

'MCI will warn students against joining such medical institutions'

The Medical Council of India – the regulatory body for medical education in the country – can take punitive action against G S Medical College for the ragging incident. Dr Ketan Desai, president of the council, discusses these steps in an email interview with **Santosh Andhale**



What can the MCI do when such incidents occur?

Under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the MCI has already notified a regulation titled Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Medical Colleges/ Institutions Regulations, 2009. These regulations are exhaustive in character and incorporate modalities which are required to be undertaken by various identified agencies both on continuous as well as contingent basis.

Is MCI planning to send any new directives to Seth GS Medical College?

A report about the incident has been sought from the concerned

college. Necessary steps will be taken once the report is received and evaluated.

What kind of action can be expected from the MCI in this incident?

The council can impose an exemplary fine of Rs 1 lakh for each incident of ragging, payable by the erring institution to such authority as may be designated by the government.

The council can also declare the institution as not having the minimum academic standards and warn potential candidates for admission at such institution through public notice and posting on the MCI Web site.

What are institutions supposed to do after such incidents take place?

Institutions should arrange regular and periodic and psychological counselling and orientation for students – for freshers separately, as well as jointly with seniors – by professional counsellors during the first three months of the new academic year. This shall be done at the institution and department/ course levels. Parents and teachers should also be involved in such sessions.

Are there plans by MCI officials to visit the college for inspection?

If need be, on evaluation of the report sought from the college.