

Deccan Herald

Bengal considering revised recruitment rules for doctors

A shortage of doctors in state-run hospitals has made the West Bengal government to consider changing appointment rules to recruit doctors from other parts of the country.

The government is in the process of formulating a plan under which suitable compensation can be introduced to attract such candidates.

Chandrima Bhattacharya, chairperson of West Bengal Medical Services Corporation, the state's healthcare nodal agency, said the proposal was put forth by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "We're trying to do something so that doctors in other parts of the country will be interested in serving state-run hospitals in West Bengal," Chandrima said.

Sharing the government's vision to transform healthcare delivery in West Bengal, Chandrima said, "Doctors on contract, outsourcing of diagnostic facilities, increased outreach through mobile medical units and web-based monitoring are the issues the state government has set its sight on," she said. "Providing affordable and accessible healthcare through public-private partnerships is the need of the hour," she added.

The former health minister said the government is planning to set up five medical colleges in different parts of the state as a measure to ensure the gap between the number of doctors required on the ground to that of medical students who graduate every year is bridged. She urged the private sector to come forward and help the government in making West Bengal a model state in healthcare delivery.

Administration sources said the government is ready to welcome private players in the state-run healthcare system, particularly in the field of diagnostics. "There are chances that leading private players can take over diagnostics facilities at some government hospitals in the state. The modalities will have to be worked out," an official said.