

Charges against Director, Central Research Institute for Ayurveda, Patiala

4865. DR. BALDEV PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have received any complaints against Director, Central Research Institute for Ayurveda, Patiala, regarding corruption, misappropriation of funds, illegalities and multifarious irregularities and abuse of power and if so, what action has been taken by Government so far against the said officer and if not, the reasons for delay;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered or conducted against the said officer by Government and if so, what is the result of the enquiry report and the action proposed in it by the enquiry officer;

(c) whether the said officer was taken from Punjab Cadre, and if so, whether the post was advertised and the qualifications prescribed; and

(d) the qualifications of the said officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). Yes. An on-the-spot preliminary enquiry has been conducted by an officer of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A note on a secret enquiry on the complaint has also been furnished by the C.B.I. separately. These reports are under consideration. Orders of reversion of Shri Keerti Sharma were issued on 9th December, 1977 and he has since been relieved of his charge.

(c) Yes. Initially a post of Project Officer was allowed for the Central Research Institute (Ayurveda) Patiala by the Central Council for Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy. Meanwhile the Executive Committee of the Council also sanctioned a post of Director in the pre-revised scale of Rs. 1100—1400 at its meeting held on 24th November, 1970 and recruitment rules for this post were also approved. However, the appointment of Director for Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Patiala was not taken up as the appointment of Shri Keerti Sharma as Project Officer for this Institute had meanwhile been approved by the Vice-President of the Council.

The post of Project Officer was not advertised as the Central Council for Re-

search in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy had at that time not framed recruitment rules for the post of Project Officer, Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Patiala, against which Shri Keerti Sharma was appointed, on deputation basis, with the concurrence of the Government of Punjab, with effect from the 26th February, 1971. His appointment was also approved by the Executive Committee of the Council at its meeting held on 3-7-1971. A proposal for setting up of three more Central Research Institutes for Ayurveda in the various regions alongwith the staffing pattern which *inter-alia* included post of a Director in each Institute, was approved in the scale of Rs. 1100—1400 by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on 24-11-1970. However, the scale of pay of post of Director was upgraded from Rs. 1100—1400 to Rs. 1300—1600 by the Executive Committee at its special meeting held on 11th February, 1971. Accordingly, the post of Project Officer, Central Research Institute for Ayurveda, Patiala, was converted into that of Director. However, Shri Keerti Sharma continued as Project Officer on deputation, on the same terms as before. The recruitment rules for the post of Director, Central Research Institute (Ayurveda) were subsequently modified by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on 5-3-1973. The posts of Director, Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Patiala and the Central Research Institute (Ayurveda) Chorathuruthy were advertised on an all India basis in March, 1973. Even though the recommendations of the Selection Committee were approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on the 30th March, 1974, yet these could not be implemented due to certain objections raised by a Member of the Governing Body of the Central Council of Research in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy. This matter was reconsidered at the 12th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council, held on 19th October, 1974 and the President of the Council decided to meet the selected candidates but no such meeting took place. As no appointment was done for the post of Director, Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Patiala, the deputation period of Shri Keerti Sharma was extended further upto the 6th February, 1976, with the approval of the Executive Committee. Later, it was decided to depute Shri Keerti Sharma to the post of Director, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, with effect from the 7th February, 1976 where he served for about 6 months. On reversion from the post of Director, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Shri Keerti Sharma was appointed as Director, Central Research Institute (Ayurveda), Patiala in the scale of Rs. 1500—1800 on fresh deputation basis for a period of 2 years with effect from 25th August, 1976. This appointment

was made with the concurrence of the Government of Punjab. Steps are being taken to advertise the post of Director, again.

(d) On the basis of the information furnished by Shri Keerti Sharma, he possesses the following qualifications:—

1. Ayurvedacharya (Degree in Ayurveda) from Board of Examination, Ayurvedic Department, PEPHU Government, Patiala.
2. Honours in Sanskrit (Shastri) from Punjabi University.
3. M.A. (Hindi) from Punjab University.

Telex Facilities for Export of Mica from Giridih (Bihar)

4866. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Giridih (Bihar) is famous for mica trade in the world and foreign exchange to the tune of about Rs. 90 crores is earned from mica exports to the various countries of the world:

(b) whether in the absence of telex facilities, the headquarter of Export Trade of the Mica Trade Corporation of India has to incur unnecessary expenditure on the telex facility which is available in Patna, 200 miles away from the mica area:

(c) whether mica exporters of Giridih and the Mica Trade Corporation of India have applied for the provision of telex facility in Giridih and many traders have expressed their desire to take telex lines connections:

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide telex facility in Giridih for the development of mica trade and coal mine industries there; and

(e) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) (a) to (e). Giridih is a well-known mica trading centre and substantial foreign exchange is earned through mica export.

12 parties including Mica Trade Corporation of India have recently applied for telex connections at Giridih. A project for installation of a 20-line telex exchange at Giridih is under examination. It is hoped that a new telex exchange can be commissioned in 1979, and connections provided to all these parties.

A telex exchange is working at Dhanbad, situated about 50 Kms. from Giridih. Any intending subscriber at Giridih desirous of obtaining connection urgently, can be provided such connection from this telex as a long distance connection.

Friendly relations with S.E. Asian Countries

4867. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of External Affairs have drawn up any socio-cultural plan for strengthening friendship with Governments and peoples of the S.E. Asian countries;

(b) if so, the facts thereabout;

(c) whether any cultural exchanges have been made with these countries during 1977;

(d) whether programme for exchange of teachers, students, scholars, artists and men of culture between India and the S.E. Asian countries have been drawn up;

(e) if so, the facts thereabout;

(f) whether India will set up new centres of culture and strengthen the existing cultural institution in these countries; and

(g) if so, the facts thereabout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU). (a) and (b). The Government propose to sign cultural agreements with all countries in S.E. Asia with which we do not have such agreements at present and to follow up all such cultural agreements with bilaterally agreed time-bound cultural exchange programmes. Moreover, the recent Conference of Heads of Indian Missions in South-East and East Asia in August 1977 made a number of useful recommendations to the Government for promoting cultural relations. These recommendations have generally been accepted and some of them are already under implementation. The Government have also appointed an Evaluation Committee under Shri Ashoke Mehta to Evaluate the performance of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and to suggest guidelines for its future activities. The Government hope that the Council shall become a more active instrument for promoting cultural relations with South East Asia.