

Nod for hike in medical seats likely by July 31

Yogita Rao | TNN

An increase in the number of seats in government medical colleges will come as a boon for the aspirants. Last year over two lakh students competed for 2,060 seats in government, civic and government-aided medical colleges.

A Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER) official said government colleges in the state have not increased seats since they were set up.

“We have completed all formalities of submissions. MCI wants the intake to be increased from this academic year. We have time till September to make the changes. A letter from the chief secretary, an essential document, has also been signed,” minister of state for medical education D P Sawant said.

He added that the seats will go up by around 500.

The confusion over NEET reduced the number to a lakh this year. Even as the number of applicants increased every year in the past decade, the government did not correspondingly increase the seats forcing students to take admissions in private colleges which charge seven to 14 times more.

A DMER official said the MCI will grant permission only if satisfied with applications from all colleges. Dr K S Sharma, director (academics) at Tata Memorial Centre and member of the board of governors of MCI, said, “Government medical colleges have infrastructure and good clinical material (patients). It is the paucity of faculty members that the government has to deal with. That can be dealt with changes in government policies.”

Sawant said the government had expedited filling up of faculty posts.

HC upholds relaxation of percentile scores

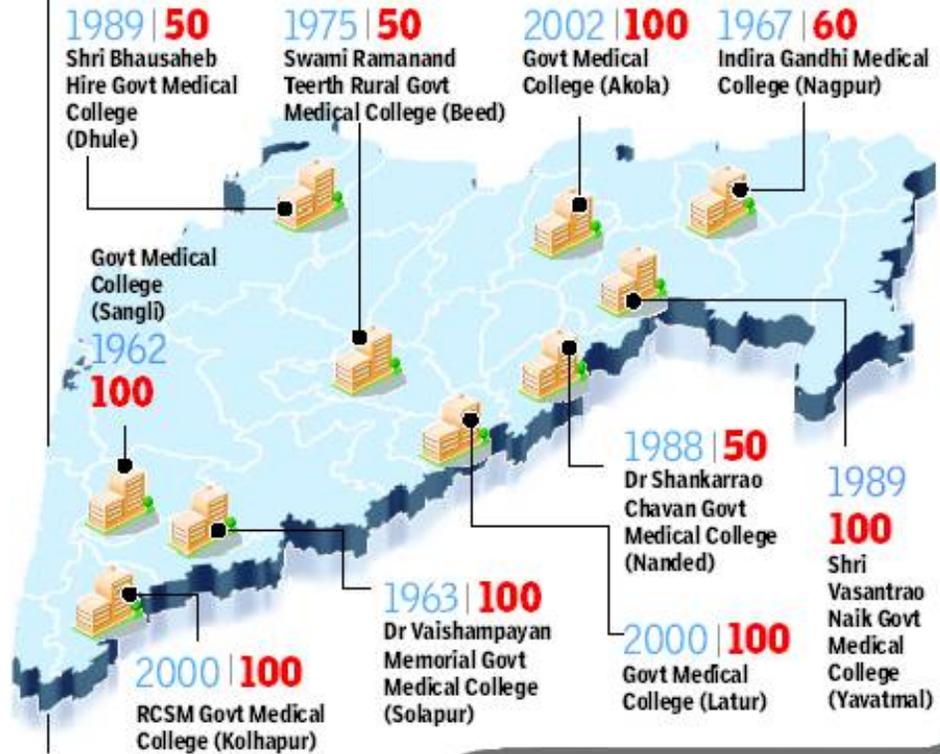
The Bombay HC on Tuesday upheld the relaxation of percentile scores for admissions to post-graduate medical courses in the state. A bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Suresh Gupte said there was justification in granting incentive marks to doctors in government hospitals who have worked in naxal-infested zones and tribal areas and dismissed a petition filed by in-service candidates working in government and civic hospitals challenging the relaxation, as such students would get double benefits. The government allows 10 marks per year of service to doctors who serve at a remote hospital subject to a maximum 30%. The HC order made the field larger for in-service PG candidates shielded from competition. PG admissions to medical courses will operate on the basis of marks obtained in the national entrance test, the HC said. —Swati Deshpande | TNN

DOC-PEOPLE RATIO

The Medical Council of India will give sanction of medical colleges with an intake capacity of 50/100 seats. Colleges with 50 seats can increase it to 100, while those with 100 seats can increase it to 150. The aim is to “augment human resources in medicine for attaining optimum doctor-population ratio in the nation, without compromising on prescribed minimum standards of medical education”. This is only for colleges with at least 10 years of existence. The last date for applications to MCI is July 24. Sanction will be granted by July 31 to ensure new seats are available from this academic year. State govt colleges must give an undertaking that infrastructure and faculty needed will be fulfilled when the application comes up for renewal

COLLEGES ELIGIBLE FOR NEW SANCTIONS

● Established in ● Current in take



Govt-run colleges in state
14
Student intake
1,560

Increase in intake
490
Capacity after increase
over **2,050**



Govt-run medical colleges in city: 1
(Grant Medical College, JJ Hospital compound)
Intake capacity 200



SOME THINGS COME CHEAP

Cost of studying in
govt-run college
(tuition fees)

₹44k/pa

Cost of studying
in pvt college

₹3.5-6.5L/pa