



31

## Medical education opportunity curbed

By Our Staff Correspondent

Withdrawal of the "waiting list" system from the medical colleges of the country has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction in various quarters.

It is gathered that following withdrawal of the system about 200 seats at different medical colleges of the country have remained vacant for the current academic year whereas thousands of students have been deprived of getting medical education because of scarcity of seats.

At present the medical

colleges of the country have 1,200 seats to accommodate fresh students each year. The students are selected on the basis of a competitive examination for their admittance to the medical colleges.

The traditional system was that the medical college authorities would prepare a waiting list so that the vacant seats could be filled in by the listed aspirants.

During the present academic year over 7,500 students took the test for admission in the medical colleges and accordingly a list of 1,200 students was published.

Later on it was seen that over 200 students did not enrol themselves in the medical colleges as they selected alternative academic courses elsewhere.

At the same time, the Health Directorate had announced that the system of preparing a waiting list for filling the vacant seats would cease to exist even if the seats go vacant.

According to the student aspirants they had for long been demanding increase in seats at the medical colleges by at least 50 percent and during last year the concerned authorities had agreed to fulfill their demands in principle.

But instead of fulfilling the agreement, the government is taking the policy of curtailment of the opportunity for medical education, they complained.

On the other hand, the medical college authorities said that the decision was taken following a policy of the government itself and the college authorities were not responsible for the situation.