

Introduction of B.Sc. (Community Health) Course

1143. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce B.Sc. (Community Health) Course in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) to what extent this will bridge the gap in the availability of health professionals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (b) Yes. The Government, in consultation with Medical Council of India (MCI), has prepared a course namely, Bachelor of Science (Community Health). The main objective of the proposed course is to create mid-level health professionals who can primarily be deployed at Sub-Centres and would possess the necessary public health and ambulatory care competencies to serve the rural population.

(c) At the present time, the formal health structure in the States does not have any person between Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) in the sub centre and the MBBS trained medical officer in the Primary Health Centre. The B.Sc. (Community Health) graduate with his formalized education and training, will play an essential bridging role much beyond any currently available at the sub centre level.

Harmful drugs

1144. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the action Government has taken to keep the children, women and youth away from the adverse effects of harmful drugs; and
- (b) whether Government is satisfied with such steps?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Drugs are not harmful if taken as per the prescription of a qualified medical professional. There are sufficient provisions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for preventing misuse of drugs. Drugs covered under various Schedules such as Schedule H, Schedule G and Schedule X of the said rules are required to be sold in accordance with conditions prescribed therein. One of the conditions of Schedules H and Schedule X of said Rules is that those drugs are required