

Shortage of Doctors in Delhi Hospitals

*441. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 140 on the 21st November, 1958, and state:

(a) the steps taken to overcome the shortage of doctors and staff prevailing in the Government Hospitals in Delhi; and

(b) the results achieved?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The authorities concerned of the different hospitals were requested to take urgent steps to fill the vacancies. In November, 1958, there were 33 vacancies in the posts of Medical Officers. At present the number of such vacancies is 30 out of which appointment letters have been issued in respect of 8 selected candidates. Requisitions have been sent to the Union Public Service Commission in respect of 9 posts and the Delhi Administration are taking steps to fill 12 posts. One post of Staff Surgeon (Medical Examinations) is not to be filled.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long it will take the Union Ministry to fill and all the vacancies since there is urgent need?

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know how long it will take for the Union Ministry to obtain details. But what details?

Shri D. C. Sharma: 8 are there already; 13 are yet to be advertised, and 12 are yet to come.

Shri Karmarkar: I said that appointment letters have been issued in respect of 8 selected candidates. Requisitions have been sent to the UPSC in respect of 9 posts, and the Delhi Administration are taking steps to fill 12 posts. One post is not to be filled. I gave the whole details.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that it takes nearly eight to nine months or even a year

before the formalities and technicalities of selection are completed by the Delhi Administration and the UPSC, and by the time the candidate is selected and the letter of appointment goes, there is a gap of five to six months, and very often, when the letter of appointment is sent, the candidates are already appointed elsewhere. . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: What steps have Government taken to simplify this process and shorten the period between the selection and the issue of the letter of appointment?

Shri Karmarkar: It is a fact that it takes some time after we sent the requisition to the UPSC to make selections. In this particular field of medical personnel, it does take time, because suitable candidates are not always available.

Regarding the second point which my hon friend has stated namely that it takes about six months' time after the selection is made, for them to make appointments, I am afraid neither the Delhi Administration nor the Government of India are as lethargic as that. They take prompt steps to make appointments. With regard to medical personnel of a responsible nature, naturally, the posts have to be referred to the UPSC.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know the number of applicants for these 33 posts?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of that.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION**Strike Notice by Manipur State Transport Employees**

S.N.Q. 2. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Manipur State Transport has been declared a 'public utility service' under section 2 (vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1957;