

To deal with shortage of doctors, UP proposes campus hiring

ALIGARH: Public sector health system of Uttar Pradesh is plagued by a crippling shortage of doctors. The officials have time and again tried to solve this problem, but not much has been achieved. The state has vacancies for 16,422 doctors and 6,000 posts are empty, which is a 41% shortfall. While on his trip to inspect Malkhan Singh district hospital in Aligarh the director-general health and medical Sunil Srivastava said, "Initiatives are being taken to reach out for a solution to the problem of doctors' shortage. The problem is being taken seriously at our level. One of the important steps taken in this direction is to recruit doctors from campuses, just the way engineering students are recruited directly after college. we too want same method to be adopted."

Emphasizing the urgency to have this method adopted the official added, "Once doctors are taken by the private sector it becomes difficult to get them out, so the public sector needs to tap them at the source. The on campus recruitment shall give us a fast channel to fill the posts." Mentioning that this initiative was proposed as way as 2014 on order to get specialist doctors, he said: "Doctors and gazetted officers are appointed by the public service commission, so there is a long procedure to get it approved." Singh also pointed out some alternatives such as "re-appointment of retired doctors for five years, which will fill at least 1,000 vacancies and reduce the burden on the healthcare system in the state. Concerned about the rising number of attacks on doctors the director general reiterated that the security of doctors is crucial and it is actually the duty of the district administration to look into the law and order situation.