

Centre plans to regulate med courses

Proposes independent body to monitor standard

Sanchita Sharma
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THE MINISTRY of health and family welfare has proposed the setting up of an independent authority to regulate post-graduate medical examinations, including two-year degree courses at medical colleges recognised by the Medical Council of India (MCI) and three-year diploma courses of the National Board of Examinations (NBE).

Last week, the Centre issued an order constituting a seven-member committee under the chairmanship of eminent scientist Dr Ranjit Roy Chaudhury to "examine and make recommendations on the need for the constitution of an independent authority to organise and regulate Post Graduate Medical Education in the country".

The committee will also look into the ways to maintain the standard of post-graduate medical diplomas and degrees awarded by different universities in the country, including the diplomate degrees awarded by the NBE.

The order, dated May 1, directs the committee to submit its report within three months, that is, by the end of July this year.

Apart from assessing the feasibility of setting up an independent statutory body, the committee has been asked to recommend the modalities to establish such a body "with statutory powers to plan, develop and monitor post-graduate education on par with international standards".

Currently, the MCI is responsible for the accreditation of medical colleges and ensuring uniform standard of graduate and postgraduate medical education.

The Delhi office of the National Board of Examinations — which has health minister Dr Anbumani Ramadoss' relative Dr A. Rajasekaran as president — will provide the required secretarial and other assistance to the ministry's expert committee.

Other members of the ministry's expert committee include, Dr K.K. Talwar, director, PGIMER Chandigarh; Dr A.K. Aggarwal, dean, Maulana

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The Centre has ordered setting up of a 7-member committee to examine and recommend the need for an independent authority

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