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Title: Regarding implementation of Central Law to give protection to medical practitioners.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Sir, attacks on doctors are on the rise and it has now become a very serious threat to medical practitioners while performing their duty. In the last week, an orthopedic surgeon working at Dhule hospital in Maharashtra was beaten up brutally by the relatives of a patient after the patient's unfortunate death. He is said to have lost the vision of one eye as a consequence of this ghastly attack. Three days back, a similar incident took place in a BMC-run hospital.

Doctors in government hospitals are overburdened due to a tremendous shortage of medical staff. Doctors are not ready to go to rural hospitals because of inadequate infrastructure as well as inadequate medicines. Also, there is shortage of at least five lakh doctors in India. Doctor to patient ratio is 1:1700 which is very meager.

Every doctor performs to the best of his or her ability but because of work pressure there may be a lack of communication which may lead to unpleasant situations between doctors and patients. In the last two years, Maharashtra alone has seen nearly 50 incidents of attacks on doctors. Indian Medical Association report states that 75 per cent of doctors have faced some type of violence at the workplace.

This is a very alarming situation. Various State governments have passed Medical Protection Act but its implementation is far from satisfactory and there has been no conviction till date. The provision for three years imprisonment and fine of Rs.50,000 is very less.

The Inter-Ministerial Group set up by the Central Government has recommended legislation of a Central law to give protection to medical practitioners. I urge upon the Government through you, Sir, to implement this Central law as early as possible. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde, Shri Rahul Shewale, Shri Ch. Malla Reddy are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde.