

### FOREIGN MEDICAL TEAMS

*There has been a dramatic jump in the number of teams of foreign experts being invited to visit medical institutions for purpose of helping develop local skills in special fields and helping detect lacunae in the set-ups they visit.*

*However well meaning these visits have been, they have not been able to have the necessary impact. To start with, in most instances, foreign experts have been invited without consultation of the local experts who are the ones supposed to benefit from these visits. These local experts, some of whom have international standing, are the best people to know the shortcomings in our set-ups and would know whom to invite to help in specific areas. Next, the arrangements have usually been in extreme hurry and arrival of visiting team or expert at very short notice. Usually the visits have been for so short a period that no worthwhile exchanges have taken place. Most visits have started with apologies and ended with apologies.*

*For most foreign experts it has been a chance to see a new country and enjoy official hospitality courtesy of VIP's they have treated in the past. From the point of the local institutions it has been no more than a poorly planned interruption in their busy schedule and a waste of a lot of money with little returns. However, the local experts have been shy of conveying these feelings to the planners of these visits. Without this feedback, these ill planned visits will continue without real benefit with the planners thinking they are doing a lot of good and the local experts keeping quiet about their frustrations.*

EDITOR