

DOCTORS FOR RURAL AREAS

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Sir, — A recent news item said that Mr. A. K. Abdul Samad, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka, expressed the hope that by 2000 A.D. basic health services would be available to every family including the rural poor. The Minister is reported to have said that there would be a public health unit for every 15,000 of the population all over the State, that 24 more taluk level hospitals would be opened in the near future and that recruitment of more nursing staff had already commenced. These are indications of the firm commitment of our Government in the right direction towards implementing the health care delivery system. The Minister has to

be congratulated on his time bound commitment in that health care is a fundamental right of the citizen. The expenditure incurred on health care should be considered as an investment by the Government. The health care system is linked with productivity. But the realisation of any plan or programme would rest on the anvil of family planning.

The modern doctor has a greater role to play in preventive and curative medicine as well as in the implementation of the family planning programmes. President Sanjiva Reddy, while inaugurating the joint annual conference of the Association of Physicians of India, in New Delhi recently made some observations at length, pointing out the serious lacunae in the health care delivery system in the country. He said that he would not blame doctors qualified in modern medicine for not going to rural areas which lack even minimal

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