

(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