

Mr. Speaker: What will happen to the State Trading Office that has been there. If the hon. Minister is in a position to give that information he may do so, otherwise he may ask for notice. I think he wants notice to answer that question. We may go to the next question.

Indian Medical Council

*448. **Dr. Y. S. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Medical Council recognises only British Degrees or diplomas, apart from Indian Medical Degrees or Diplomas, and does not still, recognise some continental or other foreign Degrees; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this direction?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir. The Medical Council of India recognises medical qualifications of foreign countries on the basis of reciprocity.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Y. S. Parmar: May I know whether there are some very competent doctors in the Government service who cannot be confirmed simply because they do not belong to any approved university?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice with regard to competent doctors in other parts of India but, certainly, there is one doctor in Himachal Pradesh about whom the hon. Member is obviously anxious. That case is under consideration. In that particular case the Indian Medical Council has recognised the foreign degree and the matter is under active and sympathetic consideration.

Cow-dung Gas Plants

*450. **Shri Awasthi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiments are being conducted to find out the usefulness of cow-dung gas plants;

(b) whether any improvements in their design and manufacture have been suggested as a result of these experiments;

(c) whether any gas plant is working in any Community Block area near Delhi; and

(d) if so, where?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (d): A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 61].

श्री अवस्थी : इस स्टेटमेंट को देखने से ज्ञात होता है कि सरकार ने केवल एक ही राज्य में यह एक्सपेरिमेंट किया है। क्या मे जान सकता हूँ कि सरकार किसी अन्य राज्य में भी यह एक्सपेरिमेंट करने जा रही है ?

श्री मो० बे० कृष्णाप्पा : दिल्ली टैरिटरी के ग्यारह गांवों में यह एक्सपेरिमेंट हो रहा है ।

श्री यादव : मे जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार दूसरे राज्यों में भी यह एक्सपेरिमेंट करने जा रही है ?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: Is this experiment going on in other States also?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir; it started 17 years ago in the IARI and after IARI I think about four States are doing it. It is being conducted in Poona, in Belur near Howrah in Calcutta, another place in West Bengal and in Bombay.

Merchant Navy Rating School, Cochin

*451. **Shri Kediyan:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 19 on the 20th March, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to open a Merchant Navy Rating School at Cochin has since been examined; and