

maternal and child care in convergence with Ministry of Women and Child Development. Health and nutrition education through mass and social media is also promoted to improve healthy practices and to generate demand for service uptake.

- Mother and Child Protection Card is the joint initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family welfare and the Ministry of Woman and Child Development which addresses the nutrition concerns in children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- Under "Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakaram" (RBSK) children of 0 - 18 years of age are screened for selected health conditions classified into 4Ds - Diseases, Deficiencies, Defects and Developmental delays including screening for Severe Acute Mal-nutrition and provides free referral and treatment facilities for identified children.
- The Government is also promoting use of fortified wheat flour, fortified rice, fortified oil and double fortified salt in public funded supplementary nutrition programmes.

#### **Insufficient Government medical colleges**

†2504. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the number of Government medical colleges in the country is negligible *vis-a-vis* the number of students aspiring to get education in medical field;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that the private medical colleges running in the country are charging exorbitant fees from students;

(c) whether Government intends to control the arbitrary fees being charged by the private medical colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) At present, there are 539

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

medical colleges (276 in Government and 260 in private sector) in the country with an intake capacity of 80,312 MBBS seats annually. During the last six years the intake capacity has been increased by 29185 MBBS seats. Admission to medical courses is through merit as determined in the NEET.

(b) In the case of Government medical colleges, the respective State Governments are responsible for fixation of fee and in the case of private unaided medical colleges, the fee structure is decided by the Committee set up by the respective State Government under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. It is for the Committee to decide whether the fee proposed by an Institute is justified and the fee fixed by the Committee is binding on the Institute.

(c) and (d) For the first time, a provision has been made, to regulate the fee structure of Indian private medical colleges and deemed universities, in the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. Clause (i) of Sub-section (1) of Section 10 of National Medical Commission Act, 2019 provides for framing of guidelines for determination of fees and all other charges in respect of fifty per cent of seats in private medical institutions and deemed to be universities which are governed under the provisions of the Act.

### **NMC Act, 2019**

2505. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019 will ensure standardisation and good governance in medical education;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it will pave the way for a medical education system that improves access to quality and affordable medical education and ensure availability of adequate and quality medical professional in all parts of the country;

(c) whether the NMC Act, 2019 will also ensure rapid growth in UG/PG seats in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) to (d) The National Commission