

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Monday, 5th August, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indian Doctors for Malaya

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*607. { Shri Radha Raman.
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri.

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a mission headed by the Minister for Health of Malayan Government has arrived in India with the specific object of entering into contract with Indian doctors to serve the Malayan Government to meet the acute shortage of doctors in that country,

(b) if so, whether the Government of India had given permission for such a contract to be entered into with them, and

(c) if so, the conditions of the contract, the number of Indian doctors being recruited and their terms of service?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) A Malayan team of experts headed by the Chairman of the Malayan Public Service Commission (and not by the Minister of Health) arrived in India sometime ago with the object of selecting Indian doctors for service in Malaya and it commenced interviewing the candidates from the 28th June, 1957

(b) Yes

(c) The contract is for a period of three years, terminable by either side on giving three months' notice. The number of doctors to be recruited is 100. The terms of service include a salary scale of Malayan Dollars 730-1, 234 plus Cost of Living Allowance, gratuity payable at the end of contract, First Class Passages, furnished quarters at moderate charge and free medical attendance for the officer and his family.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether previously any Indian doctors have gone to Malaya and whether some Indian doctors are still serving in the Malayan Government? If so, what is their number?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I want notice.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know what the hon. Member means. There are plenty of Indians living in Malaya either temporarily or more or less permanently, they come and go. He does not expect us surely to carry out a census of Indians in Malaya.

Shri Radha Raman: I want the number of doctors only.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Doctors also I know Indian doctors living in Malaya for the last 35 years myself, who are functioning there and who have gone from here, their homes are still there. How do we get their number?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that there is acute shortage of qualified doctors in the

various State Government hospitals, will Government consider the prohibition of these doctors from going abroad for taking up this work?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There is also an unhealthy concentration of doctors in certain areas and they will be sent.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know if Indian doctors have gone for service in other countries also and if so, their number and the names of the countries to which they have gone?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I require notice.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the doctors with qualifications from Indian universities are allowed to practise in Malaya at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I suppose so; otherwise, they would not practise there. Obviously they must be allowed. I have no precise information, but it is obvious that they go there because they are allowed to function there.

Shri Tangamani: My point is, if a doctor is qualified from the Madras or Calcutta University, if he takes his M.B.B.S., degree from here, is he allowed to practise in Singapore in Malaya now?

Mr. Speaker: It is obvious; otherwise they will not go.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Most of these degrees are recognised. I cannot speak about everyone, but most of our degrees are recognised by the Medical Council of the United Kingdom and therefore, they are recognised in Malaya too.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether this contract for doctors is part of any comprehensive scheme of the Indian Government to lend the services of such Indian nationals to friendly countries for such purposes or other similar purposes?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Government does not directly come into this picture, because it is open to any Indian doctor or other to accept service and to go there. We do not come in the way; we do not discourage or encourage them. But we come into the picture when a Government asks us to help them in issuing advertisements, etc. We issue advertisements; we give them facilities, but they themselves come and choose the people here.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Every question appears to be important as it is taken up. There are other important questions also. Next question.

Manufacture of Radio Parts

*608. **Shri Keshava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approved scheme for the manufacture of radio parts which are at present being imported has been implemented;

(b) if not, when it will be put into execution; and

(c) what is the agency, whether Government or private, through which this scheme is to be implemented?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 64.]

Shri Keshava: Is it not a fact that Bharat Electronics is not working to its full capacity, with the result that there is considerable wastage? When it is hungering to produce radio valves, may I know why the Government is not entrusting them with this task?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have already indicated in my answer, Bharat Electronics are already producing five components of the radio. Regarding the valves also, an agreement with a foreign firm is about to