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Russia-Medicine

MEDICAL GRADUATES FROM RUSSIA CAN EASE DOCTOR SHORTAGE

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

MOSCOW, March 16 (Bernama) -- Medical graduates from universities in Russia are expected to ease the shortage of doctors in Malaysia in the near future, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said today.

He said more Malaysians had signed up for medical studies in Russia since the Malaysian government accorded recognition to medical degrees from five institutions in Russia at the end of last year.

"Maybe after four or five years, 200 people will graduate from the five universities each year to help overcome the problem of shortage of doctors faced by the Health Ministry," he told Malaysian journalists who covered the Prime Minister's visit here.

Chua, who is among five ministers in the Malaysian delegation for the three-day visit, said the five medical universities were among the top 10 in Russia.

During his visit, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met Malaysian students pursuing medical courses in Russia.

About 90 private students from Malaysia are now pursuing medical courses at the Moscow Medical Academy, Russian State Medical University, Nizhni Novgorod State Medical Academy, Volgograd State Medical Academy and Kursk State Medical Universiti.

Chua said among the advantages of studying for medical degrees in Russia was the low cost incurred compared to studies in other countries, including India.

Citing an example, he said the Moscow Medical Academy, the leading medical university in Russia, charged only US\$25,000 (RM95,000) inclusive of accommodation for a six-year course.

"This means more Malaysians can afford to take up medical studies here," said Chua, who also visited the academy.

Asked on the possibility of Malaysian medical personnel being sent here for expert training, he said the government might work out such programmes with Russia, which has 47 such institutions.

"Russia has capability in medical science and we can enter into memorandums for our doctors to come here and attend master's or doctorate courses in medical science," he said.

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