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title: Need to release the balance funds for construction of five new medical colleges in Odisha.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Construction of 5 new medical colleges in Odisha with a project cost of Rs. 189 crores each has been taken up under centrally sponsored scheme. With fund sharing pattern of 75:25 between Centre and the State Government, the work is going on full swing which on completion will go a long way in addressing the shortage of doctors in the state. Admission in new medical colleges for MBBS students has been scheduled to commence from 2017-18 academic session. Odisha Government on its part has made adequate budget provision for the project despite financial crunch.

A revised estimate of Rs. 2450.90 crores for the five proposed medical colleges has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India for capital expenditure equipment and manpower.

Government of India, on its part, released Rs. 55 crores only in three installments till date. Chief Minister of Odisha has requested the Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to expedite the matter.

Therefore, I request the Minister Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to release the funds as soon as possible for the purpose.