

Azad warns medical colleges using touts

Guilty Will Be Debarred From Taking Admissions For Two Years

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

New Delhi: Medical colleges found using brokers to get clearance to start post-graduate or under-graduate medical courses will face withdrawal of their recognition or may be debarred from admitting new batch of students for two years.

Health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has received reports that people, claiming to be close to the minister, are approaching various medical and dental colleges promising them approval/recognition of their colleges for both UG and PG courses for the year 2010-2011.

Shocked, Azad has shot off a stern letter (copy of which is available with TOI) to all medical and dental colleges asking them to inform his office the names of people ap-



Azad

kept confidential, assured the minister.

Azad in his letter on February 12 wrote, "It has come to my notice that some persons who are proclaiming themselves to be close to me are approaching various medical and dental colleges promising them approval or recognition for their UG and PG medical courses.

I would like to categorically inform you that I have not authorised any individ-

ual or organisation to approach them on behalf of the ministry and Medical Council of India or Dental Council of India.

Such tip-off will be

approaching them on behalf of the ministry and Medical Council of India or Dental Council of India.

He added, "If anybody approaches you on my behalf or on behalf of my office or on behalf of any officer of the ministry or for that matter MCI/DCI, please feel free to call me indicating the name and other details so that I can take appropriate action."

Azad said, "If any college authority entertains such middlemen or brokers, it will be viewed seriously and I would not hesitate to take stringent action including withdrawal of the recognition/debarring from admitting a new batch for a year or two."

Azad had earlier cautioned colleges against taking capitation fees saying that he would use extraordinary pow-

ers to cancel their licences if they were found guilty. He had said, "Should I come to know of any medical college or its proprietor having paid money to get files cleared or get permission to increase seats, I will use extraordinary powers to cancel their licences."

Azad had also called for surprise checks in colleges by the Medical Council of India to assess standards.

"Random checking should become the order. If the institutes know when the team will visit them, they will have everything in place," he said.

Recently, TOI had reported that MCI had sent reminders to 30 medical colleges across India for renewal of permission to run an MBBS course, failing which they will not be able to admit students in the 2010-2011 academic session.