

# AP decision to add 3,500 rural doctors

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**July 9:** Shortage of doctors in rural areas has prevented the state from making best use of the improved rural health infrastructure, augmented by Central funds.

The state had in fact failed to spend funds worth Rs 690 crore sanctioned under the NRHM in the last five years because of this.

The health education wing will now issue a separate notification informing the students who cleared the Eamcet (medicine) that the duration of their MBBS course will be six years.

"We are in the process of issuing the necessary orders," said Mr J. Satyanarayana, special chief secretary, health department.

The Chief Minister, Mr K. Rosaiah, speaking in the Assembly, said that the decision would add about 3,500 doctors in the rural hospitals.

"We have waited for very long. Now we have to move ahead with one-year compulsory service," the CM said.

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