

(b) and (c) Majority of the recommendations of Elayaperumal Committee fall within the sphere of action by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, and these have been referred to them for necessary action. The Major recommendations with which the Central Government are concerned relate to the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955. The Committee's suggestions for enhancement of punishment under the Act have been agreed to and the Bill in this regard is already before Parliament.

APPOINTMENT OF HAKIMS AND VAIDS IN RURAL AREAS

833. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that there is acute shortage of doctors in rural areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a proposal to appoint Hakims and Vaid in rural areas as substitutes for doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. DEBI-PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) In so far as Primary Health Centres are concerned only about 3.4% of them were without doctors as on 31st December, 1971. However, in the rural areas as a whole there is shortage of doctors.

(b) Efforts are being made to strengthen the medical and health care facilities in the rural areas by the utilisation of the available manpower under the various system of medicine including the indigenous systems.

HOMOEOPATHY AND UNANI SYSTEMS OF MEDICINES

834. SHRI M. ASAD MADANI :

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR :

SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is separate post of an Adviser for Homoeopathy system of Medicine; if so, whether similar post will be created for Unani system of Medicine;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government are considering a proposal to establish an All India Institute for Ayurveda and for Unani; and

(c) whether Government have considered the necessity of opening Unani Dispensaries under Central Government Health Scheme; if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. DEBI-PRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) There is a separate Honorary Adviser for Homoeopathy. For Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of India Medicine there is a common Adviser who is assisted by a team of technical officers qualified in Unani Tibb. However, if and when the work load on development programmes of Unani System of medicine increases, the position will be reviewed.

(b) It has been agreed in principle to establish an All India Institute of Ayurveda.

(c) There has not been any appreciable demand from Central Government employees for the opening of any Unani dispensary under the Central Government Health Scheme. However, the matter is under consideration.