

also to add more training centres as adequate number of trainers become available

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** May I know if the hon Minister is aware of the fact that overhead expenditure on these personnel in the various community projects is much more than the actual work being done and, if so, may I know if economy is being devised by the Ministry to reduce overhead expenditure so that the actual work done is more than what we spend on technical personnel?

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the answer that the hon Member wants? The hon Member is suggesting to the Government that they must reduce overhead expenditure, effect economy in expenditure and improve efficiency in work

**Shri Ranga:** Let them say that they will do so

**Mr. Speaker:** Are they to say 'No'?

**Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Various Ministries have already devised economy measures. Is this Ministry also doing the same thing?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid, hon Members are going off the mark

**Shri S. K. Dey:** As far as we know, the staff that has been provided in the blocks represent the barest minimum of technical personnel that is required if the scheme is to be implemented in the spirit in which it was conceived

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not know how we have been benefited by this answer or by the question. Steps are being taken, that is all

**Shri Ranga:** They will at least know our temper, that we do not agree with them

**Shri Tangamani:** In the statement which is laid on the Table it is said that the information is going to be collected. May I know when the information will be collected regarding the number of extension officers who have already undergone training?

**Mr. Speaker:** If it is collected, it is not ready now

**Shri Tangamani:** When is it likely to be ready?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would request hon. Members to consider my suggestion. It is not that I am suggesting it. Yesterday Shri Mohamed Imam asked why I should not devise ways by which more number of questions can be answered on the floor of the House, because people are anxious to know what exactly the views of the Government are on important matters. He suggested that I should restrict the time for each question to one or two minutes. We cannot rigidly restrict it to one or two minutes. I cannot even restrict the number of supplementaries to one. I, therefore, leave it to the Members themselves to select important questions and restrict their supplementaries

#### Procurement of Steel

\*161 { Pandit D. N. Tiwari:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das.

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 517 on the 28th May 1957 and state

(a) how far the Procurement Unit of the Railway Board has been successful in obtaining the required steel from foreign countries since the Ministry of Railways took over the work of the steel procurement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and

(b) whether any extra expenditure is involved in this arrangement?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) The Ministry of Railways took over only from 1-4-1957 the procurement through import, of specified steel items, namely track materials. A purchase Mission of the Railway Board was deputed abroad to deal with quotations received in response to a global enquiry. The response to

the enquiry and the progress made by the purchase Mission in their negotiations are reported to be satisfactory.

The Ministry of Steel, Mines & Fuel continues to be responsible for items of steel, other than imported track materials.

(b) The total cost of the Mission is estimated to be Rs. 81,000 and the expenditure on the procurement Unit set up in the Board's Office is roughly Rs 9,000 per month

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** What was the difficulty in the Commerce and Industry Ministry that this procurement was taken over? What was the reason for that?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** The reason was, they could not procure speedily enough the requisite amount of steel required by the Railways. In the year 1956-57, they were able to meet only 50 per cent of the requirement of the Railways. A situation arose in which if these delays continued, the very success of the Second Five Year Plan would have been in jeopardy. In these circumstances, the Railways were asked to take over the procurement of track materials and steel for the use of the Railways. It is in these circumstances that we have accepted this.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The hon Deputy Minister said just now that the Ministry which used to import steel could not do so speedily. May I ask from the Ministry which used to import steel what was the difficulty for them in purchasing speedily?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai):** May I say, the Railways require a large quantity of steel and it was hoped that direct negotiations would lead to quicker procurement. They proposed it and we agreed to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** What they want to know is, if each department proposes to purchase straightaway, what is the need for this purchasing department?

**Shri Morarji Desai:** There are so many demands from other departments that require to be purchased for those departments.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Railways can purchase themselves, why not others use the same channel?

**Shri Morarji Desai:** They purchase nearly half of the total requirements. In that case, they can do it without a third agency.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** Since Thomas quality steel is available in good quantity and it is also cheaper, may I know if the Railways have now decided to accept this quality for their use?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Yes, for certain purposes.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Are we to understand that the Purchase Commission which I hope is working efficiently, has also fallen short of the requirements of the Railways and so they have to have a separate purchasing commission?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I am not aware of any Purchase Commission that the hon Member is referring to.

**Mr. Speaker:** India Supply Mission, Washington.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** We are aware; he is not.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The hon Deputy Minister said that a Railway Purchase Mission has gone abroad. May I know whether this Mission is going to purchase or negotiate or take the advice of other Purchase Missions in existence in other countries?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I want notice.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi:** The Member for Staff of the Railway Board headed a mission to Europe for the purchase of steel.

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** Yes.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** What amount of steel was available in 1956-57 through the efforts of this Purchase Mission?

**Shri Shah nawas Khan:** The purchase was not undertaken in 1956-57.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** In the case of other materials, the Commerce and Industry Ministry is still purchasing for the Railways. May I know whether the purchase of special steel was not proper to be left there?

**Shri Shah nawas Khan:** I could not follow the question.

**Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** The hon. Deputy Minister said just now that the other materials for the Railways, the Commerce and Industry Ministry is still purchasing. Are we to understand that all the steel meant for the Railways is purchased by the Railways or there is still some steel which is purchased by the Commerce and Industry Ministry?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is whether this arrangement that the Railways have made to purchase all its steel applies to other requirements also or only a few items specially needed.

**Shri Morarji Desai:** It applies to iron and steel. Now, it is no longer a question of the Commerce and Industry Ministry because the Iron and Steel Controller is under the Steel Ministry. That is different.

Some Hon Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. Hon Members are aware that half an hour can be allowed for any important subject.

#### Indigenous Systems of Medicine

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 \*162. { Shri Keshava:  
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari  
 Sinha:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) whether a Committee presided over by one Mr. Dave has submitted any report regarding the ways and means of development of the indigenous systems of medicine and research;

(b) if so, whether Government have arrived at any decision in respect of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Dave Committee are still under consideration in consultation with State Governments, and no decision has been taken so far.

**Shri Keshava:** May we know if the Government is contemplating to establish an Ayurvedic University at Jamnagar and is in consultation with the Bombay Government?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There is already a Research Institute at Jamnagar being conducted efficiently and adequately financed by the Government of India. I am not yet aware if it is to be constituted into a University. I should like to have notice.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी इस कमेटी की सिफारिशों के अलावा क्या मंत्री महोदय ने कोई दूसरी योजना बनाई है जिस में इन दवाओं का ज्यादा प्रचार और उन्नति हो सके।

श्री करमरकर कमेटी ने जागरूकता दी है उस पर अभी विचार हो रहा है। उस के बाद हम लोग यह तय करेंगे कि क्या करना है और क्या नहीं करना है।

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** I want to know whether these recommendations include any recommendation for a special study of the use and quantity of alkaloids and active principles in drugs as we find in traditional Ayurvedic prescriptions?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The recommendations cover all the aspects of Ayurveda including the one that my hon. friend has mentioned.

श्री जांगड भारतीय सरकार अभी तक देशी पद्धति की दवाओं को मान्यता