

(d) Does not arise.

Expenditure on Health care in Rural Areas

*59. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure incurred by Government on health care in rural areas is in proportion to the population in rural areas; and

(b) if not, the steps Government propose to take to correct this imbalance and to improve the health care facilities in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTARY): (a) and (b). The expenditure on Health Care in rural areas is incurred largely by the State Governments from the State Sector Plan and Non-Plan budgets. The Central Government supplements this in the shape of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like National Health Programme, Family Welfare Programme and schemes for rural areas. In the State Sector Plan budget earmarked funds for rural areas under the classification Minimum Needs Programme are provided. While in the Sixth Plan the share of MNP was 33% of total plan allocation of State Health Sector Programmes, it has gone upto 42% during the Seventh Plan. In addition to the Minimum Needs Programme the major portion of funds from the Central Sector in National Health Programmes (concerning Malaria, TB, Leprosy and Prevention of Blindness) and Family Welfare Programmes including Training of manpower is spent on the rural sector. The major portion of the money spent for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy by the State and Central Governments is also being spent for the rural areas.

The Government propose to give added thrust during the Eighth Plan to the development of rural areas including health and family welfare sector.

Recognition to Medical Colleges

*60. SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the pre-requisites and the processor laid down for according recognition to a medical college;

(b) whether the MGR Medical College in Tamil Nadu has been accorded recognition by the Medical Council of India; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) At present, no permission from the Medical Council of India is required for establishment of a medical college. However, for recognition of the degrees granted by Universities to which a medical college is affiliated, the University has to apply to the Central Government to have the medical qualification recognised and the Central Government after consulting the Medical Council may be notification in the Official Gazette include the medical qualification in the First Schedule to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956.

(b) and (c). Dr. MGR Medical University was established by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1987 and the various medical colleges previously affiliated to different Universities in Tamil Nadu are now affiliated to MGR Medical University. The matter regarding recognition of the medical qualifications awarded by this University is under consideration, awaiting the recommendations of the Medical Council of India.