

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3006
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH AUGUST, 2025**

FREEZING OF THE APPROVAL OF NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES BY NMC

3006. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- a) whether the National Medical Commission (NMC) has imposed a freeze on the approval of new medical colleges and the increase of MBBS seats for the academic year 2025-26;
- b) whether the NMC is considering lifting this freeze and resuming the process of approvals;
- c) if so, by when the freeze is likely to be lifted and the approval process for new seats resumed; and
- d) whether Government has taken any steps to ensure transparency and accountability in the seat approval process going forward, and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): As per the information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), no such decision regarding freeze on the approval of new medical college and increase of MBBS seats for the academic year 2025-26 has been taken by the commission.

(d) NMC has implemented a structured and transparent process to evaluate and approve applications related to approval of seats in medical college/ institutions. The steps taken by NMC in the process are as under:

- Each year, the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB), NMC invites applications exclusively through an online portal for establishing a new medical college/ institution offering Undergraduate (UG) courses/ increasing the number of UG seats in existing institutions/ starting new postgraduate (PG) courses/ increasing the number of seats in existing PG courses as per section 28 & 29 of the NMC Act, 2019 & requisite provisions of the "Establishment of Medical institutions, Assessment & Rating Regulations 2023".
- Institutions may submit their applications only if they meet all the requirements outlined in the Minimum Standard Requirements (MSRs) issued by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) or the Postgraduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB) as applicable.

- Upon receiving an application, the MARB, NMC conducts preliminary scrutiny and in case of deficiencies, a Show Cause Notice (SCN) is issued to the concerned college, allowing them to address and rectify the issues.
- The assessment of the medical colleges is carried out by randomly selected pool of expert assessors to maintain objectivity and impartiality in the evaluation process.
- Further, Section 14 of Establishment of Medical institutions, Assessment and Rating Regulations, 2023 provides that with respect to assessment for permission, the MARB may utilize such methods that include, but not to be limited to verification of documents in digital or another form, Aadhar-based attendance register, verification of live video feed, photographs, Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) data, or a surprise physical assessment etc.
- The assessment are examined by reports scrutinizers/experts. If further shortcomings are identified, the institution is issued a SCN in accordance with the proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the NMC Act, providing an additional opportunity for compliance.
- Letter of Permission (LOP) is granted only to those institutions that fully comply with all relevant provisions of the NMC Act 2019 and the regulations, guidelines issued thereunder by the Commission from time to time.
