

Hirakud Workshop

*1534. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hirakud workshop has been handed over to the Government of Orissa;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) whether the Orissa Government is proposing to sell the workshop to private industrialists?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether there is any proposal to transfer the control of the Hirakud workshop to the Orissa Government?

Shri Hathi: Not yet.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether this workshop will be transferred only when the Hirakud project is transferred to the Orissa Government?

Shri Hathi: I think in the normal course, it should be so.

International Sugar Agreement

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*1535. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Jimachandran:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 409 on the 1st December, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken final decision regarding becoming a party to the new International Sugar Agreement;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know the names of other countries who had become members of this agreement?

Shri A. M. Thomas: All major exporting countries have become members, except India. The matter is being considered. There is no time-limit fixed for joining the agreement. Various aspects have to be considered by our Government before deciding one way or the other.

Medical Colleges

*1536. Shri Panigrahi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the period for M.B.B.S. course has been reduced from 5 years to 4½ years uniformly in all the Medical Colleges in the country;

(b) whether after completing this 4½ years M.B.B.S. course, the students are made to undergo compulsory practical training for an additional period of one year as internees in Medical Colleges;

(c) whether the Indian Medical Council in a new regulation has asked the State Governments not to give stipends to these internees; and

(d) whether according to this new regulation any State Government has stopped paying stipends to internees working in Medical Colleges?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) and (b). The Medical Council of India recommended for adoption to the Universities a minimum period of study of 5½ years for the M.B.B.S. course consisting of either (i) 4½ years course plus 1 year internship or (ii) 5 years course plus 6 months internship. Most of the Universities have adopted the first alternative.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: In answer to part (c), the hon. Minister has stated that there is no regulation from the Indian

Medical Council asking the State Governments not to give stipends to internees. Recently in the Orissa Medical College in Cuttack, the State Government are not paying stipends to the internees, saying that it is according to a regulation of the Indian Medical Council. May I have a clarification?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice whether the Medical Council comes anywhere in the picture so far as the stipends to internees is concerned. According to my present information, I would like to say that my answer to (c) is correct.

Shri Panigrahi: The answer to part (c) is correct, because the Indian Medical Council also says it is correct. But the Orissa Government...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will put down a separate question.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any other State Governments are paying stipends to the internees who are undergoing a six month training course in the medical colleges?

Shri Karmarkar: I have information about the Lady Hardinge College, where I understand that the internees are paid Rs. 50 per month as diet charges.

Shrimati Ha Falchoudhuri: May I know whether the terms of these stipends are in any way more liberal in the case of scheduled castes students as compared to other students?

Shri Karmarkar: They are meant for the diet expenses. The things that the scheduled castes students eat are the same as others eat. There is no question of concession in regard to that. All students are paid Rs. 50 as diet charges, so far as the Lady Hardinge College is concerned.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Minister that because of some difference between the Medical Council and the college authorities, the Orissa Government threatened to

close down the college and it has already closed down? If so, may I know whether the Centre will intervene in the matter?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no private or official information. My information from the papers is that the students struck work and the Government closed the college. There was difference of opinion between them regarding the stipends to be paid for internship.

Shri Panigrahi: Just now the Minister said that there is some difference with regard to the payment of stipends to the internees. The Orissa Government does not want to give stipends to the internees whereas the Medical Council has sent no such regulation. Will the Central Government really enquire from the Orissa Government as to the exact position and the reason why they closed down the only medical college in Orissa?

Shri Karmarkar: The difficulty in this matter is that the medical colleges are solely within the purview of the State Governments. If a question of a general nature arises, then we intervene. Otherwise, the Orissa Government has every right to disagree with us if we interfere in a matter which is solely theirs and not ours.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the Central Government is not giving any aid to the Orissa medical college? If they are giving aid; why can't they interfere and have the college reopened?

Shri Karmarkar: I am grateful to my hon. friend for giving me an opportunity to make our position clear in respect of the medical colleges. So far as the starting, founding and continuing the medical colleges are concerned. It is absolutely an affair of the States; We do not propose to interfere with their discretion, in regard to that. If a State Government starts any college, other conditions being equal, we propose to share three-fourth of the non-recurring expenditure and a part of the recurring

expenditure with the State Governments when they start a new college. We have given such aid to the Cuttack College, but that does not entitle us to interfere in every little matter that arises.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Opening or closing is entirely a State subject. The hon. Minister says he has no jurisdiction

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether there is any difference between the interneers and the house surgeons? House surgeons are getting the stipend, whereas the interneers are not. Has the Medical Council made any such distinction between the interneers and house surgeons?

Shri Karmarkar: It is a matter between the Medical Council, which is an autonomous body under a statute of Parliament and the various colleges. It is the Medical Council which recognises the colleges. So far as the question of recognition is concerned, we do not come into the picture at all. We are not concerned with either recognition or non-recognition.

Electricity in Punjab

*1031 **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimates made by the Central Water and Power Commission have revealed a severe deficit of electrical power in Punjab, and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken to provide more power facilities in Punjab?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The estimate indicates that there is power shortage in Punjab. This was 1 MW at the end of the 1st Plan and is estimated to be 16 MW at the end of the 2nd Plan period.

(b) To meet this shortage, the construction of the right bank power station at Bhakra with the installation

of 4 sets of 53,000/90,000 KW, and the construction of the Beas—Sutlej link for augmenting the Bhakra reservoir capacity, will be considered when formulating the Third Plan.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the demand of the Punjab State at the end of the First Plan and at the end of the Second Plan?

Shri Hathi: At the end of the first Plan, the demand was 57 MW and at the end of the Second Plan, it would be 97 MW.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: In spite of the construction of the right bank power house, there will be again shortage of power in Punjab. May I know what other steps Government propose to take to remove this shortage?

Shri Hathi: The other step will be the construction of the Beas—Sutlej link.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether Punjab Government has requested for financial assistance for the right bank power house?

Shri Hathi: That is what I said. This is being considered in formulating the Third Plan.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether there is a proposal to construct 5 turbines in the right bank power house instead of 4 turbines?

Shri Hathi: It is a proposal for 4 sets.

Mr. Speaker: The questions are all over. I will now call the names of hon. Members who were not present when called before: Shri Rathunath Singh, Shri Maniyangan, Shri Subbiah Ambalam, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, Shri Assar, Shri Patil, Shri Barupal, Shri K. B. Malavia and Shri Mulchand Dube.