

The Times of India

Soon, science grads to be deployed as docs because of severe shortage of doctors

Ranchi: Grappling with a severe shortage of doctors, the state health and family welfare department plans to enlist the services of science graduates from colleges to serve as registered medical practitioners (RMP) at rural health posts.

Health minister Ramchandra Chandravanshi on Wednesday said the department has chalked out a plan to fill vacant posts at rural health centres.

"We need an action plan to deal with the shortage of doctors. After all, providing proper healthcare to the rural populace is our priority," Chandravanshi said at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (Rims) after meeting a cop who was injured in the firing incident at Ramgarh's Gola. "We have initiated talks with colleges. A draft proposal will be sent to the cabinet for approval soon," he said.

Health department sources said the criteria for selection of students to serve as contractual RMPs is being chalked out.

The selected students will undergo training to ensure they perform their duties properly. Each RMP will be given a registration number, sources added.

In May, the department appointed 167 specialised doctors to various posts in district hospitals and health centres.

In August, about 112 of these doctors reportedly refused to take up the posts assigned to them, citing various reasons and have tendered their resignation.

The state health machinery currently faces a shortfall of about 700 doctors, in addition to its existing strength of 1,800. "We do not know why they were not willing to join," said Chandravanshi.

The minister on Tuesday said the health department will prohibit the entry of medical representatives from government hospital premises and direct doctors to prescribe generic drugs.