

10.15 hrs.

### HALF—AN—HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

#### **Strike by Research Scholars of all India Institute of Medical Sciences**

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH (Padrauna): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you to have permitted this discussion as when the Question was asked, there wasn't enough time to ask supplementaries. This is an important issue pertaining to the medical health of our country and speciality of an Institute which, I think, is one of the largest, one of the best staffed and one of the most troubled in South-East Asia. The scientific community, Sir, in this country has sacrificed a tremendous amount financially and physically. They can get far better amenities, better salaries, better allowances abroad. But it is their nationalism that keeps them working in this country. Let us not pay lip service; let us not make excuses, let us try to help the young scientists, the budding scientists, whether they be working in laboratories, in libraries, in demonstration halls, in the clinical sections and even in picking up poor and sick patients. The unfortunate part is that when one becomes a senior scientist—I may be wrong—but I feel he or she becomes a board-room scientist and forgets what a hospital's OPD is like what a laboratory is like and what happens when you start at that level with very little salary, a lot of hardship and very little appreciation. The board room scientists are the bane and impediments of the youth, of our brilliant academic young scientific community of this country. The board room scientists with their file pushing manage their contacts in air-conditioned comforts of the beautiful offices located around New Delhi and the various State headquarters. Who are these junior doctors? Why does a strike take place? Why does a *Hartal* take place? The dissatisfaction is not merely that of salary. There are various tensions and various problems.

I disagree with what the Minister said that day that it could not be resolved because the Finance Minister was busy with the Budget. The problems have been on for over two years. The Prime Minister intervened once in 1986 and gave the doctors an enhancement of salary. The doctors do a fantastic service. One has to only see to believe it. If one goes to the OPD and see what conditions and pressures that the doctors are working under, one would realise this.

To categorise them and say 20-40, 50 or 60, we have to go through this channel or that channel; these are the red-tapisms and problems that people face. And our intelligent, hard working, nationalistic youth in frustration leave this country.

What happens? On the 1st of March, this question is listed in the Parliament. The night before police are called and the so called scientists, doctors, staff, Ph.D-what-ever they be—are arrested and taken to the Defence Colony police station like ordinary criminals. There must be some self-respect. What is the time factor for a doctor to become a doctor and a student to become a Ph.D? It is years of hard work; it is years of sacrifice. They are the hopes of their parents, the hopes of this country. Let us not with our words and with our excuses not give them their legitimate demands.

I will just take a little more time and talk from the new facts that I could get from newspapers and certain friends here—not from the medical institute. The problem is, I believe, of 20 Ph.d students or more. It is not the numbers. There must be some principle. They are all helping in the medical health of the country.

A new trend has started. Ministers come to Parliament and say that help us to get more money from the Planning Commission or from the Finance Ministry. It is not our job; we are Members of Parliament. It is an internal affair of the Cabinet. A Minister should not come to the Parliament and say; help me get more money. That is his job. He

[Sh. Chandra Pratap Narain Singh]

is a Minister. He should resign and let the MP who is helping out getting more money from the Finance or the Planning Commission become the Minister instead. There are other problems, Sir. I talked about the arrest and the police in the campus. There should be some restraint. Physical violence and physical persuasion did not pay with the mild Indians when they faced the British and the problems of Punjab are before us. We are a democratic set-up and let us behave with the educated people in a civilised educated manner.

There are various other problems that these scientists and young people face. They are the ones who are working down there in the laboratories—the various scientists in the lower rungs are India's mechanised technological force and future. They mess their hands. They mess their clothes. They tear their clothes. They miss their meals while working. Let us not be directed by these senior scientists administrators who sit in their air-conditioned comforts who have forgotten what a laboratory is like who have forgotten what pure science is and who are no more physicists but talkers, and men who manipulate. Let us not be directed by them if we want the future of this country to be bright.

Sir, a lot of money is given to the laboratories and to various senior professors for research. It is for what? It is for purchase. The Department of Science and Technology and ICMR give lakhs and crores of rupees for research and for buying of the equipment. Mr. Deputy Speaker: Please put the questions now. Shri Chandra Pratap Narain Singh: I will just take a few more minutes. I do not take much time. (Interruptions) With all humility, Sir, I am speaking, I think, because the people have sent me here to speak and in the five years you should also see as to who spoke how much.

Sir, there is something called centralisation of the basic facilities of a laboratory. The ICMR and Department of Science and

Technology give lakhs and crores of rupees for equipment. Why is there no centralisation of the basic laboratory facilities? People should not take those things away. It is the Government money, the research money and the research equipment funded by the Government of India's organisations ICMR and DST etc. and it should be centralised and left in the faculty. It is Indian money. It is Indian research. It is the sweat and toil of the poor who lie on the pavements of AIIMS. The affluent should not have the advantage of taking those funds home. Centralisation must take place and scientists should get many other facilities. I would request the hon. Minister who has recently taken over charge—I do not hold him responsible at all—but I only hope and pray that he shall begin a new chapter for the youth and the scientific community will look up to his innovation and new directions that he will give, I hope!

I, in the end, will once again implore that the police should only be used when there is physical violence. Let us not insult our Indian culture by violence.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has raised a number of points which not only concern the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and its immediate problems but he has touched some very basic issues which the country has to face so far as scientific manpower is concerned. I fully agree with him that the country owes it to our scientists to give them a fair deal, that is not only fair but generous with them because it is through them only that the nation can develop and progress in various areas. I also agree with him that these problems have arisen in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, which, he admits, is one of the most prestigious institutions not only in our country but abroad also. Its administration should be more sympathetic and see that the young scientists are treated properly.

Let us straightaway come to the police.

Entry of the police in the Institute, about which the hon. Member has mentioned, was not because of any law and order situation. It was called because the doctors attending on the hunger-striking students felt that a stage had reached when they should be removed from there. It was done with very great tact and courtesy at a time when there were not many people around and the students were taken willingly—lot of others also—in almost a cordial atmosphere. It was not a police action in the sense that they were dragged or arrested or anything. But because of medical advice, this action had to be taken that they should be removed to a hospital where they can be properly treated. They preferred one hospital. They were taken there. Then, they went to another hospital. So, it was done in cooperation with them and in a very proper atmosphere.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: If for the advantage of the functioning of this House, the police is called in a very mild manner we are removed in a very sympathetic manner, would it be a good thing? Because of the police calling, there was a strike by the general students' union and next day, the entire Medical Institute went on strike.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Again I will repeat, Sir, it was not to suppress them, trouble them or give them sort of a police action atmosphere but it was on medical advice that they had to be removed. It would have endangered their lives not to do it. We tried to persuade them to give it up. We tried to persuade them to come along and enter the hospital. They did not do it. So, the administration was duty bound to report it to the police so that they could take action. Again I repeat that it was not done as a sort of punitive measure but in a way to protect the lives of people who were on hunger strike. It should be seen only from that angle.

While agreeing with the broad approach of the hon. Member, I would like to disagree when it divides scientists into young scientists and what he terms as board level scientists. The board level scientists were at

one time young scientists. They have served the institutions all their lives. In the young days and even now they have distinguished themselves in the various areas of specialisation, brought honour to the institutions and to the country. Their expertise and their experience has to be made use of in running this institution. There is no other way in which you can run them. So it is most unfair and, I think, completely a misguided conception. of the whole situation to say that as if there exists a situation where they are at loggerheads. It is not so. They are the teachers. They passed through their hands. They taught them. they are still guiding their research.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I have never said all—some young, some old. Bad and good exist everywhere.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We are talking of the generality. There are 20 Ph. D. students concerned with this as the hon. Member said. There are 60 other Ph. D. students who are funded from other sources and they have no problems. But because these students get their stipend etc. from the AIIMS, this problem has arisen.

I do not say that the House or the Members should assist me in getting the clearance from the Finance Minister, though whatever they say, will strengthen my hands to take a particular stand vis-a-vis certain sections of the Government. Of course, the Government is one.

As the question has come up before the House, I would like to say that we have also Ph. D. students under the general University system and University Grants Commission system and they have a certain way of working. So we have to see this in totality and not act in a way which would create precedents for other services who perform almost the same duties, who have the same nomenclature and things of that nature. Even if our proposition has not been accepted at the present stage, we are still trying to see and trying to differentiate that these students should be given a certain amount of prefer-

[Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha]

ence compared to others. We have already given them preferences in many ways.

In this connection, I would like to say about the concern of the Government for the scientists, particularly medical scientists. I would just give certain examples. The Pay commission appointed to look into the pay scales and other service matters for the Government employees had recommended non-practising allowance of Rs. 250 to Rs. 550 for the Central Health Services doctors. The Government enhanced this to Rs. 600 to Rs. 900. There was no mention of contingency allowance in the Pay Commission's report, but the Government gave it to them in view of the contingencies of service. Then time bound promotions were agreed to. More promotion opportunities are being explored. I would also say that recently AIIMS itself had revised the nomenclatures in a very satisfactory way which was welcomed by the scientific community. I assert with all sense of responsibility that the scientists in the country, particularly the medical scientists, with which my Ministry is concerned, are being treated not unfairly, but generously and as I said, we have tried to exceed the recommendations of a high-powered Committee, like the Pay Commission.

There are two problems. One, if you concede certain things to junior doctors of Ph.D. students, it has reflections in various other services. The Government acting in totality cannot ignore that. Secondly, there is constraint of resources. However much we may like to help them to overcome their problems, we cannot certainly right away concede to their demands because of financial constraints.

The same holds good for the other demands like centralization of facilities, laboratories etc. Certain instruments, certain laboratories can be centralised, but others have to be in the respective departments. There is no holy principle involved to centralise everything. What matters is that it

should be operational and there should be optimum use of the machine. As the hon. Member has said, equipment costing crores of rupees have been sanctioned by ICMR and other authorities and those have to be used properly. It is the institute itself, faculty and students who have to sit together and see which instrument and laboratories have to be centralised and which have to be with the respective Departments and in which way they should proceed so that the costly facilities are used to the advantage of not only of the Ph. D. students and scientists, but others also who are working in the various departments of the institute.

When the question was asked, I would like to set the record straight. The hon. Member asked—way do we call them non-medical. Non-medical term is being used by the Ph. D. students themselves. When we mention non-medical, it means they do not have a basic medical degree. That is all. I tried to express it in another way which was not correct. The situation is that they themselves use this term. This just describes a certain situation that they are not medical graduates from AIIMS or any other institute. Therefore, the term non-medical has been used. They are a part of the medical institute and in every possible way we try to see that they have all facilities.

About hostel facilities, some categories have more than 80 per cent hostel facility and others have different types of facility and our attempt is to augment them but here again the resources come in the way. From time to time, some are getting house rent allowances and others are helped in other way. Therefore, the situation is being watched every time with a view to give more facilities.

I will end by convincing or pleading through you, Sir, to the House, particularly, Hon. Members that the Government is not indifferent to the demands of these students or of the scientific community as a whole. We are not only sympathetic but we really want to see that they are a satisfied a lot and contribute to the progress of the country in

the medical and health area.

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you for admitting this Half-an-hour discussion. Earlier when several Members who were very much agitated over the strike by the research scholars and the non-medical scientists working in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences sought to raise a Calling Attention Motion, it was not admitted. Anyway this Half-an-hour discussion has given some scope to raise a very important issue regarding the strike by the scientists and research scholars working in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

I will not respect what my predecessor, Shri, C.P.N. Singh has said in his speech. I agree with the sentiments expressed by him and I also agree that the police should not have been called inside to tackle the non-medical scientists and the research scholars who were demonstrating quite peacefully.

Sir, this problem is there for quite some time. Unfortunately it is the indifference shown by the Director of that Institute which has resulted in a situation where the non-medical scientists and research scholars had to resort to strike. Sometimes, I wonder why some senior officers do like this. If you remember more than a year back, I believe, there was a strike in the Post Graduate Institute at Chandigarh and the reason was that the post graduate students who were doing their Ph. D. and MDMS were denied their due rights. Some students who were doing post graduation from the same institute were getting higher emoluments while others were getting lesser emoluments. Then when compared with the emoluments which are given in other post graduate institute they were far far less. So, ultimately they went on strike and the then Union Minister for Medical and Health, I believe it was Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, called them to have a dialogue with him. Ultimately Government accepted their demand. It is a good thing. But if the Director had taken enough interest, sympathy and care to resolve the problem, students would not have lost so many days.

They would not have been put in the trouble to come to Delhi and have talks with the Hon. Minister.

Similarly, Sir, my information is that the Director of AIIMS was also asked to give equal emoluments to these 20 scientists and Ph. D students but the Director has not taken any step in this direction. Even after the Standing Finance Committee of the Institute had recommended that these 20 Ph. D students of AIIMS may be given the same emoluments as announced by the UGC, they have not taken any step. It was most unfortunate.

Now, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, about whom we have a great regard and respect, as to whether he will use his good offices to direct the Director of the AIIMS to take necessary steps for the revision of the emoluments to be given to the senior demonstrators (non-medical) and make it at par with the Senior demonstrators (Medically qualified) and for the revision of emoluments to be given to the Ph. D students and make it on at par with the Junior demonstrators (Medical). These post are almost identical and they are inter-changeable also. There is full justification in the demand of these scientists for payment of NPA also because the posts are inter-changeable. Moreover they work for more than 12 hours a day and they do laboratory work also. Some of them are doing teaching work also. Let the Government take a positive and sympathetic view over these issues.

Also, will the Government take necessary steps for providing hostel accommodation to these 20 Ph. D. candidates?

There is yet another grievance expressed by these scientists. This grievance is of course not limited to these people alone, and it is faced by all the research scholars as a whole. When a candidate conducts his research, finishes it and prepares his thesis, he has to incur a lot of expenditure to put the material in a proper form, to get copies and to get them bound, etc. I am told that the expenditure amounts to Rs. 3000 to Rs.

[Sh. V. Sobhanadweepara Rao]

4000. My information is that a very meagre rather a paltry sum of Rs. 350 is given. It is not at all sufficient. The students who come to pursue their studies in this institution may not be very rich either. So we have to keep the average Indian citizen in view. Will heavens fall if the Government pays the actual amount spent by the students to put all the research material in a proper form? They can get it properly calculated and pay the money to the students.

These students are also asking for a central laboratory facility.

The previous Health Minister, Shri Motilal Vora, assured the non-medical scientists and the research scholars on 13 January that their demand for a hike in their pay scales had been referred to the Ministry of Finance for clearance. I would like to know the latest stage in regard to this assurance. I would also like to have a clear and categorical clarification from the Minister as to whether it requires the approval of the Ministry of finance or whether the ball is in the court of the Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences who is empowered to take a decision on these demands of the striking research scholars.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Sir, my honourable friend Shri Chandra Pratap Narain Singn while raising this discussion has covered many of the important points. After the hon. Minister's reply, Shri Rao has also covered further points. Therefore, I would like to have certain clarifications only.

In the first place the hon. Minister asserted that the police action was only to remove the fasting scientists just to protect them. It is also said that only a minimum of police force has been used. But the newspaper reports appear to be quite contrary to what the hon. Minister has said. I would like to know as to which statement is true.

For example in the *Times of India*, dt. 1.3.1989

"The drama at the AIIMS began around 2,00 A.m. when a large contingent of police swooped down on the fasting scientists and others including students and doctors, sitting in the institute foyer. This created quite a stir. Some of those on strike resisted arrest, while others rushed to the nearby hostels and came back with a huge crowd. Another group of scientists doctors and students rushed to the director, Dr. Sneh Bhargava's residence in the campus to get her to call off the police.

Meanwhile, the police picked up about 100 agitators and sent them off to the Defence Colony police station. An almost equal number was picked up from the director's residence by the police."

In view of this report which was published in *The Time of India* of 1st March, I would like to know as to how the hon. Minister is justifying by saying that a nominal police force was sent just to protect or to take care of these fasting student scientists whose health was deteriorating? This is my first question.

Their demands mainly consisted of revision of salaries of junior and senior demonstrators, centralised laboratory facilities, enhancement in their grant for MSc. and Phd., hostel accommodation for all scientists and well-defined research programmes. Now, Sir, it appears that some of these demands were considered also by the Fourth Central Pay Commission and in Paragraph 10.237 they have stated and I quote "The non-medical teaching staff of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital have represented that there is difference in the pay scales of non-medical and medical teaching staff. They have suggested that pay scales fixed for the posts should be the same."

Then, they have stated and I quote: "There appears to be considerable force in this contention." In spite of the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendation and also in spite of the decision of the governing body of 9th January, 1989, the minutes of which say "the members agreed that the matter would be reviewed and referred to the Finance Ministry again with reviewed recommendations so that there is no distinction between medical and non-medical scientists except NPA (which was accepted in principle by IVth Pay Commission and the Government)." and in spite of the fact that, it is reported that the Health Ministry also gave direction to the Director of the Institute to decide the matter within the competent body of the institution. Why there is so much delay? The agitation was there for nearly 52 days and nothing has been done even today though technically the agitation has been withdrawn. But it appears that that has been withdrawn on the understanding that immediately the decision will be taken by the Government.

Sir, I would like to know in view of this background within what time, the Government would be able to take decision with respect to the demands of these scientists?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are now discussing about the AIIMS in the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary year, this institution being the brain child of Panditji. This is a prestigious institution. The hopes and aspirations of millions of people, the common men of India and mostly the ailing persons are with this institute. So the institute must be well equipped with the modern equipments, and provided with staff etc. for serving the ailing people.

Twenty Ph. D. Students were called non-medical. They were educated just like Junior Resident Doctors; they are far decent. Besides preparing thesis, they teach students, they do the laboratory job, they do the research and treat the patients. Under these circumstances, why should not these 20 Ph. D students be given the same facili-

ties as are given to the Junior Resident Doctors?

I want to know whether the Health Ministry had given a directive to settle the matter in September 1987; and whether the Director has given any suggestions to the Government for this settlement? Unless these suggestions come from the Director, the Health Minister cannot do anything. So, what is required is a good administration; the administration should appoint adequate number of doctors and provide quarters in the campus to the doctors. There should not be different yerdsticks for different persons. May I know whether the directive given by the Health Department to this Institution has been observed?

For example, it seems our Parliamentary Affairs Minister, H.K.L. Bhagat, has written for the upgradation of the post of the PA to the Medical Superintendent, which is also recommended by the Health Minister. I want to know whether this suggestion of the government has been implemented at the Director's level? We have got efficient doctors in that Institution. In the Eye Department, Dr. Madan Mohan and Dr. Khosla are a very efficient doctor; so also in other faculties. When these professors go abroad—they are to go to attend conferences and seminars, it is the Associate Professor or the Assistant Professor who should do their job. So, has this Institute got a sufficient number of Assistant Professors/Associate Professors to do the jobs of the Professors when they go abroad or when they are absent? These are the lacunae; these are the burning questions which require the consideration of the Minister. When will this matter be settled? Will he call the Director of the Institute and solve the matter? I suggest that it would be better if a House Committee is appointed; because if a House Committee is appointed, then it could go and probe not only into the pushing and urgent matters of the specialised institutions but also the affairs relating to the Ph. D. students. There are many other matters, many pressing matters which require the immediate attention of the Government for the benefit of

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

millions of ailing patients of the country. So, I want a specific reply from the Minister. Whether a House Committee will be appointed?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my perspective of the problem is entirely different. The recent strike is just a symptom of the disease; it is not a disease itself. So, I would be raising broader questions before the hon. Minister.

We have a Medical Faculty at AIIMS with 350 staff. It is a complete Medical Faculty and a very well-trained Faculty. When they go abroad or when they work here, they earn laurels from the people here and from abroad also. But the basic point is that the AIIMS was constituted as a Referral Hospital; it was not going to be just a college or a hospital. Now, it has not become a Referral Hospital. If the trend of deteriorating continues in the AIIMS, then within 4-5 years it will become as good or as bad hospitals as you have in Delhi or any other city.

19.00 hrs.

When one goes to AIIMS, one finds a lot of overcrowding, not only in the OPD, not only in the wards, but even in the corridors. It is very difficult to pass through the corridors even. The atmosphere is totally uncongenial. And then, due to paucity of time I cannot say in detail, but there is no coordination in the Delhi hospitals. So, AIIMS is overburdened, overcrowded and just across the road there is the Safdarjung Hospital. I wish the hon. Minister takes notice of this situation that most of the equipment and facilities in the Safdarjung Hospital lie unutilised and the total pressure is on the AIIMS.

There is no apex body to organise coordination or oversee the work, and the Secretariat is as good or as bad as in any other place, perhaps worse.

I would also point out one thing to the hon. Minister that I find there is a medical

bureaucracy that has taken shape in the Ministry. That medical bureaucracy does not treat the faculty well. Something may be wrong in the faculty. I do not go into the promotions, that somebody should become the Assistant Professor, or somebody should become something else and so on. I do not really bother also although my hon. friend has raised those points. I do not expect that those people who are taught now can say that they have got greater acumen than their professors. We cannot support it. The faculty is a totally credit worthy one. Their work is to be appreciated. But the problem of the faculty is that the medical bureaucracy is very bad. It has to be looked into.

Now, my point is this. The Ministry of Health does not receive proper treatment from the Government of India. My questions is to the Prime Minister. This Ministry cannot be attached to one Minister today and tomorrow to another. That is important for this Ministry. From the way he conducts himself, I would welcome it, I have got lot of respect for him, he is an honest and a dedicated man and he has brought credit for the Government. But I wish this Ministry were permanently with him, but the Government of India will have to take a decision on that. I have two questions to ask.

Will the hon. Minister kindly rise in his seat and assure this House that he will try, as long as he is the Minister, to make the AIIMS a referral hospital? Will he kindly do it? Because the wards, the casualty and the OPD and the the corridors and even the faculty itself is cramped. They work like labourers in a factory. They deserve respect, better treatment and the medical bureaucracy just sends circulars one after the other. Beyond circulars, there should be proper treatment.

And my next question to the hon. Minister is that he should organise a dialogue with the faculty, I want him to go on the AIIMS, sit with the faculty and discuss the problems, not just about their promotion and then organise their personal well-being. This is



important, but to me patients are more important. He may kindly organise a dialogue, sit with them and give this institution the prestige that Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to give, which it deserves.

**SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:** I am thankful to the hon. Members for raising these issues and also for appreciating the role that the AIIMS is playing and, in their expectation, should play in that area of medical education and treatment.

I will start by again saying that the governing Body of the AIIMS did not take any unanimous decision which is not being followed. It was said on the previous occasion when the question came and it was also mentioned just now. No such decision was taken by the governing Body and there is no question of decision not being implemented. The Standing Finance Committee considered certain suggestions, which now stand referred to the Ministry of Finance and that is where the matter ends. So, there is no question, as Mr. Rath has said, of the Government giving the directive or the Director writing to us. AIIMS is governed by a Governing Body, which has the last word in its management. It is the Standing Finance Committee which considers financial matters and once all procedures are gone through, the decisions are implemented. But in this case, the basic decision has not been taken because it has certain implications. You can ask, why don't you give them the UGC pay? But that is not the point. They want something different. That is where the problem arises. Therefore, we are trying to see as to how that problem could be solved and to see that we give them proper satisfaction.

Sir, the question of thesis grant was mentioned. Now again I would like to say that there are thousands of Ph. D. students in the country and none of them gets thesis grant. But the Institute gave it to our scientists another instance of being generous with them. That is being revised from time to time. It was revised sometime back. Even now the Committee is going on and we shall see that

it revises to a reasonable extent. There is no question of not doing it. Even the grant is something very extra-ordinary, which no Ph. D. student in any University system gets in our country. But we gave it to them because of the special circumstances.

For the residential accommodation, I have already said that some categories have 80 per cent and above, and it is not possible to give cent per cent satisfaction in that respect.

I will again come back to the police action. I do not want to emphasise it too much. It was not done in the sense it has been reported in the paper, which was quoted by the hon. Member. The Station House Officer was a lady. Because of medical advice that the two hunger strikers have to be removed, they were called in and they came with lady constables. The hon. Member has mentioned that some students were arrested in the Director's house. No one was arrested. But again I am sorry to mention, I wish I could have avoided saying these things, that some students after this went to the Director's residence, pushed their way in spite of the guards there, threw stones and broke the window-panes. So, there is no question of being high handed with them. Even then police acted with restraint.

There is a High Court case regarding the students strike. The High Court has clearly said that meetings are banned, demonstrations in the foyer are banned, and loudspeakers are banned because it disturbs the patients. Again I am sorry to say that all these instructions of the High Court were ignored by the students. But we do not want to pursue that. They are our students. We want to resolve it in consultation with them, with deepest sympathy towards them. I wish I was not made to say these things even in this House. But since it has been raised. I cannot help mentioning the real situation. After all, the interest of the patient also is something important. The whole system is run because of the patients. And if their care suffers because of these demonstrations, these loudspeakers, these noises

[Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha]

and shouting of slogans all over, then we have to sit back and think whether what is being done is proper or not. I agree with the hon. Members that a very balanced view of the whole thing should be taken. I can assure them, as I said in the beginning, that we want to resolve this issue in the best possible way and we will do as soon as possible. This is the only assurance I can give it to the House at the present moment.

As regards specialists not being utilised in Safdarjung hospital, etc., Mr. Soz has insisted that AIIMS to be made a referral hospital. He had also raised it on earlier occasion. The referral system is not working in our country. It is true that it was intended so. Even now this is supposed to be a referral hospital. The whole concept was that only specialist cases should be referred here and that O.P.D. would not be like any General Hospital. Because of the paucity of medical institutions and hospitals in Delhi and in the whole country, as a matter of fact, the patients come from all over the country, not just from Delhi. But whatever has been done or is being done would probably mitigate the situation to some extent. Very important institutions of this nature are coming up in Patna and in Lucknow. We are expanding the health facilities in Delhi itself. Some hospitals are under construction like the 500 bedded. Teg Bahadur Hospital, Upadhaya Hospital and lot of other 100 bedded hospitals which are coming up. We hope that is the only long term solution to avoiding this referral problem and not by banning it. We just cannot do it. If patients come with their beddings from Bihar or from Rajasthan, they just cannot be thrown out. There might be crowds there might be smells, It might disturb our work. But it just cannot be done. We want to cure this overcrowding situation in OPD and other places by having these facilities where we can divert patients so that only the real genuine specialised cases which need specialised treatment are sent here. That model concept still remain our concept. And we will try to see that this is done.

As regards dialogue with the faculty, there is a continuing dialogue with them. I myself have discussed with a number of senior, junior and middle rung teachers in an informal way how the things should be done. The recent grades and designations are very satisfactory. They all assured me about that. And I can assure the House that the atmosphere is conducive to good work. As far as faculty is concerned, they are very competent. There will be no interference from the Ministry of anybody. They will not be made to run to the Ministry for any work of theirs. And they should do their work where they are. And the Ministry's functions will be to strengthen and support them wherever they are and in the type of work they are doing. There is no question of interference by the Ministry in their day to day work. We would like to see that they work and they do not have to go to the Ministry for anything and everything as is imagined by the hon. Members.

Again I would like to assure the House that the question of the students as well as other problems that remain to be sorted out, we are trying to sort them out.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Mr. Sharad Dighe has clearly pointed out the recommendations of the Pay Commission also. In view of that, what about their emoluments? What is your concrete assurance to this House?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The concrete assurance to the House is that the matter is under consideration.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: When will it be decided?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Very soon.

19.13 hrs.

*The House then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 9, 1989/ Phalgun 18, 1990 (Saka)*