

**ORAL ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS AND  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
THEREON**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 151  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

**NEW GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGES IN WEST BENGAL**

**151 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:**

Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to set up one medical college in every district of West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government is aware that there is no medical colleges in Dakshin Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Kalimpong and Paschim Burdwan districts of West Bengal;
- (c) whether the Central Government has received any proposal from the State Government for establishing medical colleges in these districts; and
- (d) the current ratio of aspiring medical students to available seats in existing medical colleges in West Bengal?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 \* FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024**

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for 'Establishment of new medical colleges attached with existing district/referral hospitals' with preference to underserved areas and aspirational districts, where there is no existing Government or private medical college. The fund sharing mechanism between the Centre and State Governments is in the ratio of 90:10 for North Eastern and Special Category States, and 60:40 for others. Under the Scheme, all the envisaged 157 Government medical colleges have already been approved in three phases including 11 medical colleges in West Bengal at Birbhum (Rampur Hat), Cooch Behar, Diamond Harbour, Purulia, Raiganj(North Dinajpur), Barasat, Uluberia, Arambagh, Jhargram, Tamluk, Jalpaiguri. However, no proposal for setting up of Medical College at Dakshin Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Kalimpong and Paschim Burdwan were received from the State of West Bengal.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), an AIIMS has also been established at Kalyani.

There are 5,375 UG seats available in West Bengal for the academic year 2024-25. As informed by National Testing Agency, 1,16,110 candidates appeared in NEET(UG) 2024 from West Bengal.

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भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण विभाग

राज्य सभा  
तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या: 151  
06 अगस्त, 2024 को पूछे जाने वाले प्रश्न का उत्तर

पश्चिमी बंगाल में नए सरकारी चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय

**\*151. श्री सामिक भट्टाचार्य:**

क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

- (क) क्या सरकार का पश्चिमी बंगाल के प्रत्येक जिले में एक चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय खोलने का इरादा है;
- (ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पश्चिमी बंगाल के दक्षिण दिनाजपुर, अलीपुरद्वार, कलिम्पोंग और पश्चिमी बर्दवान जिलों में कोई चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय नहीं है;
- (ग) क्या केंद्र सरकार को इन जिलों में चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय स्थापित करने के लिए राज्य सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है; और
- (घ) पश्चिमी बंगाल में मौजूदा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों में उपलब्ध सीटों के मुकाबले इच्छुक मेडिकल छात्रों का वर्तमान अनुपात कितना है?

उत्तर  
स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा)

(क) से (घ): विवरण सदन के पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

## 06 अगस्त, 2024 के लिए राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न सं. 151 के उत्तर में उल्लिखित विवरण

(क) से (घ): स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय 'मौजूदा जिला/रेफरल अस्पतालों से संबद्ध नए मेडिकल कॉलेजों की स्थापना' हेतु केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना (सीएसएस) चलाता है जिसमें ऐसे अल्पसेवित क्षेत्रों और आकांक्षी जिलों को वरीयता दी जाती है जहां कोई सरकारी या निजी मेडिकल कॉलेज नहीं है। केंद्र और राज्य के बीच निधियों की हिस्सेदारी का अनुपात पूर्वोत्तर और विशेष श्रेणी के राज्यों के लिए 90:10 तथा अन्य राज्यों के लिए 60:40 है। इस स्कीम के तहत, सभी विचाराधीन 157 सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेजों को तीन चरणों में पहले ही अनुमोदित कर दिया गया है जिनमें पश्चिम बंगाल में वीरभूम (रामपुर हाट), कूच बिहार, डायमंड हार्बर, पुरुलिया, रायगंज (उत्तरी दिनाजपुर), बारासत, उलुबेरिया, आरामबाग, झारग्राम, तामलुक, जलपायगुडी में 11 मेडिकल कॉलेज शामिल हैं। हालांकि दक्षिण दिनाजपुर, अलिपुरद्वार, कलिम्पोंग और पश्चिम बर्दवान में मेडिकल कॉलेज स्थापित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य की ओर से नहीं मिला है।

प्रधानमंत्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा योजना (पीएमएसएसवाई) के तहत कल्याणी में एम्स भी स्थापित किया गया है।

शैक्षणिक वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए पश्चिम बंगाल में 5,375 स्नातक सीटें उपलब्ध हैं। राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी द्वारा दी गई जानकारी के अनुसार, पश्चिम बंगाल से 1,16,110 उम्मीदवारों ने नीट (यूजी) परीक्षा में भाग लिया था।

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SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA: Sir, my question is regarding setting up of the new medical colleges in the different districts of West Bengal. It has been mentioned in the reply that no proposal has been received from the State Government of West Bengal for setting up of new medical colleges in Dakshin Dinajpur, Alipurduar, Kalimpong and Paschim Burdwan. So, if such proposals are submitted by the State Government of West Bengal, will the Central Government consider approving them within this financial year?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would first like to submit that under the Central sector scheme of establishment of new medical colleges attached with the district hospitals, under three phases, in 10 years of our Government, we have established 157 colleges across the country. Out of these 157 colleges, 11 medical colleges have been given to the State of West Bengal. It is a continuous process. As and when the requirement or the need is felt, the Central Government looks into it. So, as of now, 157 colleges are completed and West Bengal has also got a good share of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary - Shri Samik Bhattacharya.

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA: Sir, regarding AIIMS, the initial proposal for Raiganj was gifted to Kalyani due to ego politics and the North Bengal had to suffer the consequences. ...*(Interruptions)*... Is the Central Government considering ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, what is your supplementary?

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA: Yes, Sir, this is my supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA: Yes, Sir. Is the Central Government considering to revive the AIIMS Raiganj project so as to establish a second AIIMS in West Bengal? Aspirational States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir, each have two AIIMS. Will West Bengal be granted a similar opportunity to enhance its healthcare infrastructure, especially in North Bengal?

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Sir, we started a scheme, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, wherein we have increased the number of All India Institute of Medical Sciences across the country. Twenty-two new AIIMS have been approved, of which 19 are already operational, where we have approved the MBBS seats. West Bengal also received one AIIMS in Kalyani. As of now, there is no proposal under consideration for establishing another AIIMS in the State of West Bengal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Supplementary No. 3 - Shri Saket Gokhale. One minute, the hon. Minister is intervening. Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Sir, I would like to add that this PMSSY scheme for opening of the All-Indian Institutes of Medical Sciences is a continuous process, and in this continuous process, we keep considering accordingly. As and when the situation comes, we open new All-India Institutes of Medical Sciences, and West Bengal also comes under that ambit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, good. Now, Shri Saket Gokhale - supplementary number three.

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: Sir, through you, I wish to ask a very specific question from the hon. Minister. Is it true that funds of over Rs.828 crores have been withheld from the State of West Bengal under the National Health Scheme for the frivolous reason of not adhering to the colour branding specified by the Union Government? If yes, please state and give an assurance as to when the pending dues of over Rs.828 crores, owed to West Bengal, will be released by the Ministry.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Although, this does not pertain to the original question which is there, but he has been very specific about the answer 'yes' or 'no'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very pointed and decorously.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: If you obey the guidelines, 'Yes'; if you do not obey the guidelines, 'No'. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. SUSHMITA DEV: This is not the... ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: How can this... ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, I would like to say something. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please. ...(*Interruptions*)... Your leader is speaking. ...(*Interruptions*)... Please, your leader is speaking. Can I give you supplementary number four?

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: No, Sir. When the Leader of the House gets up to speak, we always take that with all seriousness and in good spirit. And I am not here to get into a counter argument.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am so glad.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Coming to the simple point which my colleague was making, yes, we will always comply. But our point was that complying with the colour scheme, while people are not getting the health benefits, is a bit over the top. Not for the colour, for something else, we will take it in that spirit. Just because it is not your favourite colour, people are left not to get the health benefits, is something which should be reconsidered by the Government with a little empathy. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, the hon. senior Member and leader of a party has paid you rich compliments, and, secondly, he has raised the issue very pointedly, which, as a matter of fact, Mr. Saket Gokhale also raised. On that, is there any intervention from your side?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, the first question was in black and white. So, the answer was in black and white. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very good answer. ...(*Interruptions*)...



SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Now, here is a question which has come from my dear friend, Derek O'Brien.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Colourfully.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: His hair is grey. So, the answer will also be in grey, which has got some positivity also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good. Fourth supplementary, Ms. Dola Sen.

MS. DOLA SEN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to seek one clarification from the hon. Minister. Already in the **written** answer, it has been mentioned that the fund sharing mechanism between the Union and State Governments is 60:40 for these schemes. So, my humble question is why should it be only in the name of the Prime Minister? If it is 60:40, why cannot it be like Prime Minister & Chief Minister **scheme**, or, Union & State **Government Project or scheme**? Why can't we adhere to this? Secondly, the hon. Minister just now replied pointedly, "If you follow the guidelines, 'yes'; if you don't follow, 'No'." May I humbly ask a pointed question about the guidelines in this respect? Making it only in the name of Pradhan Mantri *ji* with 60 per cent share, and, defying the rights of the State, which is sharing its 40 per cent, is it following the federal structure **of our country**?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is a scheme, as I mentioned earlier, for the establishment of new medical colleges attached with the District hospitals. It is important to understand why we brought this scheme. There were several unserved areas and regional disparities with regard to the availability of opportunities for medical education and the tertiary healthcare facilities. We also wanted to be cost effective by utilizing the District hospitals and setting up these medical colleges. We devised a structure wherein there was a sharing of 60:40 between the Centre and the States. There are 157 medical colleges across the country and 11 are there in the State of West Bengal. These are in the Districts - Birbhum, Cooch Behar, Diamond Harbour, Purulia, Raiganj, Barasat, Uluberia, Arambagh, Jhargram,

Tamluk, Jalpaiguri. Wherever we have made these medical colleges, nowhere have we mentioned the name of the Prime Minister in front of the Medical College. There is no question of naming. It is with the cooperation of the Centre and the States, in 60:40, I say it on the floor of the House, that we have built these medical colleges in the larger interest of the people of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fifth supplementary, Dr. John Bittas.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I don't want a black and white or a grey answer. I want a crystal clear answer from the hon. Health Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. John Brittas, Question Hour is meant for specific questions and specific answers. We can monetize time. Ask your supplementary.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, why I say this is because many colours have been referred to here. The hon. Minister has been kind enough to say that 22 All India Institute of Medical Sciences have been approved so far. As you know, Sir, you have visited Kerala also, Kerala is a model State in the health sector. We have been craving for the indulgence of the hon. Minister to have an All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The Kerala Government proposed a site in Kozhikode, but it has been hanging on for several years. I would specifically ask the Health Minister: Will he approve the proposal to have an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Kerala?

SHRI J.P. NADDA: Sir, from time to time, we will see to it that as far as possible, we expand the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in various States, and Kerala is also one of them. So, from time to time, we are considering it, and yes, Kerala is also there under consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No.152.