

6- Shri N. Krishnan, Chief Cost ccounts
Officer, Ministry of Finance
Member

7. Shri P. Satyanarayana, Deputy
Secretary, Ministry of Petro-lum
& Chemicals Member-and Mines
and Metals, Secretary

(c) The functions of the Board will generally be as follows;

(i) to examine the revised price lists as furnished by the Drug Industry under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1970 and to recommend the fixation wherever necessary;

(ii) to examine representations against the fixation of prices of built drugs and to recommend fair selling prices;

(iii) to consider and report on issues arising out of the alternative scheme of pricing as provided in the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1970;

(iv) generally to keep watch over the drug prices, basic and formulated; and

(v) to consider and report on such matters as may be specifically entrusted to it by Government.

STATE BANK SCHEME FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIALISTS

1677, SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India has decided to start a scheme to provide credit facilities to Small-Scale Industrialists to carry out expansion programmes; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The State Bank of India has not formulated any separate scheme to finance the expansion programme of small scale industries. However, the bank is already providing credit facilities to small scale industries under its liberalised scheme, which covers credit requirements for

expansion programme also. Comprehensive credit facilities to meet working capital as well as term loan requirements are provided by the bank. Term loans are provided by the bank for the acquisition of fixed assets such as land, building and plant and machinery. While the normal margins in respect of land and buildings and machinery are 33.1/3% and 25% respectively, a reduced margin of 25% is agreed to for construction of sheds in industrial estates. The loans are normally repayable in suitable instalments over a period of 7 to 10 years. The rate of interest on these loans is 9% per annum.

AGREEMENT FOR RE-PAYMENT OF LOANS TO JAPAN

1678. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Japan have recently agreed to the request of the Government of India to defer the repayment of Indian Loans to Japan; and

(b) whether any agreement has been signed recently in this regard and if so, what are the terms and other details of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Four Agreements totalling Rs. 19.06 crores (\$ 25.41 million) were signed on the 30th July, 1970.

The agreements envisage rescheduling of part of earlier Yen Credits which are due for repayment during 1970-71. The agreements provide for repayment in 12 years, including 3 years' grace, and carry interest at 4% per annum.

ABSORPTION OF MINING ENGINEERS IN PUBLIC SECTOR

1679. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a scheme under Government's consideration to absorb the 650 unemployed mining engineers of the country in public Sector undertakings;

(b) if so, what are the main features of this scheme; and

(c) when the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY):

(a) There is no special scheme under Government's consideration to provide employment in public sector undertakings to unemployed mining engineers. However, efforts are being made to absorb mining engineers in suitable posts in public sector undertakings. Efforts are also being made to curtail the turn out of mining engineers from mining institutions.

tb) and (c) Do not arise.

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS

1680. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of doctors in the country ;

(b) if so, whether in spite of this shortage Government have not been able to accommodate all the students for admission to Medical Colleges although they secured good positions in their previous exams;

(c) if so, whether in view of this the Union Government propose to open some new Medical colleges in the country or ask the existing colleges to accommodate more students in their colleges; and

(d) what other alternatives have been thought of by Government to meet the shortage of doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) There is a general shortage of doctors mainly in rural and remote areas. Their number is not readily ascertainable.

(b) At present there are 95 Medical Colleges with an annual admission capacity of over 11,800. Still there is an increasing demand for admission to Medical Colleges. It is not possible to ensure admission for every eligible candidate. The admission has to be limited to the capacity of the institutions concerned.

(c) There is already a scheme in the State sector for setting up 10 new medical colleges during the Fourth Five Year Plan and two Medical colleges have already started. It is expected that with this increase in the number of medical colleges, annual admission capacity at the end of Fourth Plan will be 13,000.

(d) As the shortage of doctors is more acute in rural areas as compared to urban areas. State Governments/ Administration are offering incentives to doctors to serve in rural areas by formation of unified cadre for doctors working in rural as well as urban areas, rural allowance, transport facilities, free furnished quarters, protected water supply etc.

L.t.C. CLAIMS

1681. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :

SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 366 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th August, 1970 and state :

(a) the details of the relaxations given in the matter of age proof, evidence of title, sureties, etc., in connection with the settlement of claims pending with Life Insurance Corporation ; and

(b) Whether in the case of maturity claims Government propose to waive off the requirements of age proof and if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b) Since April, 1970 the LIC has waived age proof in case of all claims (maturity as well as death) in respect of policies for a basic sum assured a reduced paid-up sum assured upto and inclusive of Rs. 10,000. As regards details of relaxations in the matter of evidence of title and sureties, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FOUR RAYALASEEMA DISTRICTS

1682. SHRI SANDA NARAYA-NAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special grant or loan has recently been granted to the four Rayalaseema districts namely, Ananta-tur, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Chittooi