that academic session.
- Further, the application for renewal of permission by the permitted medical college for the subsequent academic year shall be for the intake capacity for which it has been granted Letter of Permission.
- (ii) The Medical College shall be entitled to apply for increase in intake capacity only after the MBBS qualification of the college is included in the First Schedule of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.”

**Preventing clashes between patients and doctors**

†1811. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:  
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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