

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:195
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
BRAIN DRAIN
KAMAL NATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the UK is alluring doctors and nurses from India and other developing nations as reported in the `Asian Age` dated October 20, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government to stop the brain drain?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) The Department of Health, Govt. of United Kingdom had communicated its desire to Govt. of India in 2002 to recruit medical personnel for their health services. As there are no restrictions on Indian doctors/nurses being engaged by foreign governments, the Govt. of India took note of their requirement. Besides, it is estimated that from Indian institutions about 14,000 MBBS - (medical graduates) and an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 nurses qualify every year. Whereas as per the information provided by British Government the number of doctors to be recruited is around 200 and number of nurses to be recruited is only a few hundred. Considering that the government sector is not in a position to absorb a large number of trained doctors and nurses and the capacity of the private sector to attract these personnel is limited, no need was felt to stop the recruitment exercise undertaken by the British Govt. in India.