

Medicos' Demands

Sir,—Two of the agitating doctors' demands can be supported on Constitutional grounds. The reservation of seats in the Medical Colleges for "Immigrant Muslims" is obnoxious to Article 15 of our Constitution which prohibits discrimination on the ground of religion and race. Of course an exception can be made in case of a socially and educationally backward class under Clause (4) of the said Article. It has been held by the Supreme Court in Triloki Nath's case (AIR 1967 3C 1283) that the class to be categorised as backward must both be socially and educationally backward. It is absurd to suggest that the "Immigrant" Muslims are socially backward.

As regards the power of the Health Minister to fill up certain seats at his discretion it is hit by Article 14 as there are no guide lines for the exercise of the discretion and in these days of power politics a Minister exercises this power "with an evil eye and unequal hand".

The doctors rightly demand removal of the above power—Yours etc S K DUTTA Formerly Chief Justice of Assam and Nagaland High Court.

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE.

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