

- (ii) Deemed export benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.
- (iii) Duty free import of fertilizer raw materials and intermediates.
- (iv) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to urea.
- (v) Concession of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to promote the balanced use of plant nutrients.

[English]

Standard of Medical Education

2588. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the standard of medical education is deteriorating;
- (b) if so, whether any views has been expressed by professionals on the state of affairs;
- (c) if so, whether the best of teaching talents are leaving medical colleges seeking better professional avenues outside; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome the concern in medical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India is the statutory body under the Indian Medical Council Act which is mainly responsible for maintaining standards of medical education. The Council has framed regulations on Graduate Medical Education, Minimum Standards Requirement for Medical College, Teachers eligibility criteria, etc. to maintain standards of medical education. The Council conducts inspections of medical colleges at various periods of time. Further, in order to ensure maintenance of standards and to contain the mushroom growth of medical colleges, the India Medical Council Act was amended in 1993 to provide for the establishment of medical colleges, increase of admission capacity or introduction of new courses only with the prior permission of the Central Government. All such colleges are subjected to annual inspections by the MCI till such time the qualification awarded by these colleges is recognised by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The exact number of teachers leaving medical colleges for seeking better professional avenues outside the country is not available. However, any marginal exodus of teachers for better prospects abroad has not materially affected teaching in medical colleges.

Sugar Development Fund

2589. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many sugar mills have taken low interest loans from the Sugar Development Fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these loans have been guaranteed by the respective State Governments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof State-wise;
- (e) whether some of these Sugar Undertakings have defaulted such State guaranteed loans;
- (f) if so, the particulars of such units and the amount of outstanding loan. State-wise;
- (g) whether the Governments have revoked such State Government guarantee;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the steps taken by the Government to recover these dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS : (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Loans at low interest are available to sugar mills from the Sugar Development Fund for (i) Cane Development and (ii) Modernisation/Rehabilitation. The details indicating the number of mills given such loans yearwise are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Loans on State Government guarantee are given only in the case of sugar mills in the cooperative sector who avail of loans for cane development (except short terms loans). Details of loans given on State Government guarantee are given in the enclosed Statement -II.

(e) and (f) The position of cooperative sector Sugar Units who have defaulted in payment of loan sanctioned on Government Guarantee and amount outstanding against each unit is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(g) and (h) No State Government guarantee has been revoked so far.

(i) The matter regarding expeditious settlement of outstanding dues is constantly pursued with the respective State Governments. No fresh loan from SDF is sanctioned to such units till the dues are cleared.