

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis  
of the Report Submitted by

**India**

Prepared January 2004

Background

The National Committee of Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined at its March 1997 meeting that the standards and processes used by Medical Council of India (MCI) to accredit medical schools offering programs leading to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.S), the M.D.-equivalent degree, were comparable to standards of accreditation applied to M.D. programs in the United States.

In March 2003, the NCFMEA again reviewed information provided by the MCI on its medical accreditation standards to reassess the comparability of those standards. The NCFMEA reaffirmed its prior determination that the standards and processes used by the MCI to accredit medical schools in India were comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. At its meeting, the NCFMEA also requested that India submit a report on its accreditation activities for review at the March 2004 NCFMEA meeting.

Summary of Findings

In May 2003, the MCI was requested to provide the following information and appropriate documentation regarding its accreditation activities involving the medical schools: (a) current status of medical schools; (b) overview of accreditation activities; (c) laws and regulations; (d) standards; (e) processes and procedures; and (f) schedule of upcoming accreditation activities. Though Department staff have made repeated attempts to obtain the report, no materials had been provided to the Department at the time of this analysis. A description of the sequence of activities follows in the staff analysis section. Since no materials have been received, the Committee may want to consider its options, including notifying the MCI of its need to submit the requested report or face possible Committee action regarding the country's comparability status.

### Staff Analysis

As reported above, in May 2003 the U.S. Secretary of Education requested that India submit a report of its accreditation activities by December 1, 2003. In November 2003, Department staff reminded the MCI of the impending review before the NCFMEA scheduled for March 2004 and asked the MCI to also include in its report information about the reported suspension of medical school admissions in Bombay in September 2003 as a result of student and parent protests over the medical school admissions processes. On January 5, 2004, Department staff sent a second reminder to the MCI that the requested report, due December 1, 2003, had not been received. On January 7, 2004, a computer programmer with the MCI responded that he could not open the review materials because they were password protected. Department staff resubmitted the documents. However, the agency has not yet responded.

At the time India was last reviewed by the NCFMEA, all correspondence was sent to Dr. M. Sachdeva, Secretary of the Medical Council of India. However, a review of the MCI Website in January 2004 indicates that Dr. P.C. Kesavankutty Nayar is now serving as the Acting President of the MCI. At this time, it is not clear whether changes in MCI's leadership may have affected the administrative operations of the MCI.