

They're transferred just for a day!

Nirmala M Nagaraj | TNN

Bangalore: Ten professors from BMCRI and 11 professors from Mysore Medical College reached Mandya on Tuesday morning. All were armed with transfer orders and on their way to Mandya Medical College as the inspection team was arriving.

Nothing new except that they were all there just to show to the visiting team that the college had adequate staff. Their transfer orders were valid just for a day!

The gangrene of corruption that has set in the Medical Council of India (MCI) has now spread to the state medical education department. In less than five months, 60 professors of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) have received transfer orders four times and are transferred back to the institute in less than a week of issue of the transfer order.

"We had to rush to the college to familiarize ourselves with various departments and make the committee feel that we are part of the college," a senior BMCRI professor BMCRI transferred to Mandya Medical College told TOI.

Currently 21 doctors from BMCRI, Mysore Medical College and KIMS, Hubli, are transferred to Mandya Medical College and 26 professors to Raichur Medical College.

These professors transferred to the new government colleges during the inspection period are counted as staff of the college. Once the inspection is over they are transferred back to BMCRI.

"The professors received a relieving order from BMCRI and transfer order to one of the new government colleges in the state on June 10. This is the fourth time they have received

Medical Education Dept Shifts Profs To New Colleges For Headcount



the transfer order. For recognition of the college and enhancement of medical seats, adequate staff strength is essential. So these professors are sent for the headcount and to get the colleges recognised. Once the inspection is over, they are immediately transferred back to BMCRI," sources told *The Times of India*.

GOVT'S STANDING ORDER

The directors of these new government medical colleges are issued a 'standing order' by the medical education department to relieve the transferred professors immediately

after the inspection.

Since all the 60 professors are sent in batches, the functioning of the institute is not affected.

A senior BMCRI professor said: "As per the Karnataka Medical Council list, I am working at BMCRI. During inspection I am transferred by the medical education department to be part of a headcount at another medical college. How can one person be at two places? If there is a strict inspection, I can be suspended and the colleges that are recognised based on headcount can be derecognized. But we have to obey because it's a gov-

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ernment order and at the risk of our career."

Of the 60 professors transferred, some have served as MCI inspectors themselves! "Till recently I have been inspecting colleges. Ironically now I have been sent by the government to be a false headcount during inspection," said a professor.

DISCRIMINATION

The six new government medical colleges are — Bidar, Raichur, Mandya, Shimoga, Hassan and Belgaum. While those transferred to nearby districts have to take the local transport facility and are not provided proper accommodation, those transferred to North Karnataka districts like Raichur are provided flight facility and are accommodated in star hotels. "At least Rs 2 lakh is spent on each professor for being a headcount during inspection by the medical education department," confirmed BMCRI officials.

STUDENTS, PATIENTS SUFFER

The ultimate sufferers are students. Based on staff strength found at the college during inspection these colleges are recognized and medical seats are allocated. But after inspection since the faculty members are transferred back to BMCRI, students are left with no teachers. Since these colleges are also attached to hospitals, even the patients suffer without adequate and efficient specialists to treat them.