

agricultural development by providing experts or equipment. So far, FAO has offered/committed to offer an aid of US \$ 8,95,000 to India under its Technical Cooperation Programme. India has also sought Technical Cooperation Programme assistance of US \$ 11,75,000 approx. for a number of other projects.

Welfare scheme for the destitute old persons

557. SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA;
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA;
SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to discuss with the State Governments any scheme for taking care of the destitute old persons; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Poor prospects for medicos in the country

558. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to the effect that medical graduates in the country who undergo severe scrutiny on at least 3 to 4 stages of their academic career and who, after getting selected for admission to the MBBS course, undergo rigorous training and stay for 7 to 8 years, have very poor future prospects within the country;

(b) whether the Medical Students' Association has demanded justifiable position and prospects for them comparable to the All India Services entrants;

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(d) what is the number of medical graduates who have emigrated temporarily or finally from the country during the last three years and what prospects have so far been created for preventing further brain drain in respect of the medicos?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government have not received any such representations, although it is not ruled out that certain stray individual representations may have been received at different points of time.

(c) The Government of India have given adequate thought to the problem of unemployment amongst medical personnel in the country. At present new avenues of absorption of the medical graduates fall under three categories, namely, (1) expansion of State and Central Health Service, (2) semi-government organisation and (3) private organisations including private practice. With expansion of medical care of health services, most of the medical graduates might be absorbed either in government service or in private practice.

(d) No firm estimate is possible as there is no restriction on the issue of passports to the medical personnel who want to go abroad either for employment or for higher training/studies. The Government of India have taken certain steps to prevent the migration of the medical graduates to foreign countries which include (1) expansion of facilities for post-graduate medical education, (2) granting of advance increments to specially qualified candidates at the discretion of the Public Service Commissions, (3) Improvement of the working conditions of the medical graduates particularly in rural areas and difficult areas. (4) Reorientation of medical education with emphasis on preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of health