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MBBS docs to soon face exit exam

Centre's Move Prompted By Concerns Over Standard Of Medicos

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New Delhi: The health ministry is planning an exit exam for MBBS students passing out of government as well as private medical colleges. The move comes in the wake of concerns over the quality of doctors being produced in the country.

Initially, the government intends to create a separate 'all-India chapter' for doctors qualifying the exit exam. Doctors currently get themselves registered with the state chapter of the Medical Council of India (MCI) and have to get their registration transferred if they intend to practice in another state. Those clearing the exit exam will be able to practice anywhere in the country.

Eventually, students failing the exam could even be held back from post-graduate studies, an official source privy to the developments told TOI.

11 TAKE PG EXAM EVERY YR



➤ Each year, about **1,00,000** doctors take postgraduate medical examination across the country

➤ Only around **25,000** make it to PG medical education

➤ Estimates show that in total nearly **1,00,000** MBBS doctors are available for active service at any given time

WHO recommends a doctor-patient ratio of 1:1000

The draft proposal prepared by the ministry suggests using the existing Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) as a voluntary exit exam. FMGE, a screening test recognized by the MCI, was introduced in 2002 as a qualifying examination for Indian students holding medical degrees from other countries and intending to practice medicine in India. The ministry is now considering using it as a benchmark for all MBBS doc-

tors. "Initially, we are planning to start with an incentivizing system. Those who qualify this exam will be incentivized with a national registration number under MCI, allowing them to practice anywhere in the country," the official said.

This will also enable the government to use the exit exam result for ranking colleges.

Government data shows a huge disparity between average pass marks in government

and private colleges, as well as in different states. For instance, the result of the All India Post-Graduate Medical Entrance Examination 2015 showed Andhra Pradesh having an average pass percentage of 84.92%, Chandigarh 73.56% while Bengal and UP had 53.58% and 51.56%, respectively. The pass percentage in Assam, J&K and in foreign institutes was even lower at 46.38%, 37.84% and 31.41%, respectively.

Similarly, AIPGMEE 2014 results showed that, based on a 50% score as minimum qualifying criteria, 22,802 candidates from government institutions passed the exam, compared to a mere 8,862 candidates from private colleges. From foreign institutions, only 1,188 passed. "How students fare in all-India PG exams is also an indicator of the quality of doctors being produced," the official said.