

PROCEEDING OF THE MEETING OF THE PUNJAB MEDICAL COUNCIL WITH
CH. SANTOKH SINGH, HON'BLE MINISTER MEDICAL EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH AT PUNJAB BHAWAN ON 8-1-2004.

With the permission of chair the meeting started at 11:30 A.M.

1. Dr. A.S. Thind, Registrar, Punjab Medical Council welcomed Ch. Santokh Singh, Hon'ble Minister Medical Education & Research, Dr. J.S. Gujral, Vice Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sh. Satish Chandra, IAS, Secretary, Medical Education & Research, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Director Research and Medical Education, Dr. A.S. Sekhon, Registrar, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Dr. Manmohan Singh, President, Punjab Medical Council, Dr. Rajinder Pal Singh Virk, Member, Dr. Yash Kumar Sharma, Member, Dr. Balraj Gupta, Member, Dr. Neeti Rajan Singh, Member, Dr. Amrik Singh Bhatia, Member, Dr. D.S. Dalal, Principal, G.G.S.M.C. Faridkot, Dr. Paramjit Singh Bedi, Principal, Govt. Medical College, Amritsar, Dr. Kiranjit Kaur, Principal, Govt. Medical College, Patiala, Dr. Kuldeep Singh, President, Indian Medical Association, Dr. O.P.S. Kande, Past President, Indian Medical Association, Punjab.
2. The Hon'ble Minister inaugurated the Ist meeting of the newly constituted Punjab Medical Council by lighting the inaugural candle.
3. The Hon'ble Minister released the seal of the Punjab Medical Council.
4. Dr. A.S. Thind, Registrar, Punjab Medical Council, introduced the members of the newly constituted Punjab Medical Council (elected and nominated) one by one to the Hon'ble Minister. The bio-data of each member were read.
5. Dr. Manmohan Singh, President, Punjab Medical Council, delivered a key-note address and proposed the adoption of the Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulation 2002 with immediate effect which was approved.

It was also proposed that the Punjab Medical Council should have "PMC HOUSE" either at Chandigarh or Mohali. Council house should be the permanent office of the council. It was approved that the council should have permanent building and in this regard initially necessary steps be taken for the allotment of land through Punjab Urban Development Authority, Mohali.

The President Punjab Medical Council proposed to setup standing disciplinary and ethical committees including panels of expert doctors to deal with the cases of indiscipline, misadventure and negligence. It was also approved in the committee. The President was authorized to constitute these committees.

Dr. ManMohan Singh stated that the last election to the Punjab Medical Council were held in 1972. Some nominated bodies have existed in the interim period but it was the bold initiative taken by Hon. Ch. Santokh Singh Ji that fresh Elections were held in 2003 after a long gap of 30 years. This has fulfilled the long-standing demand of the Medical fraternity in Punjab, which had been pressing for constituting the Punjab Medical Council.

The President explained that the Punjab Medical Council is a statutory body constituted under the Punjab Medical Council Registration Act of 1916.

The Duties of the Council are :

- (a) Registration of all the Medical Practitioners of modern system of medicine & registration of higher qualifications.
- (b) Hold an enquiry into complaints of professional misconduct by Registered Medical Practitioners & impose sanctions if required. A proper procedure is laid down in the act for the same.
- (c) It has been enshrined upon the council to call for information regarding efficiency of teaching from the Governing body or authorities of any University, Medical College or School included in or desirous of being included in the schedule. Further the members of the Council can be deputed to be present at the Medical examinations being held by any such University, College of School.

The President stated that regulating the professional conduct of the Medical Professionals and ensuring the standards of Medical Educations in the state are proposed to be taken up more seriously in the future.

He further stated that there is an urgent need for the concerned authorities to appreciate that the Punjab Medical Council is a statutory body and one of duties enshrined upon the Punjab Medical Council, under the Act, is to enquire into any complaints of Medical/ professional incompetence and misconduct. The council alone should be the appropriate forum to be approached by he public and the administrative machinery so that appropriate enquiry and action can be taken in such maters. This will provide proper justice to both the complainant and the Medical professional without unnecessary harassment to both.

The President Dr. ManMohan Singh proposed to set up the necessary standing Disciplinary & Ethical Committees along with panel of expert to expeditiously deal with such cases, which was approved.

It was further proposed to adopt, with immediate effect The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulation 2002, which have already been notified in the Gazette of India, which was approved.

It was explained that these regulations also mandate that- “ No person other than having qualifications recognised by the MCI and registered with MCI/ State MC is allowed to practice the modern system of Medicine or Surgery. A person obtaining qualifications in any other system of medicine is not allowed to practice modern system of medicine in any form.” This was approved by the house.

The President, Punjab Medical Council proposed that the Departments controlling Consumer courts and the Home Department should be informed about the statutory duties and rule of the Punjab Medical Council so that these Departments can make use of the regulatory mechanisms of the Punjab Medical Council before taking final action in any complaint before them against medical professionals. This was accepted & approved. Further necessary action to be initiated in this context.

The President pointed out that there are some pending issues regarding the Punjab Medical Council lying with the Govt. He took the opportunity to bring it to the notice of the Minister Medical Education & Research, that certain amendments are urgently required in the Punjab Medical Council Act regarding the membership of the PMC etc and renewal of registration, every five years, linking it with the attending of requisite hours of CME sessions. He also informed that the Punjab Medical Council is in the process of proposing certain other amendments to the act, to make it modern and contemporary and these would be sent to the Govt. in due course. He requested that necessary steps may be taken in these matters at the earliest.

The House was informed that the council is updating and computerizing the Medical Register. In this regard it was also proposed to hold seminars of Doctors in the major cities of Punjab. It was further proposed to evolve a system wherein the public could verify the validity of the Registration of any Medical practitioner from the Council. This would help in maintaining the proper Medical Register & improve accountability.

It was also proposed that the Punjab Medical Council should have its own building – The PMC House – that will serve as the permanent office of the council. The President requested the Hon’ble Minister Medical Education & Research to take up the matter of allotment of land for this purpose, with the PUDA.

6. Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Director Research and Medical Education emphasized that the council should not be only the registering body but should also take action against the registered medical practitioners who indulge in malpractice. In the eyes of public the council is a mere registering body. The council should take steps so this impression is washed away.

7. Dr. J.S. Gujral, Vice Chancellor, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot reminded that the duties of the council is not a bed of roses but is the biggest responsibility on the shoulder of President and the members of newly constituted council. Whatever complaints are being referred to council. The Punjab Medical Council should take decision within a specified time limit so that justice is done to the aggrieved party.
8. Sh. Satish Chandra, I.A.S., Secretary, Medical Education and Research appreciated the role of the council and assured all help from the Punjab Government. He assured that all the pending issues will be cleared at the earliest. He agreed that the regulatory duties of the Punjab Medical Council should be informed to all the concerned departments so that the Punjab Medical Council, being a statutory body, can be involved in complaints against doctors.
9. Hon'ble Minister wished the President and members of the council all the success and emphasized that the council should take interest and should educate the Registered Medical Practitioners by way of conducting seminars, C.M.E.'s, Conference's. The Registered Medical Practitioner should know their responsibility towards public particularly towards malpractices like patronizing the specific medical laboratories and prescribing medicines. The Hon'ble Minister assured that the matter of building Punjab Medical Council will get full help from the Punjab Government. The Hon'ble Minister assured full help to the council in discharging it duties in improving the ethics & discipline in the medical profession as well as improving the standards of Medical Education in the State. He further assured that the pending issues of the Punjab Medical Council will be taken up & sorted out at earliest.

The Hon'ble Minister expressed the hope that the Punjab Medical Council will set an example for the whole of India, which the other State Medical Councils will follow & try to emulate.

10. Dr. A.S. Thind, Registrar of the council thanked the Hon'ble Minister and other dignitaries for sparing his valuable time and blessing the newly constituted Punjab Medical Council. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks of the chair.

(Dr. Manmohan Singh)
President.

Endst.No/PMC/2004/

Dated :-

Copy forwarded for information to :-

1. Sh. Satish Chandra, I.A.S., Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Medical Education & Research, Punjab.
2. Dr. Manmohan Singh, President, Punjab Medical Council, 50, Yadvincra Colony, The Mall, Patiala.
3. Dr. J.S.Gujral, V.C., Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.
4. Dr. Rajinder Pal Singh Virk, Member, Punjab Medical Council, 192, Guru Hargobind Nagar, Phagwara, Distt. Kapurthala.
5. Dr. Yash Kumar Sharma, Member, Punjab Medical Council, H.No. 9-A, Vijay Nagar, C/o Central Hospital, Maternity Home, Near Football Chowk, Jalandhar.
6. Dr. Balraj Gupta, Member, Punjab Medical Council, C/o Rattan Hospital, 280, Udham Singh Nagar, Jalandhar.
7. Dr. Neeti Rajan Singh, Member, Punjab Medical Council, 1-Radha Swami Satsang Road, The Mall, Amritsar.
8. Dr. Gursharan Singh, Member, Punjab Medical Council, Gee Ess Heart Centre, Baba Than Singh Chowk, Ludhiana.
9. Dr. Amrik Singh Bhatia, Member, Punjab Medical Council, 15-Mata Kaulan Marg, Kashmir Avenue, Amritsar.
10. Dr. A.S.Sekhon, Registrar, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, FDK.
11. Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Director, Research & Medical Education, Punjab.
12. Dr. D.S.Dalal, Principal, G.G.S. Medical College, Faridkot.
13. Dr. Paramjit Singh Bedi, Principal, Govt. Medical College, Amritsar.
14. Dr. Kiranjit Kaur, Principal, Govt. Medical College, Patiala.
15. Principal, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana.
16. Principal, Dayanand Medical College, Ludhiana.
17. Principal, Govt. Medical College, Sector 32, Chandigarh.
18. Dr. Kuldeep Singh, President, Indian Medical Association, Punjab.
19. Dr. O.P.S.Kande, Past President, Indian Medical Association, Punjab.

