

People for Better Treatment (PBT)

Registered society fighting for a better healthcare system

(Regd. No. S/IL/6017 of 2001-2002)

President: Dr. Kunal Saha
2704 Bridgewatch Lane
Columbus, OH 43026, USA
Tel: 001-614-893-6772
Email: anku1@earthlink.net

Secretary: Mr. Malay Ganguly
Commercial Point (Ground floor)
79 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700013
Tel: 9143650171/9831983670
Web: WWW.PBTINDIA.COM

URGENT MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2016

TO:

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhavan ("A" Wing)
New Delhi 110011

RE: 92nd Parliamentary Committee Report: "Non-doctors" in MCI and SMCs

Dear Sir or Madam:

We, the largest humanitarian organization dedicated to promote a better healthcare delivery system in India, are sending this Memorandum to draw your kind and urgent attention to bring a specific and important change in the constitution of the Medical Council of India (MCI) and State Medical Councils (SMCs) for immediate inclusion of "non-doctor" members in view of the 92nd Report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare that was presented before the *Rajya Sabha* on 8th March, 2016 (copy attached). The said Standing Committee Report has categorically held:

(p. 65) "The Committee notes that the Ethics Committee of the MCI presently consists entirely of medical doctors and is thus a self-regulatory body. But all over the world, it has now been realized that the medical

profession (or any profession for that matter) tends to protect its own flock. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the new Board of Medical Ethics should also have non-doctor lay members from different fields.”

(p. 90) *“Keeping all these factors in mind and considering the fact that checks and balances in the MCI are not underpinned on sturdy systems and procedures, the Committee is of the considered view that the composition of the MCI is opaque and skewed and diversity needs to be brought into this because having only medical doctors in the Council is not an enabling factor for ensuring reforms in medical education and practice. The Committee is convinced that if the medical regulator has to perform all its mandated functions in full measure and ensure that education in health disciplines fulfils its social mandate, it needs a vibrant framework with the right kind of capacity which can be achieved only by opening Council membership to diverse stakeholders such as public health experts and social scientists, health economists, health NGOs with an established reputation legal experts, quality assurance experts, patient advocacy groups, to name but a few. **Such diversity and transparency will have the added advantage of reducing the monopoly of doctors in the MCI, thereby reducing the scope of cronyism and corruption. The Committee, therefore, recommends that urgent measures be taken to restructure the composition of MCI on the lines suggested above.”***

Medical education and healthcare delivery system in India have been riddled with widespread cronyism and corruption for a very long time. The doctor-only MCI and SMCs have played a major role in causing the deep decay in our medical system as unequivocally found by the extensive 126-page Parliamentary Committee Report. The Report has also strongly recommended that “*urgent measures*” be taken to include “non-doctor” members to reconstruct MCI and SMCs. We also have no doubt that formation of a truly honest and transparent MCI/SMCs by inclusion of a significant number of eminent “non-doctor” members from the

society, as practiced in developed countries including UK, USA and Australia, can go a long way to elevate the standard of medical education and prevent the rampant incidence of medical negligence across India. As such, we are submitting this Memorandum for your immediate attention for taking urgent measures to bring the necessary changes in the medical rules and regulations for reconstruction of the medical councils by inclusion of “non-doctor” members in the MCI/SMCs as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare. We look forward to hearing from you with great expectation about the steps taken by the Health Ministry to bring the required changes for inclusion of “non-doctors” in the MCI and SMCs. If we do not receive any response from you within three weeks from receiving this Memorandum, we will have no other option but to approach the appropriate court of law for the ends of justice. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kunal Saha
President, PBT

C.C: 1) Hon’ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha; 2) Hon’ble Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare; 3) Chairman, National Human Rights Commission