

# Manila calling state medics

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

Ranchi, July 9: Health minister Bhanu Pratap Sahi and HRD minister Bandhu Tirkey were invited to Manila today to accept honorary PhD degrees.

The invitation, extended by Healthcare Management International, the official representative of seven medical colleges of Philippines, was aimed to woo prospective students from the state.

The invitation came at a meeting organised to launch MBBS programme of Philippines medical colleges for Indian students. All seven colleges are approved by the commission for higher education, the supervising authority for higher education in Philippines.

The institute has a target to take about 300 students from India to study a four-and-a-half year MBBS course from Philippines at a cost of Rs 10-14 lakh each and assured free education for at least 10 tribal students.

The institute today also appointed Shiksha Samadhan, a Ranchi-based academic planner and facilitator, their part-

ner for Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa.

"It was an opportunity for the state students to study in Philippines medical colleges, especially in view of the acute shortage of medical colleges here. I have requested them to sponsor at least 10 ST students and a few SC students. The managing director of the institute has agreed and soon the HRD and health department will hold a session to derive further benefits of the opportunity," Tirkey said.

When asked, health minister Bhanu Pratap Sahi said Jharkhand needs about 7,000 doctors, but produces only 190 MBBS every year. The institute has given an opportunity to prospective students to study in Philippines medical colleges by paying almost the same fees that they pay here.

Shiksha Samadhan chief Akash Sinha said candidates with 50 per cent marks in PCB and English could appear in Philippines medical admission test to get enrolled in any of the seven medical colleges. He said the P-MAT test will be held among other places in Ranchi on July 30.

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