

# Union Health Minister pays surprise visit to Canacona CHC

HERALD CORRESPONDENT  
CANACONA, JAN 20

The ailing Canacona Community Health Centre received an unexpected visitor when Union Health Minister Dr Ambhumani Ramadoss, Minister of State for Health Prabhakar Laximi and 10 MPs visited the 'state-of-the-art' hospital, which sorely lacks many medical facilities in the taluka.

On the sidelines of a conference in a nearby five-star hotel of 'Consultative Committee of Parliament on Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare', Ramadoss, Prabhakar Laximi, seven Lok Sabha and three Rajya Sabha MPs visited Canacona's ailing Community Health Centre on Tuesday morning before converging for a presentation meet at the hospital's conference hall.

Most of the MPs tried to get acquainted with facilities available in the hospital before converging for a short presentation of the facts of the community hospital, according to CHC Health Officer Dr Murlidharan.

Dr Ramadoss was specifically seen checking some vaccination/drugs stored in the hospital, while a Rajya Sabha MP from Rajasthan Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi went round-the-hospital wards enquiring about



**Union Minister Dr Anbumani Ramadoss on a visit to Canacona Community Health Centre.**  
Photo by Kathy Pereira

the well being of the admitted patients.

Chaturvedi, who claimed to have 10 years experience in health ministry in his home state, in an informal chat with the press said that instead of three doctors, which are too less in a community hospital like CHC Canacona, remarked that a minimum of six doctors are compulsorily required to give better service to the people.

Lok Sabha MPs included Dr Karan Yadav, Virendra Kumar, Chengara

Surendra, Ravi Prakash Verma, Dr P Pukun Pikoba, Iqbal Ahmed Saradagir and D K Abhike Savaly, while Rajya Sabha MPs were Dr Narayansingh Monkolo, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi and Vikram Verma.

Director of Health Services Dr Rajnanda Dessai, Deputy Director Dr Deepak Kapadi, National Vector-borne Disease Dr J D'Sa, CMO Dr Ravindra Nadkarni and CHC Health Officer Dr V R Murlidharan were the local officers present during the visit of high-powered central committee.

## Says Rs 13 crore allocated for State's health needs

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Union Health Minister Dr Ambhumani Ramadoss has stated that Rs 13 crore has been allocated to the State government to attend health needs of the State, as part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

"It is the duty of the State government to see that it is suitably used in taking care of health needs of rural inhabitants," said Dr Ramadoss, while interacting with the press.

Agreeing that 32,000 doctors employed in the country's government hospitals are indeed insufficient, Ramadoss said that the government has decided to double the figure in the near future not only to overcome shortage of doctors in Goa, but all over the country as scarcity of doctors is also a national concern.

However, the health minister quipped "no comments" when a reporter asked him what government is doing about the doctors who attain medical degrees at the cost of nation, but leave overseas for lucrative professions.