

**People's Friendship University, Moscow**

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Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shri Hem Barua:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri Subodh Hansda:  
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
 Shri Radha Raman:  
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
 Shri B. C. Mullick:  
 Shri B. K. Gaikwad:  
 Shri Osman Ali Khan:  
 Shri Tangamani:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 516 on the 18th August, 1960 and state the latest position with regard to admission of Indian citizens to the "People's Friendship University" of the U.S.S.R.?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** The Deputy Rector of the Friendship University, Moscow, came to New Delhi recently for discussions with the representatives of the Government of India regarding the admission of Indians to the Friendship University. As a result of these discussions, it has been decided that Indian students will be given facilities for studying at this University in accordance with the rules and regulations which govern the award of foreign scholarships. The details of the scheme have already been published in an advertisement in the press, and applications from Indian students have been invited. The last date for the receipt of applications is December 1, 1960.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** May I know whether in the selection committee which is going to make the selections, any representative of the People's Friendship University is going to be included or not? May I also know whether it is a fact that there are already more than 30,000 applications pending from various parts of the country?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** A representative of the People's Friendship

University will be on the selection committee....

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** But it is a foreign university.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** That is the usual procedure....

**Mr. Speaker:** Let the hon. Member hear the complete answer.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** We do not know how many applications have been received. Fresh applications have been called for, and as stated in the original answer, the last date for applications is 1st December, 1960.

**Shri Vajpayee:** May I know whether any official of the Education Ministry has examined the curriculum of the university, and if so, whether it is a fact that in the faculty of history and philology, the students will be taught only the Marxist interpretation of history and none else?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The curriculum has been examined; and certain conditions were laid down about the eligibility of Indian students; and one of the things is that the syllabus for students would not include any political or ideological study.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** I want to get elucidation on one point. The Deputy Minister has stated that a representative of the People's Friendship University shall be sitting on the selection committee. May I know whether in respect of any other foreign university, while selecting students for that university, a representative of that university sits on the selection committee, or whether this is a new innovation only in respect of this university?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** It is not a new innovation. That is the usual procedure followed when a foreign country offers scholarships; a representative of that country or the university sits on the selection committee, by invitation.

**Shri B. K. Gaikwad:** May I know the number of candidates already

selected by the People's Friendship University, Moscow, and who asked for passports, and also whether it is a fact that one lady student from the Punjab has already been selected and has already joined the classes?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** From the newspaper reports, we know that two Indian students have been admitted to the university, and we are trying to know who they are.

**An Hon. Member:** Trying to know who they are?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** They have not been admitted through us. For the rest, no passport facilities have been given to the students seeking admission to the People's Friendship University, because the whole procedure is still not yet complete; applications have been invited, and as I have pointed out already, only after December, we shall be in a position to know who the applicants are, and then the committee will sit and examine.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether it is a fact that Indian students had sent their applications direct to the People's Friendship University at Moscow? May I also know whether it is also true that they were given to understand that they would get free passage and free boarding and lodging facilities, and it was only because of that they sent their applications?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** All the applications sent either to the Friendship University or to the local Embassy have been sent over to us. Now, fresh applications also have been called for; all these things will be screened, scrutinised, and then the selection will be made.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** The latter part of my question has not been replied to. Under what conditions did the Indian applicants get inducement to send their applications straight to the Friendship University? May I

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know whether those conditions still exist, namely free passage, and free boarding lodging facilities etc?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** It is published in the papers, in *The Soviet News* and other papers.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Will the hon. Minister kindly tell the House whether the Indian students will become eligible only when they are scrutinised and found satisfactory by the selection committee, or whether they will be eligible for admission, as has happened in the case of the two students who have already been admitted without the knowledge and consent of the selection committee?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** As has been pointed out already, they will become eligible only when they are approved by the selection committee.

**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:** May I know whether Government have any knowledge as to the number of applicants who directly applied to the Friendship University, without the knowledge of Government?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** We have not got the figures yet.

**Shri R. Narayanasamy:** May I know how many seats have been allotted to India for admission into the Peoples Friendship University?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Approximately 30.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know the special subjects in which training will be given in this university, and for which our students will be sponsored from India?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** It has been decided that selection of Indian students for the Friendship University will be confined to applications for the study of engineering and other technical subjects, physics and other higher sciences.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know whether it is a fact that the university

has started its work from 1st October, and already four hundred out of the five hundred students have started work, and if so, if what has appeared in the newspapers is true, why there has been such a long delay in sending these 30 students from India?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The reason for the delay is well known, because certain procedures which Government adopt in accepting such scholarships have not been accepted by the Soviet Union, the Friendship University advertised on their own, and called for applications without consulting Government. We do not allow foreign Governments to make selections on their own, and hence the delay.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know what special facilities for education, in the form of scholarships and other things, will be provided by this university, which are not available at other universities outside India?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** That, of course, cannot be answered in any detail, but it is well-known that technical and scientific education in the Soviet Union is probably of the first order compared to any place in the world.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether the Government set up a Committee or Board for scrutinising all the scholarships which are afforded by other Governments and institutions and trusts, as for example, the Rhodes Scholarships which are awarded by the University of Oxford?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The Rhodes Scholarship is quite a different thing, because under that it is open to anybody to apply for study of any subject in any University he wants. Here it is limited to a particular University which, they say, is a voluntary University run by so many different organisations. Therefore, we cannot compare the Rhodes Scholarships with the the Scholarships offered by the Friendship University.

**Shri Radha Raman:** The hon. Deputy Minister has just now disclosed that the University in Moscow directly advertised in Indian newspapers and invited applications. On this fact coming to their notice, did the Government of India write to them and did they give any reply as to why they did so?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** Yes. It was done. That is why the Rector of the University came here and met the Prime Minister, the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs and the Foreign Secretary. After consultations, they arrived at certain terms and conditions. Fresh applications are invited on the basis of these discussions.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Wage Board for Jute Industry**

\*178. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**  
**Pandit D. N. Tiwari:**  
**Shri Tangamani:**

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for Jute Industry has started its work; and

(b) if not, the reason therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

**State Trading Corporation**

\*179. { **Shri P. C. Deb:**  
**Shri Agadhi:**  
**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**  
**Shri Achar:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation has decided to set up subsidiary bodies; and