

Shri A. T. Sarma: May I know whether such a scheme was approved by the Medical Council?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayyar): Yes, Sir; the scheme was approved by the Central Health Council as well as by the Central Council of Ayurvedic Research. As the hon. Deputy Minister has said, the replies of the State Governments are awaited. Only Orissa has sent an interim reply so far.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Is the Government aware that it is very anomalous to make a combination of ayurvedic and allopathic medicines in the same institution and that ayurvedic opinion generally is against such combination because Ayurveda is sniffed at by allopathy.

Dr. Sushila Nayyar: It is not correct. There is no desite on the part of anybody to mix up Ayurveda. What is proposed is to have one extra professor of Ayurveda on the same scale and in the same grade as the other professors in the medical colleges. The functions of this professor will be, firstly, to give a series of lectures to the undergraduates which will be optional and, secondly, to give a series of lectures to the interns and post-graduates. For that certain scholarships are also offered as an incentive.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri A. T. Sarma: May I know whether any Course. . . .

Mr. Speaker: He makes up his mind too late. When I look towards him he does not stand up and when I am looking towards the other side he stands up. Next question.

Elections to Panchayats

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*799. { **Shri M. K. Kumaran:**
 Shri P. E. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to keep out political contests from elections to Panchayats; and

(b) if so, at what stage it is?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether the Government are aware that there is a very strong public opinion in the country that political factions and groupings should be avoided in Panchayat elections as also in the working of the Panchayati Raj institutions; if so, may I know whether the Government propose to take any steps to translate this public opinion into action?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Government is aware that a very strong opinion is there but it is not an effective opinion. . . . (Interruption).

Shri Warrior: What is the definition of effective and ineffective?

Mr. Speaker: It would be very difficult for hon. Members and for myself also to distinguish between strong and effective.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I was to say that many persons like Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan, have been carrying on a campaign that at the village level there should be no parties to compete in the elections. Secondly our Ministry, specially the hon. Minister has already written to one of the leading parties requesting them to take the lead in seeing that village politics are not vitiated by the parties. Thirdly, there was recently a seminar in Mussorie and this question was also discussed there but with no effect.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether the Government of India have ascertained the views of the State Governments in this matter?

Shri B. S. Murthy: In a matter like this Government need not take the lead; it is the political parties that should take the lead and advise Government what they should do.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Do Government appreciate the fact that *ex officio* membership of panchayat samitis intensifies the evil practice of wooing the electorate on caste and other sectional basis?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I do not think the hon. Member is correct.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether any of the political parties have expressed the opinion that political parties should not contest panchayat elections on party lines?

Shri B. S. Murthy: No, Sir. But during the debate the Minister for Community Development has promised to set up a high level team of study and this may be taking place next year.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Ministry convened, a conference of the leaders of various political parties at the highest level so that they could arrive at a gentleman's agreement that they will not interfere in these panchayat elections?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I do not know whether Parliament will appreciate the Ministry taking the lead in this matter.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Is it a fact it has been the considered opinion of experts that some incentives should be given to such panchayats which are successful in holding unanimous elections as one of the steps of keeping political parties out of elections?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, Sir. In certain States like the Punjab and Rajasthan certain incentives have been given with good results.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that at the village level elections are not being held on party labels and the Congress party as such is not setting up any candidates?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I think in many States party labels are not given to parties at village level.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether Government are aware that in certain cases panchayats are finding it difficult to collect their dues because of party factions?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I take the information from the hon. Member.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: We refer to Kurukshetra.

Mr. Speaker: He may have received the information; he may not have read it.

Power Targets

*801. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recently pointed out some anomalies in planning as to how high power targets would be achieved without making provision for more power generating equipment; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. A. Mehdi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is the production of power generating equipment expected to meet the country's requirements during the Third Five Year Plan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): During the Third Five Year Plan it is proposed to instal additional generating capacity of about seven million kilo watts.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I am referring to power generating equipment—not power.

Shri Alagesan: We have to import most of it now. But the Bhopal Factory has come into existence and it is working. It is also proposed to instal three other heavy electrical