

(b) Yes, as per information provided by National Board of Examinations, the pass percentage of students, graduated from medical colleges in Russia and China, in Foreign Medical Graduate Exam (FMGE) during 2015-18 are 12.91% and 11.67% respectively.

(c) A draft Skill Training Curriculum has been prepared for the Foreign Medical Graduates who repeatedly fail to qualify the FMGE for preparing such students for the exam through self-sustaining MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and Clinical Skill Labs etc.

Public health budget

1725. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA:

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

(a) the spending on health as a per cent of GDP in the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the strategy and roadmap that is in place to gradually increase public health spending to 2.5 per cent of the GDP by 2025;

(c) the current status of the plan; and

(d) if delay is envisaged, the reasons therefor and the estimated year of reaching the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) As per the National Health Accounts Estimates, public expenditure on health in India during the latest four years, for which data is available is as follows:—

Year	Public expenditure on health as percentage of GDP
2013-14	1.15%
2014-15	1.13%
2015-16	1.18%
2016-17	1.2%

(b) to (d) The National Health Policy, 2017 envisages raising public health expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025 in a time-bound manner. The Policy also envisages States to increase public expenditure on health to more than 8% of their budget by 2020.

Presence of mercury in healthcare products

1726. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of extensive use of highly toxic mercury in healthcare and lighting sector;

(b) if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has undertaken any exercise to identify the products that contain mercury, if so, details thereof;

(d) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain ill-effects of mercury on human health and environment, if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government has signed the Minamata Convention; and

(f) if so, the details thereof along with other steps taken or being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (c) Yes. Thermometers, barometers, pressure sensing devices, Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) and Dental amalgam contain mercury.

(d) National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) has carried out following studies to evaluate level of mercury in biological and environmental samples:—

1. Occupational health surveillance, health status and hygiene survey of a chlor-alkali plant.
2. Quantitative detection of heavy metals and phthalates in toys.
3. Occupational and Environment Health Hazards due to Mercury in Chloralkali Plant.