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Title: Need to have a separate Geriatric Department in all major Government Hospitals and introduce a course on Geriatric Medicine as a part of MBBS Curriculum.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (BAPATLA): A WHO sponsored study conducted by doctors at Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi has revealed that while the prevalence of diseases like diabetes, hypertension and other old-age ailments is very high among the senior citizens, they are neither aware of them nor they have any control over these diseases except at a very late stage. In order to keep diabetes, heart attack and related diseases in check, the study has underlined an urgent need for having a separate Geriatric Department in all major Government Hospitals and Medical Colleges and incorporating fresh course on geriatric medicine in MBBS Curriculum. In September 2000, the Medical Council of India also made a similar recommendation to be implemented within five years, but nothing has been done so far in this direction. I request that the Government may consider this recommendation for an early implementation.

The existence of a separate Geriatrics Department in all major Hospitals is a speciality in foreign countries.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Rashid J.M. Aaron – Not present.