

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what do you want to say?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost daily we request the chair time and again to see that proceedings of the House are conducted in a proper manner.

[*English*]

I leave it to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let use adjourn for Lunch. We will re-assemble after lunch 1500 hrs.

13.56 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fifteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The house will take up Calling Attention motion which was unfinished on the last day i.e. 10th Aug, 1990. Prof. Yadunath Pandey—not present.

Shri Indrajit Gupta—not present.  
Shri Ram Bahadur Singh—not present.  
Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam.

15.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—  
*Contd.*

**Situation Arising out of the Agitation by Employees of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences *Contd.***

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, unfortunately, the statement of the Minister, to say the least, is

most unsatisfactory and a lot of important information and facts which the Government is definitely aware of have been conveniently left out in the statement. In addition, certain statements have been made which are obviously deliberate, with the intention to mislead. I feel a little sorry, Sir, because I am aware that Minister is normally very sympathetic to the Karmacharis, but it looks after becoming the Health Minister he has been constrained to give up his basic thinking and here is a case which is a good example where officialdom has proved that they rule this nation and their word is the law. They are sovereign, above the people, the Parliament and all that matters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, in a Calling Attention we are normally not allowed to make speeches. I am aware of that. Before you remind me, I admit the fact. But at the moment I wish to clarify that I would like to elicit some specific information from the hon. Minister by what could be termed as a single question, but really in a series. Because, a single question is an overall question of what is happening in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. There are certain specific facts. The first is, I would like to know whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences was created by a statute and is an autonomous institution; and whether the objective of creating this institution itself was to create an institution which is of national importance and is of par excellence for research, training and medicare. The objective was not to provide large scale medical assistance, but rather specialised medical assistance where research would take place and it is considered so all over India. People who have difficult problems of medicare view with each other to get admitted in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It is a well-known fact that this institution has earned this reputation of being one of the institutions of foremost importance. However, I would like to know whether the Government considers it so, even if the people do and whether you treat it just as on par as other hospitals or is it not just a hospital but the hospital is only by the way but mere a research and training institute.

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

I would also like to know whether it is true or not that 1984 all the employees who had completed eight years of service were given a promotion and whether similar relief was given only in, if I understand rightly, the Post-Graduate Institute and no other hospital under the Central Government Health Scheme.

I would also like to know whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, being an autonomous institution needed to adopt the Fourth Pay Commission's scales of pay by a resolution or did the scales of pay apply automatically?

And, I would also like to get from the hon. Minister in answer to these specific question which are about certain facts which are hidden. These facts have to be elicited. Otherwise one would reach a state of affairs where information would not be available to the House and the Minister can give a bald statement and get away with it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister is this. Is he aware that the Fourth Pay Commission does not provide and did not provide for any career development scheme or promotion policy? Is the Minister aware that pay scales and promotional avenues are two different things? Or is he ignorant of that because his statement reveals that he is trying to mix the two and not distinguish these two very clear different issues? Is the Minister aware that Government promotional avenues cannot *mutatis mutandis* apply to an autonomous institution unless the autonomous institution, the governing body, decides so? Is the Minister also aware that in many an autonomous institution, especially in the sector of finance I would like to point out as the Minister of Finance is present even in the banking industry, institution to institution the promotional avenues and opportunities vary depending on the nature of the institution, type of work and its background?

I would be very fast. The questions have to be put. Unfortunately these fundamental issues have not been brought out.

In 1988, B.N. Tandon Committee was constituted for recommending promotional avenues and to develop a scheme for career development. I made its recommendation. This was considered on 7th September 1989 by the governing body of the AIIMS, the Chairman of which happens to be the Health Minister. Is it also not true that the Finance Committee which is chaired by the Health Secretary cleared but however recommended by its guidelines that instead of five years, eight years period should be taken into consideration?

On 11th April 1990, the present Health Secretary sent a proposal through the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, one Mr. Ahuja, that benefit of cadre review, as the employees who have left out of 1984 cadre review by fixing national pay from 1.4.1986 and payment of arrears from 1.1.1990 is proposed and this cadre review will cover all employees upto 1.4.1992. In addition to that, whether B.N. Tandon Committee recommendations would be implemented soon. Was the proposal sent or not sent through the said Joint Secretary to the representatives of the employees? Did the Minister of State for Health assure the employees on 15.4.90 that by 19th May 1990 he would settle the matter to their satisfaction? Is the Minister aware that the total expenditure of both the demands would not be more than Rs. 20 lakhs?

On 6.8.1990, an article was appeared in *The Hindustan Times* in which the Minister has stated that the genuine issues, especially these two matters, would be settled. Is it not true that the Minister was originally sympathetic and it was only when the bureaucracy in the Finance Ministry turned him down, this attitude has come into being? But, unfortunately, on the same day when your views were published in *The Hindustan Times*, the Deputy Publicity Information Officer gave a letter, which was also printed, which literally is almost the original of the

statement laid on the Table of the House in this Calling Attention. I would like to know specifically whether this Government is of the opinion that it can even in matters of promotion over-rule autonomous institutions', boards', and even governing bodies' decisions, its own Health Ministry's decision and whether there is any real collective responsibility among all of you. Or is it that the Finance Ministry rules and other serve? The unfortunate thing is that the package that was offered has been pulled away. It is almost like giving it with one hand and trying to pull it back with the other. I think, the hon. Minister is hearing.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): He is hearing but he is not understanding.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: He knows very well that his problem is on his left, and that is the major issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): The problem is in front of me.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The real situation is that we have employees who have been stagnating for eight to ten years and in some cases 15 years. I understand from my friend Mr. Rawat, that some of them are stagnating for almost 18 years. And you will be not willing to concede the scheme that has not been prepared by the employees but prepared by the committee appointed by the Governing Body and are trying to push it under the rug on the ground that it will have repercussions nationally. How can it have repercussions nationally when there is hardly any other institute like the AIIMS? You may call it JIPMER, you may call it PGI Chandigarh....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have spoken for 15 minutes.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you under-

stand what you are speaking?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: If you are not understanding what can I do? You please use the head phone for translation. The problem with you people is that you do not understand the problems of labourers (working class), you do not understand their voice. *(Interruptions)*. It may be that, Mulyam Singhji might have told you not to understand in any other language. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to call the attention and ask a classificatory question. Even in a regular debate you would not have spoken for 15 minutes.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I would only like to point out that this is an institution of national importance. This institution has been closed down by force. False cases have been registered against the employees. They have been arrested for their houses. The institution is being pulled down day by day.

One allegation was made that Congress men were involved in the extension of the director. I wish to make it clear that two Members of Parliament belonging to Congress are on the Governing Body. On the 15th of June when the decision for extension was taken, both of them were not present in the meeting. The allegation is uncalled for. This decision has been made because the Government wishes to make it. All the Resident Doctors, the faculty doctors, the student doctors, the karamchari union, of all of them feel that the practice of giving extension is not proper. I don't want to cast any aspersion or allegation against any individual. But when there is no provision for extension, I think, this system of giving extension should not be adopted at all.

I would end by requesting the appealing to the hon. Minister that let him not be led by the bureaucrats to take the hard line against the employees. The employees have been reasonable. They have not committed any-

*Agitation by emp.*

[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

thing. I am only making a request to the Minister that he sits across with the employees and settle it and convince the Finance Ministry that the objection raised by them is unreasonable.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore):**

First of all, I must apologize that I was not here when you called me. I was misinformed. I was told that immediately after the recess, matters under Rule 377 will be taken up.... (*Interruptions*). Sir, this unfortunate closure of the Medical Institute, I think, has been going on long enough. It is high time that some initiative was taken, some step was taken to try to resolve these disputes. It is true that in any deadlock which takes place like this in a medical institution, ultimately the patients suffer. This is the country's premier or most prestigious institution of this type, not merely a hospital, but also meant to be a model of patients' care and medical research. I do not find in the hon. Minister's speech any opening or any conciliatory tone, which might lead towards an early settlement. He is quite, I should say, uncompromising in his attitude towards the people who have gone on strike.

As far as employees are concerned, I would like to know whether his attention has been drawn to a statement that has been published in the Press today, on behalf of the strikers offering to give all facilities to the doctors to start out-door work, out-door attention to patients by putting up tents outside the buildings and also to help in cleaning the wards of the hospital, provided the Minister comes here in person and supervise it. The cleaning work will be done in the wards and OPD work can be done by putting up tents outside. It is not as though the strikers are completely impervious to the suffering of the patients, but it is deplorable I suggest that this kind of prolonged break down takes place and is really causing a lot of sufferings obviously. Now, there also I find, I do not know if the hon. Minister has been it, I have a text of the statement which has been issued, a public appeal signed by hon. Members of Parliament belonging to differ-

ent parties, all parties in fact cutting across parties, in which they have appealed to the karmacharis to suspend their indefinite strike in the interest of the ailing public and so on. They have appealed to the Government and in particular to the Minister to dispense with the present hard, adamant and uncompromising stand that he has taken. They have appealed to the Director also and so on. At the moment, I do not propose to drag in the Director or the Director's role in this whole affairs. So, I must say one thing that if the things are done according to rules and regulations and all the Kamacharis and employees are also to be reminded that they should abide by rules and regulations, then the same prescription should also be applied to everybody concerned. Is not a fact that some rules and regulations in particular Clause 4 of Rule 7 of the All India Medical Institute Act regarding the creation of posts and appointments, has not been scrupulously adhered to, as far as the Director is concerned. The Clause reads:

"In the event of the Director proceeding on leave, resigning or retiring, for the post falling vacant in any eventuality till such time a new Director is appointed, the President may appoint a senior most Professor to look after the functions of the Director for a period not exceeding six months."

This is how the rule reads. But has it been adhered to when this extension has been given to the present Director? So, I do not want to labour that point. What I am saying is that you must have a uniform standard, a uniform norm when you talk about rules and regulations.

Anyway, the main argument of the Minister is regarding two things. One is that if their demands are acceded to, it will have cascading effect on other Government Departments and Government employees, it will become a precedent. Secondly, that the Fourth Central Pay Commission has already dealt with this matter, so, the question of implementation of stagnation and the Pay Commission did not deal with the ques-

tion of stagnation and the Pay Commission did not deal with the question of cadre promotion is no longer relevant once they have accepted the Pay Commission's findings regarding pay scales. I would like to ask him whether it is not a fact that revision of pay scales and provision of promotional opportunities are not the same thing. They are not the same thing. They are two quite distinct things. I want to know whether since the pay Commission did not deal with the question of cadre promotion then references to the Pay Commission in this context are also irrelevant? Why should the Pay Commission be dragged in? The Pay Commission had nothing to do with the cadre promotion, nor did it have anything to do with stagnation. So, it is very strange that this Committee—the B.N. Tandon Committee—was set up in 1988. Why was it set up in 1988? I would like the Minister to please reply to this question of mine that if the Pay Commission had already disposed of everything, then why was this B.N. Tandon Committee set up in 1988, after the Pay Commission? For what purpose? And this Committee gave its Report in 1989, which was approved by the Finance Committee of the Institute. This Report is also approved by the Governing Body of the Institute. Why were these exercises gone through? They should have said that the Pay Commission has disposed of the matter and, therefore, this Committees' Report has no relevance now.

Then, Sir, the former Health Minister—Mr. Masood's predecessor—gave an assurance also—or did he not?—that the cadre review of the remaining 1,400 employees would be taken up. So, this is not a thing which has developed today suddenly, overnight... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIRASHEED MASOOD: Where was the assurance given? Was it given on the floor of the House or was it given in private talks?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I do not know whether it was given in private talks or publicly on the floor of the House.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Because I

am not aware of this assurance, that is why I want to know.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All right, that may be. But one thing I want to know is whether it is a fact that the leaders of this Karamchari Union claim that they have had a several meetings—they must have been private meetings—with the Minister, and in the course of those discussions, the Minister had assured that as per the Tandon Committee's Report, both the Cadre Review and the other recommendations would be implemented soon. Why were these assurances given if they were not meant to be followed? So, what I am saying is that is is all very confusing because either you have to say that you stand by whatever the Pay Commission has done and that is the end of the matter, no further discussion, or, then you go and appoint another Committee. Committee gives the Report. The Report is approved, the recommendations are approved by the Governing Body, which includes the Finance Secretary of the Institute as well as the Health Secretary and so many people, and now it is being said that this has no relevance and, therefore, it should not be implemented.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to a letter to the editor. I hope he has seen it. It has appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 6th of August, signed by Mr. Bisham Pal, Deputy Principal Information Officer of Health and Family Welfare, Press Information Bureau, Government of India. This is the rejoinder to the strikers in which he is bluntly turning down their demands. But to my great surprise I find that several sentences and paragraphs of the letter published in the press by Mr. Bisham Pal are reproduced word for word in the Statements which the Minister has laid on the Table of the House. How did this come about? I want to know whether the Secretaries—officials and bureaucrats in the Ministry are misadvising or misguiding the Minister and according to their advice he is presenting the statement before the House. This is not the correct way of doing things at all. He may compare that letter in the Hindustan Times with his own statement and see that the same words

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

and same sentences, same paragraphs occur in both of them. So, what will one conclude from that? Anyway, what I would say now is that finally a stand can be taken that first they should withdraw their strike and then we are prepared to negotiate with them. Even that stand has not been taken so far. Let them first withdraw their strike and then we are prepared to sit down with them and consider their demands because at present what is being said is that the demands are not worth considering, the demands are irrelevant and the demands have nothing to do with the reality. So, even this is not said yet that if the strike is withdrawn, we will sit down and negotiate with them or we may consider that somebody will be appointed, some kind of a mediator or arbitrator or somebody will go into the disputes, hear both the sides and give a judgement which should be binding on both. Generally, in this prolonged dispute they say: first meet our demands, then we will call off the strike. The authorities say: first you call off your strike, then we will meet your demands. It does not work. This hardened position emerged. Some way out has to be found so that this deadlock can be broken as soon as possible. I am told by some representative of the Karmacharis that a great deal of police harassment is going on the strikers and they have been threatened and intimidated. A number of people have been arrested including the Secretary of the Union and some other office-bearers of the Union. Some are given bail and some are not given bail and they are entering the premises, catching the people who are sitting on 'dharna' and arresting them and taking them away and all that. So, I think there is no much point doing this thing. In the Statement, the Minister has recounted a lot of very wicked things, according to him, which the Karmacharis have been doing, may be some of them may not be behaving the way they should behave and I deplore that. I do not support that. But that is no excuse that police resorting to these resorting to these repressive measures which in any case do not lead anywhere now-a-days. This kind of police repression never solves

any problem. We are seeing that to our cost, I think, in different forms, in different parts of the country. So, it is better to give up the police method, the 'danda' method and they are after all your employees. You have to work with them, in future also you will have to work with them. Therefore, it is better to take a more accommodative, reasonable, flexible attitude and to sit down and talk to them and try to settle the matter. This is the confusion which is being created here by dragging in Pay Commission. I would request him to dispel it because the Pay Commission which deals with the revision of pay scales primarily has nothing to do with the question of promotional opportunities. This is the main demand for which they are fighting now and there is nothing wrong that there should be some time-bound promotions during their service career, whether it is 3 promotions in 15 years or one promotion in every 8 years. I think Prof. Dandavate knows very well that in all the Government Departments, the demand for time-bound promotion is a very common thing now-a-days.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): That is before J.C.M.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Yes, that is before JCM. But what the JCM was working out was the detail on such a scheme. The principle of time-bound promotions has been accepted because it is justified. A man may be working in whole of his life for 25 or 30 years and never gets a promotion. So, they have asked for some time-bound promotion. The principle should be accepted by the hon. Minister. The details can be negotiated and worked out with them and therefore I do not think that in view of the crisis which has developed, it is correct to take a very hard and fast attitude and refuse to negotiate. This way the strike will not break. Mr. Minister, I can assure you, the strike will not break. I am reading in the papers that employees of 20 other hospitals in Delhi have held meetings and passed resolutions and issued statements supporting the cause of the Medical Institute people and saying that 'if possible methods are tried to break your strike, then we will express our support and

solidarity with you.' How will that help? It won't help in any way. So, I think it is better in the interest of everybody, that the Ministry should give up the kind of bureaucratic attitude—excuse my saying so. This statement also of the Minister, I regret to say, is couched in rather bureaucratic. I am not surprised because I find, as I said, the same language which is used by the Press Information Bureau officer—in the letter he has written as in the *The Hindustan Times*—is the same thing and I would like to warn my friend, Mr. Rasheed Masood, an old friend of mine, when he used to be on this side, that he should beware of some of the big bureaucrats and officials. The game they are playing behind this whole thing, we don't know, But he should be cautious and should not follow every so-called advice that they give. He should take more initiative on his own and be bold enough to try to break this communication gap between him and his employees and I am sure it will pay, it will reward him if they felt that 'here is a Minister who is really willing to sit down and talk to us and is sympathetic to us and is willing really to consider our demands on their merit.' I hope he will do something about this.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, calling attention regarding strike by the workers of All India Medical Institute was admitted before the vacations. Pandey ji and other members had already spoken while two hon. members have spoken today. Our colleagues should give a serious thought to the question relating to the extent of facilities that can be extended to the workers. Consequent upon the strike by the workers the medical facilities have become non-existent for the patients. As a result of which they are facing problems and some of them may die. No one is bothered about their lives and illness. My friend Mr. Kumaramangalam has sympathised with them and said that we had no sympathy for them. This is not true, as a matter of fact, I had been sympathetic to-

wards them, they still have this sympathy and they will continue to have my sympathy. However to save those who are dying is also my duty. This is my foremost duty those who are getting two square meals a day come later. I have made for weak request to the employees and have always been sympathetic to them but the workers went on strike. They asserted that on the pattern of what was agreed in 1984 they should get time bound promotion after eight years. The institute was established in 1956 and till 1984 nobody got promotion. When people started stagnating it was said that they should be given time bound promotion. It was decided that they should be promoted but the word time bound was not used. At that time it was decided that all those who have rendered more than eight years service between the years 1976 to 1984 should be given one promotion. The agreement made at that time did not mention that they would be given time bound promotion. At that time, there was no employee who had completed eight years service but did not get one promotion. Today, again this issue has been raised. Now the point raised is that those employees who have joined service after 1st April, 1976 should also be given time-bound promotion after completion of 8 years service. Just now, Shri Kumaramangalam has stated that there are employees who have completed 18-20 years of service, but have not been given promotion. But I would like to say that there is not a single employee in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences who has completed 18-20 years of service but has not got one promotion. So, this statement is not correct. The present demand of the workers is that those who have completed 8 years' service in 1984 should be given promotion under the time-bound promotion scheme. If this is acceded to, then there will be a demand that those who have completed 8 years' service in 1982 should be given promotion. The agreement of 1962 will cover the year 1984. We cannot play with the lives of the people. The employees should get promotions and facilities. We do not deny this. We can have negotiations in this regard. But strikes can not be allowed in such important hospitals. I have not closed the doors of

[Sh. Rasheed Masood]

negotiations and I have always stated that doors of negotiations are open. Mr. Gupta has pointed out that at least one promotion must we given after 16 years, we do agree with it. That is why I am saying that an agreement is being finalised with JCM, negotiations are going on in this regard. The issue of promotion is also there, when an agreement is reached it will be extended to them also. It is not that we are against promotions. Shri Kumaramagalam has asked whether the report of the Pay Commission stands implemented automatically or not, I would like to say that it does not stand implemented automatically. But the Union leaders of these employees had agreed to the implementation of the Report of the Pay Commission. There is a colloquial saying that

"Chit bhi meri, pat bhi meri,

Anda mere baap ka,"

What I mean to say is that they got promotion under the agreement which provided for promotion after completion of 8 years of service and also got the benefits of the Pay Commission, now the same thing will be repeated. They want promotions after 8 years of service and also all the benefits of the pay Commission. We also want that promotion should be given to them but our criteria can be different about time bound promotions. We shall not be able to accept the demand of time bound promotion, because it will have wide repercussion. I know that in JCM it...

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): There was no repercussion last time.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: There is much difference in the position now. Last time, they were waiting for the implementation of the Fourth Pay Commission Report.

They did not say at that time they would accept the Pay Commission Report. Now they want the benefits available to the Government employees all over-India under the Pay Commission. Their pay scales are already equal to the pay scales of 'C' and 'D' staff of the Government of India.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jgatsingpur): Is it that the pay scales of the All India Medical Institute will affect the whole of India? Is there not any difference because this is a special institute created under a special Act?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: You have correctly said has the pay scales of the 'C' and 'D' staff are equal. Therefore this can have repercussions elsewhere.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: In order to avoid that you are linking it up.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: But it is also not necessary to see that repercussion are not be there.

[Translation]

You referred to the report of the Tandon Commission. There are no two opinions that this Institution is an autonomous body but it is not an autonomous body in so far as financial matters are concerned. Rule 29 is very clear about it. In case of the financial implications they have to seek approval of the administrative Ministry.

Being an autonomous body it constituted the 'Tandon Committee'. The Tandon Committee had submitted its report and the administration of the Institute has accepted the report. But I would like to tell you that every year Parliamentary Committees are also constituted here also but it is not mandatory to accept all the recommendations



made by them, sometimes many of their recommendations are not accepted. All recommendations of the Committees are not mandatory. It is not that all the recommendations must be accepted by Government. It is the prerogative of the Government that it may accept as many recommendations as possible within its limitations.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why are you justifying the misdeeds of the previous Government, because of which all these complications have cropped up?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: There is no question of justifying or rejecting the deeds of the previous Government but I am putting facts before the House. An issue has been raised here that the Institution is an autonomous body and that it had constituted a committee. Yes, they have the power to constitute a committee. But its report can not be treated as mandatory and it is also not necessary to accept it under Rule 29. The Government has the powers to accept as much as possible and to reject which is not feasible.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But an assurance had been given to them that it would be accepted.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I am coming to it.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, he referred to all of us that none of us showed any concern about the patients. I would like to read out from my own intervention made last time:

"Lastly, I also want to make a special appeal to the employees to change their present behaviour. But it is necessary that special appeal also requires special treatment. I hope while answering, he will tell us what special treatment he will give for the special appeal which we are prepared to make

so that the strike ends and the credibility of AIIMS leadership is restored."

This is what I said.

I would like the Minister to know this as well. Today we have issued an appeal, by very many employees which is there and which he has referred to, where we have expressed our deep concern and also expressed certain ideas about how to resolve the present issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: My intention was not to hurt the feelings of any one, I was telling you the same thing. If the feelings of my sister Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, were hurt by what I said, I am ready to tender an apology. It was not my intention to hurt her feelings.

AN HON. MEMBER: Now, what are your intentions?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Our intentions are good.

SHRIP.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Now, do you want permanent closure of the AIIMS?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: We want that AIIMS should start functioning immediately and we appeal to you to extend your cooperation in this endeavour. We have all along been saying that doors of negotiations are open. As Shri Guptaji has just now said is it not possible to lay down a time-bound period of 8 years for promotion. One promotion must be given but in how many years and how it should be given will have to be viewed in a larger perspective. We want that there is no repercussion. Besides, the hon. Members have raised two-three more points.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I did not say that. Perhaps you have not understood my point. I did not say that only one promotion should be given during the whole life.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: You meant time bound promotion but the time has changed now. There is no such agreement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There is no such negotiating procedure, now tell, to whom will they go?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Just now, the hon. Minister has rightly stated that we should support him on his issue. We will give him full support but I would like to know whether the Tandon Committee which was constituted... (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Sir, I seek your protection. Under which rule he wants to know it from me?

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I would like to know under the same rule under which you had given me permission earlier. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Mr. Rawat, this is in your favour. As has been stated, Government accepts the principle of time bound promotions, but what should the period can be discussed.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I am also saying the same thing that we accept time bound promotion but the period can be negotiated.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: When recommendations of the Tandon Committee were presented before the Governing Body, at that time also, leaders of the employees union had raised the dispute about the period. They said that it could be resolved. They are not adopting any rigid attitude about their demands but the problem is that, not the Institute or the Government but the Ministry and the bureaucracy are adopting hard attitude. They are being asked first to offer an apology and call off the strike, and

then only we would hold negotiations with them.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: No, there is nothing like that. Perhaps you might have the experience, you had been working entirely on the advice of the bureaucracy. But we are those people who have come here after struggling hard in their lives. We have been criticising whatever you people did on the advice of the bureaucracy. We know the limits of the bureaucracy.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Please tell us, how many years you want.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Two serious allegations have been levelled here. One is that commission worth Rs. 25/- crore has been taken in providing facilities to and computerization of NMR. I fully agree that if there is some bungling, action must be taken and I am prepared for it. If you bring to my notice any prima-facie case, an enquiry would be conducted. Enquiry would be conducted against any person, including myself. But these allegations are very serious and distressing also. No order has been placed for facilities in NMR. How can anybody take commission? (*Interruptions*) The second point has been raised about computerization. It has been purchased from the Public Sector. So there is no question of any bungling being done therein. What I want to say is that we should think before making allegations. An M.P. should speak in a responsible manner. If the person against whom an allegation is made is not guilty, then those who had made the allegation should be punished. So it is not proper to level an allegation by name against someone who cannot come here to defend himself.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, after Independence this is the first time that the Government has strictly implemented the rules in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. We make tall claims about being democratic but when it comes to us, we do the opposite. But we have taken this step. For the first time a decision taken by the Institute's Governing Body has been implemented honestly with-

out any deviation from the rules. I shall read out the relevant rule.

[*English*]

"In the event of the Director proceeding on leave, resigning or retiring, or the post falling vacant in any other eventuality, till such time a new Director is appointed, the President may appoint the senior-most Professor to look after the functions for a period not exceeding six months:

*Provided that the Institute may appoint for reasons to be recorded in writing any other person for a period not exceeding six months."*

Under the rule, Institute Body is superior.

[*Translation*]

The present has been given an extension of service for six months. The Central Government has given its approval subject to the condition that the extension would expire on the day of appointment of a new Director or after a period of six months, whichever—ever is earlier.

I hope all our hon. colleagues will help us in this matter so that the Institute can be reopened at the earliest and the sick can avail of medical facilities. As far as the point of holding talks with the employees is concerned, they are always welcome for a dialogue with the Government. (*Interruptions*)

When the employees said that they wanted to sit on a peaceful 'dharna', I told them that the Government had no objections to their doing so because it was their democratic right to go on strike in support of their demands. But they were not to do anything that would inconvenience patients at the Institute. Having regard to this assurance,

police was not allowed to enter the campus. But on the very first day they did not stick to their assurance and they blocked the drains, snatched cards from patients, manhandled the nursing staff and stopped people from entering the building. With the result that the drains got choked and drain water accumulated everywhere giving rise to apprehensions that an epidemic would break out and patients would catch infection. That is why we had to close the hospital. Otherwise closure would not have been necessary. The employees have openly threatened that a staff member who goes off duty will not be allowed to re-enter the Institute's premises. I don't think in this sort of a situation the police can be withdrawn from the scene. But our sympathies are with them. I have personally gone to the Institute for a first-hand assessment of the situation.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Are you going to open the hospital with the help of voluntary organisations? In that even, I am also ready to help you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: I have also said that if need arises the help of voluntary organisations would be sought because we cannot leave the patients at the mercy of the striking employees.

We shall seek the help of voluntary organisations and if need be even clean the hospital ourselves. We are prepared to do this because if we show that someone is engaged in work, voluntary organisations will also come forward. But we are ready to have a dialogue with the employees. We have no enmity with the employees but at the same time we are well-wishers of the patients; and we cannot play with the lives of those whom we wish well.

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