

## Editorial for Dec 2010

### **Battle against the Forged letter**

In history we find many stories of forgery of the letters, documents. Even duplicate persons were placed in the place of king. This had created havoc in the people and the families of the king. Our family of ISM doctors spread all over the country faced similar disaster by one forged letter.

Yes! I am quoting the MCI letter signed by the former secretary of the MCI Dr Setalwad. This letter was full of jealousy, false allegations, wrong quotes, against our practitioners. That letter had called our doctors as qualified quacks. MCI had demanded action on our doctors on the request of IMA. This letter started reaching the officials sometimes in the month of September 2010. And based on this letter some bureaucrats started taking actions against our doctors. This letter practically reached every state council, directorate of health and AYUSH, magistrates, and media specially print and electronic media. This was a new form of anti quackery bill in a very sophisticated manner.

But we as a NIMA central council started taking actions immediately. We had important meeting in this regard. We prepared a descriptive reply to the letter, citing evidences, quoting high court and Supreme Court orders, answers given by the health minister about the right to practice modern system of medicine by the doctors of Indian system of medicine. We sought legal advice. We talked to the media and produced supported documents.

But still the sword of legal actions was hanging over. The letter had quoted IMA and its Anti quackery campaign on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2010. We as association talked to the IMA about the letter. The reply was they celebrate the abovesaid day but they were unaware of the letter. The suspicion about the authenticity of the particular letter calling our doctors as qualified quacks started coming in the minds. We tried to take a chance and rang the numbers on the top of the said letter. Surprisingly the numbers were of a grocery shop in vikasnagar in delhi. The official website of the MCI was not showing the letter as dispatched. The letter was full of grammatical mistakes, looking at which one could not think of it to be sent by apex body of MBBS doctors.

We decided to take chance. I found out the authentic numbers of MCI and I got them. I contacted MCI. Initially I always spoke to the front officer. He gave me the landline number of the Joint Secretary Dr. Prasanna Raj. I tried to contact him many times but he was busy continuously in the meeting. Ultimately I was successful. I told him the whole story and he told me to send the papers by fax. When he saw the fax; I got phone from the MCI stating that the letter was bogus and not sent by the MCI. When I asked whether MCI could give this in writing as actions had been started in various places across the country. He told me to send the hard copy of the letter and he would put the case before the board of directors and take action accordingly.

This was sometimes in the month of September. Since then I was following the matter on phone, email. Meanwhile our delegation comprising the top brass of NIMA met President of CCIM and persuaded him to look into the matter and send letter to MCI about the authenticity of the letter.

Dr.Raghunandan Sharma the president of CCIM acted very fast and sent letter. Our delegation met Dr.Prasanna raj the joint secretary of MCI.We gave representation to him His answer was the matter is to be examined by the ethics committee of the MCI.When the investigation will be over they would reply.

In the mean time we discussed the issue with the legal advisers. We held meeting at Nanded for this important issue. There were actions taking place on our graduates and post graduate in various parts of the country. But we kept our patience for the reply of MCI.We issued press release in order to clarify the thing approached the concerned authorities.

Ultimately in the last week of November the reply to RTI came. The CCIM also got the reply. In the reply MCI has categorically replied that they do not have any connection with the letter. Moreover MCI does not have any connection with the issue of quackery and right to practice allopathic medicine by ISM doctors.

The crux of the story is the actions taken by the custodians of the democracy based on the bogus letter. It shows the prejudice against the ISM doctors despite of working in the field of health selflessly for the last 60 years. Hence we must all work hard for the amendment in our IMCC Act 1970, inclusion of our doctors in the definition of registered medical practitioner. This will definitely prevent such actions by Police, magistrates, and will help in reduction of biased view of the media, politicians against us.

I think this is historic victory as first time in the history of NIMA. MCI has taken a view that they do not have any role to decide the rights and privileges of the ISM doctors. This will be helpful in the consumer cases, high court writs, and the long standing demand of Act amendment.

Friends, the other side of the coin is our duties in the nation building. We must enrich our knowledge for the welfare of the patient community. We should bring excellence in our services. We are blessed with the integrated approach towards health of the patient. We have allopathy to treat acute emergencies.Ayurved and Panchakarma for chronic diseases non curable by allopathy.We have enriched streeroga and Prasutitantra medicines,excellent shalakya procdures,preventive medicine as swathavritta,yoga and spiritual medicine for the treatment of psychological and psychosomatic disorders so on and forth.

The battle is won but not the war is still on and we will not rest until the integrated medicine becomes the national medicine.....

(In the present edition the fake letter by MCI and authentic reply by MCI is published.)