

Republics for the manufacture of drugs in India; and

(b) if so, the nature of the help sought for and the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) No such assistance or help has been sought.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: May I draw the attention of the Government to one of the statements of our hon. friend, General Sokhey, that he would submit a report on this matter to the Government and ask whether the Government have received any report from him?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: General Sokhey has submitted a note and it is being considered.

WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE FUNDS

*587. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA): Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) how the Women's Medical Service, since disbanded, was financed and administered; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has demanded a share of the Women's Medical Service Funds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HEALTH (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) The Women's Medical Service was financed by grants-in-aid from the Central Government to the Countess of Dufferin's Fund Council which was responsible for the administration of the service.

(b) Yes.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is it a fact that the amount of this Countess of Dufferin's Fund is Rs. 13 lakhs and if so, what is being done with this amount for the benefit of the women medical officers of this Service?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: The total amount is nearly Rs. 13 lakhs and odd.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: And what is being done with it?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR: It has been earmarked for the Service.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How is it being utilised, as the Service has been disbanded?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: May I say that these funds have been earmarked to meet certain liabilities like leave salary, contribution to provident fund, cost of study leave, passages and difference in the pay allowed in the Service and the pay allowed in the service of the State Governments.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government aware that the Pakistan Government has retained the W.M.S. and, our Government not having retained it, the women medical officers of that Service have been downgraded more or less in so far as the conditions of their Service are concerned?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I do not think that any downgrading has been done. Just as in the case of the I.M.S. for men, which was also abolished here, the women medical officers were offered certain conditions and they accepted them.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is it a fact that women officers of this Service, though possessing higher qualifications than men, are serving under Civil Surgeons and none of them has been made even a Civil Surgeon, while the men have been given equal rank in the Army?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Members of the W.M.S. are now under the State Governments and the question that the hon. Member has put should be addressed to the State Governments concerned.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Was it not the concern of the custodians of that Fund to see that these women officers, on their transfer to the State Government, were not made to suffer in the matter of conditions of service, as they had done in the case of the I.M.S. for men?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: The State Governments can only be advised. As far as the Centre is concerned, we have seen that they have not suffered as far as pay and emoluments and conditions of service in the Central Government are concerned.

DR. R. P. DUBE: What was the status of the W.M.S. people before that Service was disbanded?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: It was an All-India Service and the Women's Medical Service members were generally in charge of Dufferin Hospitals all over the States. After we became independent, the States became autonomous in the matter of health and they look after their own hospitals.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if among the former members of the Women's Medical Service are some who have resigned the lecturership from the Lady Hardinge Medical College? If so, how many are they and what has Government done to absorb them in other services?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I would have to have notice of that question. So far as I know, only one person has resigned.

PROF. G. RANGA: Is anything being done by the Ministry here to see that in the States, no discrimination is made against women as between women of the W.M.S. and also the ordinary I.M.S. concerning males?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: We do ask the State not to make any discrimination against women as women.

PROF. G. RANGA: But have any steps been taken to see that such discrimination is not being made against them?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: What steps can the Centre take when the States are autonomous?

PROF. G. RANGA: They can enquire and find out the information and afterward, make representations and suggestions.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: How many women have gone on study leave out of this fund?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I would have to have notice of that question.

SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL: I want to know why was it necessary to disband this service and why were they transferred to the State Service and why was it not kept separate as in Pakistan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why did you disband the Service? That is the question.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: Sir, it was the policy of the Government of India.

ABSORPTION OF OFFICERS OF THE WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE BY THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

*588. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (ON BEHALF OF SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA): Will the Minister for HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions of service recommended to the State Government regarding the absorption of the Women's Medical Service officers,

(b) whether any assurances were given to these officers at the time of disbandment of the Service; and

(c) the number of these officers so far absorbed in the various States?

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): (a) The Women's Medical Service Officers were recommended the terms and conditions of Service, applicable to officers of the Provincial Medical Services