

## LOK SABHA

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### SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES\* (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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Tuesday, July 2, 2019 / Ashadha 11, 1941 (Saka)

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#### \*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) **SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE** laid a statement regarding need to extend benefits of Ayushman Bharat Yojana to more categories of people.
- (2) **SHRI KHAGEN MURMU** laid a statement regarding need to provide adequate medical facilities in Maldaha Uttar Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.
- (3) **SHRI S. MUNISWAMY** laid a statement regarding setting up of Railway Coach Factory at Srinivasapura, Karnataka.
- (4) **SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK** laid a statement regarding development of Dubri Sanjay Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

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\* Hon. Members may kindly let us know immediately the choice of language (Hindi or English) for obtaining Synopsis of Lok Sabha Debates.

\* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (5) **SHRI RODMAL NAGAR** laid a statement regarding need to start operation of Akashvani Kendra in Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (6) **DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR** laid a statement regarding production of fighter jets by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Ojhar in Dindori Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.
- (7) **DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR** laid a statement regarding improving train journey between Balurghat and Siliguri Junction.
- (8) **SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA** laid a statement regarding need to provide funds for construction of Metro Rail Services Phase II in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- (9) **SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI** laid a statement regarding irrigation facilities in Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.
- (10) **SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI** laid a statement regarding development of water saving irrigation techniques in the country.
- (11) **SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to introduce Ayushman Bharat Scheme in Rajasthan.
- (12) **DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI** laid a statement regarding need to recognize Baba Raghav Das Post Graduate College, as Agriculture University.

- (13) **SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to expedite doubling and electrification of Jhansi-Manikpur railway line.
- (14) **SHRI AJAY NISHAD** laid a statement regarding proper implementation of Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Muzzafarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
- (15) **SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE** laid a statement regarding publication of final NRC.
- (16) **SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA** laid a statement regarding condition of Government schools.
- (17) **DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR** laid a statement regarding need to construct new railway line connecting Ariyalur, Perambalur, Thuraiyur and Namakkal in Tamil Nadu.
- (18) **SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN** laid a statement regarding problems afflicting powerloom weaving .
- (19) **SHRI MARGANI BHARAT** laid a statement regarding need to construct flyovers in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh.
- (20) **SHRI HEMANT PATIL** laid a statement regarding problems faced by farmers in insurance claims under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Hingoli Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.
- (21) **SHRI MAHABALI SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to take flood control measures in Bihar.

- (22) **SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU** laid a statement regarding including Rangeilunda Airport in Odisha under UDAN Scheme.
- (23) **ADV. A. M. ARIFF** laid a statement regarding providing Central Assistance for Nehru Trophy Boat Race.
- (24) **SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR** laid a statement regarding completion of Madurai to Bodinayakkanur railway gauge conversion project in Tamil Nadu.

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### **STATUTORY RESOLUTION**

*Re: Disapproval of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019 (No. 5 of 2019)*

**And**

**THE INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019**

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY** moved that this House disapproves of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019 (No. 5 of 2019) promulgated by the President on 21 February, 2019.

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE;  
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF  
EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)** *moving the motion for*

*consideration of the Bill, said:* Indian Medical Council regulates the standard of medical profession in this country. During the last two decades, a perception was created that the Medical Council has failed completely to perform its responsibilities. It has become a major centre of corruption. Medical Council of India was superseded by a Board of Governors of experts in the year 2010. Our Government formulated a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Ranjit Roy Choudhary to review the overall functioning of the Medical Council of India. That Committee has submitted a comprehensive report. The Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare in its 92nd Report had observed that if revamping of the regulatory structure is delayed any further, it will be too late. The Committee is of the view that there is too much power concentrated in a single body and it has failed to create a transparent system. Keeping in view these recommendations Hon. Supreme Court in its judgement had directed the Central Government to consider the recommendations of the Standing Committee and take further appropriate action in the matter at the earliest. The Supreme Court had also said that an Oversight Committee should be set up to observe the functioning of the Medical Council of India. Everything was done under the directions of the Supreme Court. The Medical Council of India was replaced by the Board of Governors by a decision of the Cabinet. As there had to be a continuity in the work of Medical Council of India, as it is a regulatory body and also because the Parliament was not in Session, an Ordinance was

promulgated. Then, in the next session, in 2018 this amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha. But it could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. Hence another Ordinance was promulgated with the approval of the Cabinet. Government has already drafted the National Medical Commission Bill, which it proposes to bring before the Parliament in the near future. So, this amendment Bill is a simple procedural issue and it is the need of the hour. Hence, we have brought this Bill.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** I have opposed the Ordinance route which is unhealthy for democracy. When elections were afoot, the Executive should not have issued this kind of Ordinance. Though the Government is talking about revamping the health sector, but in reality, it is not at all serious. We need a driving force of quality education in order to revamp this sector. Several medical colleges across the country adopt dubious means during inspection when inspectors visit colleges to scrutinize facilities. Only 920 Government medical college seats were added in the last five years against an approval of 10,000 seats. India, today, has just one Government allopathic doctor for over 11,000 people against the WHO norm of 1:1000. A regulated private health space needs to co-exist with a growing presence of Government hospitals and colleges. In India, expenditure on health vis-à-vis our GDP is as abysmal as 1.8 per cent. However, the Standing Committee has been repeatedly proposing for 2.5 per cent of GDP to be spent on health sector. The paucity of Government doctors is also due to the large number of graduates opting for private practice. It is an open secret that seats

in private medical colleges can be brought for a price. As far as medical education is concerned, there can be no substitute for the varied hands of clinical experience that public hospitals can provide. The crisis in India's public health infrastructure is laid bare by stark official statistics that reveal that the country faces a shortfall of around 82 per cent in Specialists. As the statistics suggest the country has made limited national progress in the NCDs front. The Standing Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry should take effective measures to revise the major restructure of NCDs and promote lifestyle changes.

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:** In 1956, Medical Council of India was granted full autonomy in this august House only. Thereafter, Medical Council of India has been performing very well but problem occurred with the amendment 10(a) in MCI done in 1993 under which right of States and Union Government pertaining to setting up of medical colleges were given to MCI. MCI was granted unlimited powers through this amendment and thereafter irregularity crept in. Regional imbalance in terms of medical colleges started. However, during the last few years major changes have been brought in through NEET and medical education have been regulated across the country. In all, seven AIIMS have been set up. Apart from that, 81 medical colleges are in the process of being set up. During the year 2014 and 2019, this Government has brought in a major change and we have codified every region so that for every three Lok Sabha constituency, one medical college should be set up. In my Parliamentary Constituency, a hospital is being set

up at a cost of Rs.811 Crore through central assistance. I would also like to urge upon the Government that full time Directors should be selected for MCI because Directors of major institutions are usually unable to spare time. Apart from that, Government should allow private medical colleges to run smoothly. Today, at least 5,000 students are migrating to other countries for medical education resulting in a loss of crores of dollars. So, private colleges should be set up alongwith the Government colleges with the rider that it should be opened at such places only where Government colleges are not available. I hope that all such issues have been incorporated in this NMC Bill.

**SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON:** I rise to strongly oppose this Bill because these amendment Bills are just excuses to overcome legal objections. The very spirit of the National Medical Commission is to favour and privatise medical education. These measures are pro-rich, pro-private management and against the socio-economic groups. I wish to bring to your kind notice that this Bill undermines the State Medical Councils founded under sovereign State legislative authority. Moreover, the NMC allows only five States out of 24 to be represented at a time on rotation basis. Many States ruled by the Governments of Opposition parties may never find a place in the body. Similarly, the provision to allow AYUSH practitioners to practice modern medicine is unethical and will legalize quacks. The medical education is one of the most vital sectors in this country and any action even to improve the same could be done only by taking the stakeholders



into confidence. So, ruining of the important autonomous body which has produced talented, eminent doctors of world repute is not acceptable. The autonomous Medical Council should be allowed to be run by a body of eminent doctors democratically elected through a transparent process. For that purpose, expertise in respective field should be recognized and encouraged. This is the primary importance in respect of medical field. Again, I want to know the status of the Tamil Nadu Government's Bill seeking exemption from NEET. Compulsory imposition of the NEET is an act against the poorer sections of the society. I use this opportunity to plead with the Government for upgradation of Government hospitals at Kallakurichi and Athur in my Parliamentary Constituency.

**DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR:** In the last few years we have seen the Government coming out with the Bills and the Ordinances in the ratio of 10:4. It is undemocratic and unhealthy for our democracy. Moreover, as per the Constitution, health is a State subject. So, the Central Government should not formulate Rules to interfere in this provision related to empowerment of the State. Today is the age of modern developments, like stem cells research, medicated coronary stents, invitro-fertilisation and pre-implantation genetic counselling. Today's modern medicine is very strong. But today a student has to study for 16-18 hours a day to crack the medical entrance examination. Students, of our varied country with multiple linguistic areas and regional sentiments, should be allowed to sit for the exams in their mother tongue in which they are proficient. I would

also suggest that we should do away with this entrance test. We should depend on the class 12th qualifying examination marks to get entrance into the medical, depending upon the quality of the results. Doctors are nearly Gods. But in India, today when a patient expires, the family of the deceased have a gall to beat and hurt the healer. This is condemnable. So, his life, property and personal safety should be looked after by the State and the Central Government. Security fund should be increased. The budgetary allocation for the medical curriculum should be increased. We should not over run the State Government's responsibility because health is a State subject and it should remain with the State. There should not be nomination. It should be manned by medical people only. It should be through election process in all the branches of the State. The doctors should be allowed to elect their chosen members who will come and form the central body.

**DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:** I would like to tell the hon. Minister that like him, I am also a medical doctor. I come from a family of 23 doctors. I have some suggestions to improve the medical field in India. Firstly, the rules for recognizing medical colleges should be liberalized. Last year, 80 colleges were denied admissions for simple reasons like lack of a Conference Hall or lack of 1-2 Professors and due to which we lost nearly 12000 seats in the last academic year. The students were forced to go to countries like China, Russia and Philippines. Special incentives should be given to the colleges located in rural areas. Most of the doctors are living in urban areas. This discrepancy can be corrected by

encouraging rural medical colleges. We are way behind many countries in HAQ (Healthcare Access and Quality Index) ranking. We are ranked at 145. The reason for this poor HAQ ranking could be inadequate funding and inadequate paramedics. Our 63 years old curriculum needs to be changed. For the benefit of reservation to Economically Weaker Sections the Government has increased the number of seats in Government medical colleges. The same provision should be made in private medical colleges also. We have got a good number of doctors but paramedics are very less in number. We should concentrate on that aspect.

**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:** This Bill is very important because this will change the whole profile of medical education. This Bill is, in fact, the foundation for the NMC Bill in future. The MCI attracted lot of criticism and several charges were also levelled against it for its activities. This Bill aims to improve the standards of medical education and ensure that all get an equal opportunity for medical education. I feel that 70 years after Independence, this Government is making efforts for standardization of medical education. The NEET has been implemented in the entire country but the syllabus of the NEET should be uniform. The candidates who qualify under the NEET should be given preference of their states. The suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee should also be pondered over. Every year, as many as 63000 MBBS doctors pass out and there are only 23,729 PG seats available. Therefore, the Government should increase the number of PG seats. The Government wants to

set up one lakh fifty thousand wellness clinics. The doctors who do not get PG seats should be appointed in these wellness centers on permanent basis. There is shortage of doctors in the country. Therefore, the district hospitals should be converted into medical colleges so that we get specialist doctors in those colleges and we could make up for the shortage of the doctors. The private players should be encouraged in this field and the PPP model should be implemented in the entire country. Today, our total allocation under health Budget is Rs.14 thousand crore which is 21 per cent less than the estimated allocation. Therefore, the health Budget should be increased.

**SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:** The Government, under the compelling circumstances, brought an Ordinance and dissolved the Medical Council of India. Functions of the Medical Council of India have been entrusted to the Board of Governors. I would request the hon. Minister to clarify few questions in this regard. What precautions has the Government taken to ensure that the provisions are not misused the way they were misused by the MCI? What are the new measures the Government is taking to ensure that the members of the Medical Council of India are kept under constant check and vigil? How is the Government planning to strengthen the accountability of the MCI? What action has the Government initiated against the erring members of the MCI? What is the reason to increase the number of members of the Board of Governors? Is the Government planning to create space for their loyal, retired bureaucrats in the Board? Will that

not create a tussle between the doctors and the bureaucrats and hamper the functioning of the Council? Will such a move in any way curtail the autonomous character of the Council and finally what steps is the Government taking to ensure that larger interest is upheld. I also request the hon. Minister to kindly have a medical college in Kendrapara, Phulbani or Bhadrak in Odisha? All support shall be provided to you from the State Government.

**DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:** The new Bill provides to supersede the Medical Council of India for a period of two years and during this period, the Board of Governors shall exercise the power of MCI as assigned under the MCI Act, 1956. The number of members in the Board of Governors will be increased from the existing 7 to 12. We have total 460 medical colleges in the country and half of them are private medical colleges. Granting of permission or increasing the number of seats in private medical colleges leads to corruption. Some private medical colleges are really good. Private medical colleges are given 150 UG seats and 100 PG seats but the Government colleges have been given only 50 UG seats and we have been requesting to increase the seats for the last 30 years but in vain. What kind of practice a student will do after obtaining a degree from such a medical college which has no faculty for teaching and has no patients and no operations are conducted there? I object to such medical colleges being granted approval. There is a need to make many changes in granting approval for setting up of medical colleges. I thank the Government which has taken many policy

initiatives like strengthening of existing medical colleges and converting the district hospitals to new medical college to increase the number of doctors and specialists in the state. I urge the hon. Health Minister to make it mandatory that no lecturer will resign before five years so that there will be no shortage of faculty.

**KUNWAR DANISH ALI:** The alternative arrangement being brought by the Government in place of Medical Council is quite improper. In the place of the Council, a nominated board is being brought by the Government. The intent of the Government to centralize the power is reflected in all its decisions. Government is going to introduce a bridge course for the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors in the rural areas so that they can learn to prescribe allopathic medicines. This step of the Government will finish the thousands of years old Ayurvedic system being practised in the country. On the one hand, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic doctors are angry that the Government does not trust their system of medicine and is asking them to prescribe allopathic medicines, on the other, allopathic doctors are also angry. It is true that this Government has brought insurance policy but the truth is far from the reality. Even today, lakhs of people are unable to get simple treatment in the country and lose their lives. I would expect that the Government will bring some scheme so that the poor can get the treatment.

**SHRI MOHAMMAD AZAM KHAN:** This is a good Bill. The difference in the Government and non-Government medical colleges mentioned here does not exist really. There is fight for survival between the private universities and

government universities and private medical colleges and government medical colleges and therefore efforts are made to provide the best results. This Bill will prove to be a boon for the poor people who dream of good treatment. There are two fundamental things here- infrastructure and faculty. The condition of faculty should not be imposed if the infrastructure is ten times higher than the Government recommended quality standards. Such colleges can be provided temporary recognition. It will be injustice to a medical college if it is denied recognition based only on the grounds of faculty. There should not be a large number of officials to decide about grant of recognition but there should be medical technocrats and doctors so that they can understand the things properly and take right decision. To think that the doctors from private medical colleges will not be good vis-à-vis Government medical colleges is not proper because all the question papers are set from one place and all the medical students get their degrees from one place.

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:** The National Medical Commission Bill is unlikely to provide dynamic new thrust to medical care in India. The Medical Council of India has outlived its utility and should be reformed or replaced. The fundamental flaw in the proposed Medical Commission is the lack of clarity on its functioning. The Commission should only be expected to monitor and regulate the training of health-care personnel and maintain professional standards. The Bill fails to provide a holistic approach to healthcare.

It excludes nurses, paramedics and other medical professionals from its ambit. Emigration of doctors is a major factor contributing to shortage of doctors. The issue of reluctance of doctors to serve in rural areas should be addressed. There is also a need to revamp the admission test system. I will urge the Central Government that the medical college in the Raigad District should come up in the next year.

**SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS:** The share of expenditure on the health sector out of the total GDP of the nation is less than two per cent. The Government should consider providing free health services to all sections of society because due to their expenditure on health facilities, people are becoming bankrupt, debt-ridden and committing suicides. India needs 20 lakh doctors and 40 lakh nurses. Keeping this in view, the Government should set up more Government medical colleges and hospitals in each district and also in each *mandal* or *tehsil* of the country. The Government should allocate more funds in the coming Budget to the health sector, particularly for medical education. I urge upon the Government to allot the sufficient funds to the AIIMS being set up in Mangalagiri in Andhra Pradesh and complete it expeditiously.

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:** The Medical Council of India has faced a lot of criticism over the past few decades including some serious charges of corruption as well. The MCI has a mandate to regulate two things. One is to regulate medical practice and the other is to regulate medical education. But, MCI



always focused more on the education part. I would also like to mention that today there is a shortage of doctors in the country. There is a failure to rationalise the setting up of medical colleges in the country as per the need. The State of Maharashtra has the maximum number of medical colleges in the country. We have some other States which do not have a single medical college. Hon. Prime Minister had announced earlier that there will be one medical college for every three parliamentary constituencies. We are definitely sure that in the near future we will be having a greater number of medical colleges. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has given some very good recommendations. I request the hon. Minister to consider those recommendations when he brings the Bill next time.

**SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:** The House has been discussing the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019 today. This Bill will help the Government to eradicate corruption from the MCI. I would like to submit that the criminal cases should be filed against the doctors who go on strikes. Around 1000 persons have been appointed on contract basis in the AIIMS, Jodhpur. These appointments have been made purely on the basis of caste. This matter needs to be investigated as it can potentially shake the faith of the common people from the AIIMS. The Governing Board should consist of at least five MPs of which two MPs should be from the medical background.

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:** We all agree that our ultimate aim is to ensure transparency, accountability and quality of medical education in our country. In this regard, I would like to make two suggestions. Firstly, while selecting the Board of Governors, it should have a clear-cut merit criteria. Secondly, the Secretary General should be picked up by a Select Committee of Experts. We have to ensure that there are adequate number of teachers in the medical field. There is corruption in the medical field. We have also seen fake degrees. Medical ethics are now vanishing. I urge upon the Government to introduce a legislation on rights of the patients. We must have private institutions also. But as far as quality is concerned, there should not be any compromise.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Our country has been facing shortage of doctors but it is wrong on the part of the Government to allow a person to carry on medical practices after going through the bridge course within a short period of six months. The medical colleges charge exorbitant fees. The doctors want to pursue private practice as the Government do not provide them decent salary and adequate facilities. I would like to urge upon the Government to save the medical profession from corruption.

**SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:** I am not opposing the content of the Bill but I am opposing some amendments now proposed. I would also suggest that the MCI National Board must conduct a clinical examination, both theory and practical, for the final year undergraduate students throughout the country. I would also suggest

that the MCI must conduct a theory and practical examination in all places before giving registration to the students who are having foreign qualifications. The present practice followed by the MCI for giving recognition for new medical institutions is to conduct an inspection before starting and to follow up with two more subsequent inspection in the subsequent years. The institutions are then given permanent recognition for the next five years. During that period no inspection is done by the MCI to reassess the deficiencies. I would suggest that MCI should conduct yearly re-assessment to ascertain the deficiencies. I would suggest, that a unique identification number may be assigned by the MCI to each faculty member of all the institutions in the country in the line of Aadhaar. There should be a periodical inspection of the hospitals to confirm that they have minimum necessity. The cost of healthcare has gone up phenomenally. As a result, poor patients are not getting proper treatment and diagnosis. Healthcare cannot be run like business, which is now happening. The proposed amendment to reduce the period of the Council from three years to two years will lead to lack of continuity of the Council. The present period of three years may be retained.

**SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:** I would like to make some points in this discussion. Abolition of Medical Council of India and replacing it with National Medical Commission will be against the federal system of India. The formation of National Medical Commission will not solve the problem. The Medical Council of India should be restored to save the medical education and healthcare system. The

shortcomings of the Medical Council of India should be rectified through suitable amendment in Medical Council of India Act itself.

**SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR:** I welcome this amendment Bill as it has been brought by the Government to ensure transparency, accountability and quality in the governance of medical education throughout the country. In this amendment, the number of Members in Governing Board has been increased from 7 to 12. I would like to request the hon. Minister to inform us on what basis these 12 Members will be selected and what their roles and responsibilities would be. As per the World Health Organisation ranking, our country is at 112th position. So there is a need to decrease the patient-doctor ratio by way of providing additional seats in medical colleges. If all district hospitals in the country are converted into medical colleges with adequate support and infrastructure, the number of doctors can be increased as per our requirement.

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:** The Government of India superseded the elected Medical Council of India without assigning any reason. The elected body is further replaced by the Board of Governors, upon whom the Government has total disciplinary jurisdiction and control. The office bearers of the existing Medical Council of India were not even given an opportunity of hearing. Principle of natural justice has not been complied with before superseding the Medical Council of India. After promulgation of the Ordinance, the Medical Council of India is superseded by the Board of Governors. Five years term of the elected

Medical Council of India expired on 5th November, 2018. As per the statutory rules, the Government of India was duty bound to reconstitute the Medical Council of India through due process of election. All of a sudden, the Government invoked Section 3A of the Medical Council of India Act, 1956, superseding the MCI by promulgating an Ordinance in the year 2018 and subsequent Ordinance of 2019. It is not proper as it is not in the public interest. I have no doubt in the intent of the Government of India in order to strengthen the MCI, for which the National Medical Commission Bill was pending before the 16th Lok Sabha. It was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has also submitted a report. We are all in agreement with 'healthcare for all'. We are investing a lot of money in research and development but, the fruits of innovative medical science and medical technology are not reaching the poor. In order to improve the healthcare system, the Government definitely has to come and commence more medical colleges and super-specialty medical colleges in the form of AIIMS. I would like to request the Government to come up with a comprehensive legislation instead of bringing Ordinance one by one.

**SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:** The Government intends to replace the Medical Council of India with a new committee which I don't subscribe to. A Branch of AIIMS was proposed to be set up in Assam which has been hanging fire for the last four years. I would like the hon. Minister to evince his indulgence in the matter. As per WHO, the patient -doctor ratio in our country comes out to be

11000:1 which calls for increase. A safe work place for doctors is to be ensured. After 10 years' sincere efforts the process of setting up of a medical college at Dhubri has been commenced. However, it is moving forward at a snail's pace which needs to be expedited. There are 255 doctors listed in my constituency. While the fact remains that, we have just 112 doctors to take care of 18 lakh people. These few doctors too tend to migrate to big cities. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to ameliorate this condition as well.

**SHRI MANOJ RAJORIA:** I happened to be a Member on the Standing Committee of Health and Family Welfare which had last submitted Report no. 92 in the House. Most of the suggestions made by the Standing Committee have been covered in this Bill. Acting upon the suggestion, a Governing Body consisting of 12 Members has been constituted. The Government will have absolute control over them. The curriculum which was due to be changed for the last 22 years has now been changed. NEET is such a transparent and foolproof system which has enabled even a poor student to be part of National Eligibility Exam. In the system, students are selected without any discrimination. Over the last few years, 27000 UG seats for MBBS have been increased who would pass out after 5 years and it would be a remarkable achievement. As many as 155 new medical colleges have been set up over a period of last 5 years. In every 3 Parliamentary Constituency a medical college has been set up. Likewise, 52 district hospitals have been upgraded to medical colleges. There was huge shortfall of Professors in the

medical colleges providing super specialty course. With minor changes in the Rules the number of seats in PG courses has also been increased. I am grateful to the Government for sanctioning a medical college in Dholpur. Provision of 10 per cent reservation for the EWS belonging to upper-caste had been made in this very House which led to the increase of MBBS seats in Rajasthan. Through 'Ayushman Bharat' a noble work of service to 50 crore people has already commenced.

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**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA**  
*Secretary General*

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\*\*Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debate of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

*English and Hindi versions of Synopses of Lok Sabha Debates are also available at <http://loksabha.nic.in>.*