

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : There are 36 claims, not 26. There is no set compensation being paid (*Interruptions*). I just had mentioned ..

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am not asking for the basis. I am asking for the actual figure.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he is saying. There is no single figure. It varies.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Let us know the range. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I would like to inform the hon. Member that the rates vary depending on the earning capacity of the people concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got some figures to give ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I don't have, but I could tell you this : out of these people, three Indians have received, when we were settling claims, \$75,000.

Decline in standard of Medical Education

*461. **SHRI D.N. REDDY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fall in medical education standards due to indiscriminate opening of private medical colleges ;

(b) whether Government are considering to open a Medical University with the affiliation of all the medical colleges in the country with a view to ensure higher and uniform standard ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Medical Council of India which has been statutorily charged with the responsibility of maintaining uniform minimum standards of medical education in the country keeps a vigil and takes necessary action in

order to maintain the prescribed standards in medical education.

(b) & (c) The Medical Education Review Committee has made recommendations regarding setting up of Universities of Health Sciences in order to bring out coordination between educational and training institutions of the modern and various Indian Systems of Medicine, Nurses, Pharmacists, etc. Government are yet to take a final view in the matter.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Is the Minister aware that the decline in the standards of medical education is chiefly due to the capitation fee system which is not only violative of Article 14 of the Constitution, but it is a negative discrimination between the haves and the have-nots ? and the naked aberration of the rich man's influence ? Dr. Sinha, President of the Medical Council of India, has consistently been saying that he is against capitation fee system and the raising of the mushroom medical colleges ; and he has also gone on record by saying that whenever the Medical Council wants to take action, high political pressure is brought upon them.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The government are of the very firm view that capitation fee should not be charged. Government have also been trying to tell the State Governments that this practice should be abolished. But, now, we are taking decision to amend the Indian Medical Council Act which will enable us to abolish the capitation fee system. We have so far been handicapped by the absence of any enabling provisions in the Act.

AN. HON. MEMBER : You amend the Act. who prevents you from doing it ?

SHRI D.N. REDDY : While the government has been consistently against the capitation fee system, the Andhra Pradesh Government is the only Government which has abolished capitation fee system voluntarily promised in Telugu Desam Election Manifesto... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES : There is no

system for receiving capitation fee in Kerala for the last one decade. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Andhra Pradesh Government is the only Government which has abolished capitation fee system. *(Interruptions)* All right. Conceded. *(Interruptions)* I stand corrected. Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which has abolished capitation fee as promised in the Telugu Desam Election Manifesto. Will the Government at least consider now to start a medical university with affiliation of all the medical colleges and prescribe a uniform code of standard and education purely on merit basis ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The Medical Education Review Committee headed by Dr. S.J. Mehta have recommended that a University of Health Sciences should be set up at the national level first and at the State level later in order to unify all aspects of medical and health education and training in this country. An Empowered Committee appointed by the government have also supported this recommendation. The government is examining the matter and will be shortly taking a view.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : The capitation fee sometimes is upto Rs. 3½ lakhs. There is no limit to the capitation fee system.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a supplementary.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : Is the Minister aware of the capitation fee system ? Sometimes it goes up Rs. 3½ lakhs. *(Interruptions)* They are charging capitation fee even for post-graduate courses.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Even though we do not have any record or official information to this effect, we are aware that about 17 colleges in the country are levying capitation fee. I have already stated that government is against this practice and is trying to abolish the practice through an amended legislation.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Have the government any proposal to

abolish the quota system in respect of medical education because there is some discrimination going on ? The capable candidates are not getting a chance. I know personally a case in West Bengal... *(Interruptions)* There people are fighting with the Jadhavpur University to abolish the quota system. But in the medical University, there is a quota system. *(Interruptions)* May I know whether the Government will abolish quota system...

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Standing joint commission on utilisation of water resources by Nepal and India

*451 **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute a standing joint commission with Nepal which could chalk out common schemes for the utilisation of water resources ; and

(b) if not, what new steps are proposed to be taken for the identification of such projects which require active cooperation of Nepal Government in the matter of research/survey and construction work?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) A proposal to set up an Indo-Nepal Joint Commission to deal with all subjects of Indo-Nepal Cooperation including water resources development is under discussion between the two countries.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Talks on Cauvery water dispute

*453. **SHRI B.V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the talks between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu were held on 23rd