

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

**Genetics and Biometry Research Unit
in Calcutta**

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S.N.Q. 14. { **Shri Prabhat Kar:**
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of **Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a letter published in "Amrit Bazar Patrika", Calcutta edition, dated the 30th May, 1962, from the world-renowned scientist, Professor J. B. S. Haldane;

(b) whether the statement regarding the Genetics and Biometry Research Unit in Calcutta at page 16 of his Ministry's report for 1961-62 was incorrect;

(c) what is the present position regarding the said research unit;

(d) whether it is a fact that Prof. Haldane had no intimation of his appointment as head of the Unit; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Orders appointing Prof. Haldane as Head of the Genetics and Biometry Unit as from 1st November 1961 were issued on 30th November, 1961 and Prof. Haldane has drawn his pay ending April, 1962—I may add that the first pay was drawn on 6th December, 1961—and desired to draw his pay quarterly in the future.

A senior Scientific Officer Grade I, a Junior Scientific Officer and supporting personnel have also been appointed. A provisional programme of research has been indicated by Prof. Haldane.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I quote a part of that letter in which this is what he has said?

Mr. Speaker: He might quote, but it is information that has to be sought from the hon. Minister.

Shri Prabhat Kar: It has been stated in the letter—

"I would be most interested to know the address of this institute."

He is supposed to be the Head of this Institute.

Mr. Speaker: He is drawing his salary from the Government.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether after this letter was written Professor Haldane has been contacted by the Ministry of Scientific Research to know about these things?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It is the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which is involved in this. For the hon. Minister's information....

Mr. Speaker: Not hon. Minister but hon. Member.

Shri Humayun Kabir: I am sorry. For the hon. Member's information I may tell him that these complaints of Professor Haldane are written on letter head which has the following:

"Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Genetics and Biometry Research Unit."

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of the Government is drawn to a news item together with a picture saying that Professor Haldane had to convert one of his bathrooms into a laboratory.....

An Hon. Member: Office.

Shri Hem Barua: Not into an office but into a laboratory, because the Ministry has not provided him with the necessary premises or building for the office or for anything?

Shri Humayun Kabir: My hon. friend should remember that I have not got an Alladin's lamp. He was appointed as from the 1st November, 1961. He wanted a particular house.

That house has been acquired and possession of the house was given to us in March 1962. Repairs are being carried out there according to the desire of Professor Haldane himself. In the mean time Professor Haldane said that he would like to carry on work in his own house. Whether he carries it out in a bathroom or in a drawing room is his concern.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to the recent statement given by Professor Haldane on the 10th June which has appeared in the *Statesman*? There are Professor Haldane has said:

"...he read in the newspapers that his unit had been provided with office accommodation at the Indian Institute of Biochemistry and Experimental Medicine, Calcutta. He had received no communication from the concerned authorities about this."

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have just now told the hon. Member that we have letters from Professor Haldane in which he acknowledges that he has received his salary. He has indicated that he wishes his salary to be paid in future in a different way. He has written to us that he wanted to publish papers in the name of the Unit. He has participated in some conferences as a representative of the C.S.I.R. I cannot say anything more.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Sir, the hon. Minister has completely misunderstood the statement. As I have read out, Prof. Haldane has said that he has read in the newspapers that his unit has not been provided with office accommodation and that he has no accommodation. The hon. Minister is talking of his salary.

Shri Humayun Kabir: If it will satisfy my hon. friend, I will tell him that the office accommodation has also been provided in the Indian Institute of Biochemistry and Experimental Medicine.

Calcutta-Agartala Freighter Service

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S.N.Q. 15. { **Shri Dasaratha Deb:**
Shri Biren Dutta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that essential goods are being held up at Calcutta which were booked to be transported to Agartala due to shortage of cargo-planes since the last week of May, 1962;

(b) if so, what is the reason for sudden reduction in the number of flights; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to overcome these difficulties immediately?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c). The Indian Airlines Corporation have reported that it has not been possible for them to meet the demand fully for the carriage of freight between Calcutta and Agartala during the latter half of May 1962 due to shortage of freighter aircraft and bad weather. They have added that the position had improved since the 28th May, 1962 and is expected to improve further in a week's time when one more aircraft is likely to become available for operation.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: What is the number of cargo planes that are required in that sector and what is the total number of cargo planes that operate daily?

Shri Mohiuddin: I may state that during the period from 20th May to 5th June 1962 the number of flights operated was 73. If you compare this figure with that for the corresponding period in 1961, that is from 20th May to 5th June 1961, the corresponding figure last year was 72.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know the total quantity of goods in terms of kilograms or maunds which has been held up at Calcutta at present?