

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 594  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**

**UNQUALIFIED DOCTORS**

**594. SHRI PINAKI MISRA:  
SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the findings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) report that a large number of doctors practicing in India do not have necessary qualifications, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry/investigation in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the details of cases registered against such practitioners;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the issue; and
- (d) whether it has been reported recently that a Quack used one needle to inject many patients leading to HIV positive infection and if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): The World Health Organization (WHO) in its report on 'Health Workforce in India' has claimed that 57% of allopathic doctors in India do not have medical qualification. The report is erroneous since MBBS is the minimum qualification for enrolment as a registered medical practitioner in a State Medical Register to practice medicine, and hence all registered doctors have medical qualifications.

Section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 prohibits a person other than medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State. Since health is a State subject, the primary responsibility to deal with such cases of quacks lies with the respective State Government.

The Central Government, keeping in view of the above, in August 2017 requested Chief Ministers of all the States to take appropriate action under the law against quacks under the law and also to evolve suitable policies to ensure availability of quality health workforce in rural areas. Further, in February, 2018, Chief Secretaries of the all the States / UTs have also been requested to take corrective steps in this regard.

(d): The instance of alleged spread of HIV infection through a quack using unsafe syringes came to the notice of National AIDS Control Organization, MoHFW, in the month of February, 2018. Enquiry has been conducted into the matter which revealed that from the month of July, 2017 to January, 2018, 46 HIV positive cases were identified through routine preventive check-ups using camp approach catering to the migrant population and their families. Most of these cases were reported as due to high risk behavior of the individuals. All 46 HIV positive cases were initiated on Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) after the diagnosis was confirmed.