

IMA splits, new pro-quota group formed

Tuesday, 23 May , 2006

New Delhi: Close on the heels of division in the AIIMS faculty on issue of quota, cracks appeared in the Indian Medical Association, which has been supporting the agitators, with the doctors belonging to backward classes setting up a new body to favour government's reservation proposal.

Indian National Medical Association, the new "apolitical" group, accused some doctors of the forward classes of dominating the medical body, and alleged these doctors were "politically motivated" in flaring up the anti-reservation agitation.

"If the Constitution has provided the provision of reservation to uplift the SC/ST and backward classes, why these doctors are opposing it," Dr S P Singh, President of the newly-set up group, said.

Reservation is needed to give social justice to backward groups, he said adding those who are opposing reservation should go to villages to see the real picture of the country.

The group also said that while a lot of noise was being made on the issue of merit, no body questioned the merit of those who get admissions in medical colleges by paying capitation fee.

"Scientifically, it has been proven that genetics contributes only 10 per cent to intelligence while 90 per cent is contributed by environment," Singh said adding the government move would benefit unprivileged classes.

The group demands the reservation for OBCs in proportion to their population, that is, 55 per cent in all educational institutes, Dr U K Chowdhary, general secretary, of the group said.

The group said it would ensure that "unconstitutional" agitation was not supported by IMA. The reservation policy was being followed by almost all states while a big agitation had been flared up for central institutes, it added.

Singh condemned the doctors in the IMA for being silent on the issue of violence committed against pro-quota medicos in Patna while the same doctors had spoken against violence committed on anti-reservation agitators in Mumbai.

The Indian National Medical Association also announced that it was planning to organise a "maha rally" on June 4, 2006 in New Delhi which would be joined by doctors from all over the country to show the solidarity on the issue.

Terming resignation of two members of the Knowledge Commission as "shameful", the group demanded scrapping of the commission saying it was not aware of the reality of the Indian society.

A group of senior faculty doctors at had come forward in support of reservation for backward classes last week.

Progressive sections in both the faculty and resident doctors associations of AIIMS are in support of the quota, the Medicos Forum for Equal Opportunity, the group in AIIMS, said.

<http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=14211186>