

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, December 4, 1959/Agrahayana
13, 1881 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Strike in Delhi Polytechnic

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- *58L { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Pramathanath
Banerjee:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

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

(a) whether students of the Delhi Polytechnic have been on strike since September, 1959;

(b) if so, the causes of the strike; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

The Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). The large number of failures in the Architecture Examinations held in March-April, 1959, made the students of this Department of the Delhi Polytechnic apprehensive of their future, and created an unjustified fear that the authorities were unsympathetic to them. They also complained of inadequacy of teaching staff and abstained from their classes from the 10th September, 1959.

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(c) The position regarding shortage of staff and other complaints of the students have been kept constantly under review and steps taken to remove them as far as possible and the students have resumed their studies from 16-11-1959.

Shri Supakar: May I know if the large number of failures has anything to do with the shortage of staff and the curriculum not being covered?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Obviously the shortage of staff had something to do with it, but that was not the whole reason. If the students had worked harder, they could have done better in spite of the shortage of staff.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if any of the grievances of the students are still under consideration and if so, the nature of the grievances?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I have looked at the question as not one of grievance. I have told the students that it is our business and duty to provide them with the best possible amenities and we are doing all that is possible in the circumstances.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether, before the students went on this strike they made any representation and if so, what was the nature of the representation and the action taken by Government in that regard?

Shri Humayun Kabir: There was no representation before they went on strike, as far as I remember, except that on the 11th September they might have sent something to us. But the staff position was known to us. We have been trying, as this House is aware, to rectify it by improving the salary scales. But it takes some time to improve the salary scales, because there are repercussions on other departments and universities and colleges. Even after

the improved scales are adopted, it takes some time to recruit the staff.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know the short-fall in the number of staff in the polytechnic?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Out of 11 sanctioned posts, we had in the beginning of 1959-60 only four.

Mr. Speaker: Four out of 11?

Shri Humayun Kabir: Yes, Sir; we had seven but three of them went away just at the beginning of the session. So, it became four. We have taken some steps now and we expect it will be raised to 11 within a few months.

Shri Narasimhan: When was this polytechnic established? How many years ago?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It must have been there for a fairly long time; I require notice.

Mr. Speaker: If it was started hundred years ago, does he mean all along it has been without staff?

Shri Narasimhan: If it had been there for a long time, it is all the more bad.

Mr. Speaker: The one thing has nothing to do with the other. He might put the question this way, viz., for how long has this short-fall been there?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The staff position is as follows: in 1956-57, out of 13 sanctioned posts, seven were filled and we had 11 part-time lecturers. In 1957-58, out of 13 sanctioned posts, nine were filled and there were 10 part-time lecturers. In 1958-59, out of 14 sanctioned posts, six were filled and in addition there were 10 part-time lecturers. It was only in the beginning of this year, when three people suddenly went away, that the number came down to four.

Mr. Speaker: There are no part-time lecturers?

Shri Humayun Kabir: They are always there; they are more or less constant.

Mr. Speaker: So the classes do not suffer.

Shri Humayun Kabir: They do suffer a little, if there are only six or seven out of 10 whole-time sanctioned posts. The difficulty is architects and engineers are well-employed persons and we advertise, but nobody applies.

Shri A. M. Tariq: Are Government aware that the girl students of the polytechnic are suffering because there is no proper arrangement for hostels for girls and no other hostel like Miranda or Indraprastha is able to give them accommodation? If so, may I know what action Government is taking? Is there any proposal to have a girls' hostel?

Mr. Speaker: Is it one of the causes of the strike?

Shri A. M. Tariq: Yes, Sir.

Shri Humayun Kabir: This was never mentioned before. In any case, I shall look into the matter and see if there are any grievances of the girl students.

Kalinga Industries

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*582. { **Shri Panigrahi:**
 Shri Kamal Singh:
 Shri Ignace Beck:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kalinga Industries have now started production of ferromanganese;

(b) if so, the quantity of ferromanganese produced by this concern upto now;

(c) the total quantity of ferromanganese which has been produced so far in all the manufacturing units in India; and

(d) what amount has been utilised for internal consumption by now?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir; their low shaft furnace has start-