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# K'taka to bring EWS quota in med, dental colleges next year

Photo for representation

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**Mysuru:** The Karnataka government has initiated the process of introducing the economically weaker section (EWS) quota in medical (MBBS) and dental (BDS) colleges and is expecting 700 additional seats to meet the requirement.

Students may have to wait for a year to avail the quota since it will not be included in this academic year due to time constraint.

Jawaid Akhtar, principal secretary (health and family welfare services), said the state government has written a letter to the Centre in this regard and was awaiting approval. Mohammed Mohsin, secretary to the backward classes department, confir-

## 700 MORE SEATS IN KARNATAKA

- Implementing EWS quota will add 700 more medical and dental seats in Karnataka
- Quota to be introduced in 19 government and two ESI medical college and hospitals
- Candidates with annual family income of less than Rs 8 lakh eligible for EWS quota



59

Medical colleges in state

med to **TOI** that the EWS quota will not be implemented in the upcoming academic year.

"We've written to the Medical Council of India and the health ministry seeking permission to introduce the EWS quota in the state. We hope we get the approval soon," Dr PG Girish, director, medical education, government of Kar-

nataka, told **TOI**.

The EWS quota will be introduced in Karnataka's 19 government medical colleges and two ESI medical college hospitals. The quota is applicable to eligible candidates with an annual family income of less than Rs 8 lakh.

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## 'EWS quota not carved out of existing seats'

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Karnataka has 59 medical colleges — 40 are private (including deemed universities) and 19 government institutes. The state has 49, of them 46 are private. Girish said Karnataka is expected to get 630 additional MBBS seats under EWS quota in 19 government colleges and 25 additional seats in ESI medical college hospitals of Bengaluru and

Kalaburagi. "These are early estimates. A clear picture will emerge at the time of medical counselling conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority," he added.

Medical department officials said the EWS quota is not carved out of existing seats. "For instance, the intake of two ESI hospitals was 100 each. Now, 25 seats are being added to these colleges under EWS quota," an officer said.