

1-yr rural stint must for MBBS

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July 9: The state government has decided to make one-year rural service compulsory for all MBBS students from the 2010 academic year to resolve the severe shortage of doctors in villages.

With this, medical students of the State will have to spend six years to get a degree from this academic year.

The Chief Minister, Mr K. Rosaiah, has given his consent to add one year rural service to the existing MBBS course and the decision will be announced soon.

"Those who join MBBS this year will get their degree only in 2016 and not in 2015," said the secretary of health, Mr P.V. Ramesh. "They have to undergo one year rural service after com-

pleting their regular course."

Though the decision does not have the clearance from the Medical Council of India and the Union health ministry, the state has decided to go ahead with it after fruitlessly grappling with doctors' scarcity in rural areas for six years.

"There is no need for permission from the MCI, but we may need consent from the NTR Health University," said Mr Ramesh.

"We are not able to spend the hundreds of crores of rupees sanctioned under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) just because there are no doctors to make use of the infrastructure developed," said Mr D. Nagender, minister for health.

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