

Department against Eamcet medical exam scrapping

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Aug. 14: According to the medical education department officials, a letter will be drafted in the meeting pointing out the objections of the state government over conducting National Eligibility-cum-Entrance test (NEET) only in English and Hindi, which will be sent to the Union health minister, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the MCI.

The first NEET is expected to be held in May/June 2012 and the MCI has already posted the syllabus for the exam on its website and sought feedback from the stakeholders. The deadline to submit feedback ended on August 11. "Not only the language issue, we have also objections regarding the scrapping of the Eamcet medical exam from next year. Students who qualify in the Eamcet med-

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ical exam are eligible for not only MBBS admissions, but also for dental, agriculture, veterinary and pharmacy courses. What about the students who opt for courses other than MBBS in the state? MCI needs to clarify all these issues. We cannot take decisions in haste since it involves the interests of our students," said a senior official of the medical education department.

Some officials pointed out that the Eamcet was being held every year under the AP Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission

and Prohibition of Capitation Fee) Act, 1983, and if AP accepted NEET, there would be a legal conflict between the state Act passed in 1983 and NEET. "We need to amend the state Act to introduce NEET. For that, a Bill needs to be introduced in the Assembly and passed," added the official.

Students and parents also argue that NEET should be introduced from 2013, so that a fresh batch of Class XI students (Intermediate) can prepare for the exam from now. Their concern is that if it is introduced from 2012, students who are currently in Class XII will get just nine months to prepare for NEET. There is also a problem with the syllabus since the NEET syllabus is mainly derived from CBSE and NCERT books and as such students who follow the state syllabus will have difficulties competing with others.