

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) No Centrally sponsored scheme known as "Antyodaya" has been formulated but it is understood that some State Governments are implementing a programme of this kind.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the various poverty-alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme being implemented in the country as a part of the Sixth Plan strategy for accelerated rural development, the principle of selecting the poorest among the poor for providing assistance has been accepted. Assistance is available to the poorer sections of the rural population throughout the country under IRDP. A comprehensive approach to rural development is being attempted through block level planning for Integrated Rural Development and all supporting arrangements and linkages are sought to be established through this programme for improving the living conditions of the poorest among the poor.

'Compulsory service in villages by medical graduates

963. SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN
"RAJACK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make the services of MBBS graduate available compulsorily for improving the health standard of village people in consultation with the Ministry of Health under the 20-Point Programme; and

(b) if so, what type of incentives are proposed to be given for the service rendered under Rural Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Panchayat Raj Finance Corporation for states

@963-A. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a proposal under Central Government's consideration some years back to set up a Panchayat Raj Finance Corporation for the States; and

(b) if so, at what stage does the proposal now stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b) In pursuance of a recommendation that "every State Government should establish a Panchayati Raj Finance Corporation" made by the Santhanam Study Team on Panchayati Raj Finances appointed by Government of India in 1962, the erstwhile Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation had considered a proposal for establishment of Panchayati Raj Finance Corporations in the States. The proposal was subsequently dropped as it did not find favour with most of the State Governments.

(^Previously Unstarred Question 730 transferred from the 4th May, 1982.