

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1970-71 along with the Audited Accounts and the Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [Placed in Library See No LT-1964/72]

SHRI IYOTIRMOY BOSU I want to know how many of the 12 closed sick mills have been re opened

MR SPEAKER I am not going to allow it You can table a question

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) When are we then to discuss all these subjects?

ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURJI HASAN) On behalf of Shri D. P. Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) a copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the year 1970-71
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Hindi version of the above Report simultaneously [Placed in Library See No LT 1965/72]

12 44 hrs.

STATEMENT RE REPORTED SUICIDE BY DR. V. H. SHAH

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) Let him read out the statement.

MR SPEAKER How lengthy is it?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): It is a very long four-page statement

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) Because we are going to have a discussion, let him just lay it on the Table.

SHRI F. A. AHMED I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding reported suicide by Dr V. H. Shah, a scientist of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

Statement

I deeply regret to inform the Honourable House that Dr V H Shah, Senior Agronomist and Associate Project Co-ordinator, All India Maize Improvement Project, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, passed away as a result of suicide on May 5 1972 I was away from Delhi at the time but my colleague Shri Shinde visited the House of Dr Shah and conveyed to his family the feelings of sincere sorrow and great shock of the Government of India His passing away at the prime of his career when the entire task of leading maize agronomic research in our country had been entrusted to his care only two years ago, is a matter for deep sorrow My Ministry would like to express its utmost concern over this tragedy and I wish to convey the assurance that a thorough study of its implications will be made in order to evolve a better system of recruitment rules and working procedures

Even at the outset, I wish to assure the Honourable Members that my Ministry and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have not been too happy with the present system of recruitment which neces-

[Sbri F. A. Ahmed]

itates a scientist applying for posts and being interviewed by Selection Committees throughout his working career. This system inevitably provides frequent occasion for disappointment leading to frustration. This situation is dramatically illustrated by the plight of Dr. Shah who decided to take his life because of extreme anguish and mental torture arising from his not being selected for the post of professor of Agronomy at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the interview for which was held on 1st May, 1972. The scale of pay of Dr. Shah's post of Associate Co-ordinator is 1100-1400 while that of Professor is Rs. 1100-1600. Dr. Shah was drawing a basic pay of Rs. 1150/- at the time of his death.

Prior to 1st April, 1966 recruitment to posts in I. A. R. I. and several other Institutes now under the I. C. A. R. was made through the Union Public Service Commission. Responding to the widely held view among scientists and scientific organisations that in this fast moving world of science, recruitment of scientific posts should be done by technical men and not generalists, Government authorised I. C. A. R. to set up its own Selection Committee under well defined procedures. However, from the criticism voiced by the late Dr. Shah and from letters I have been receiving from Honourable Members from time to time, it has become apparent that the system of recruitment needs review and recasting. Government therefore proposes to appoint a Committee headed by an eminent scientist to review the recruitment rules and procedures of I. C. A. R. and suggest suitable changes. The suggestions made by the Sarkar Committee which enquired into the working of C. S. I. R. in matters relating to recruitment will also be kept in view.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute employing over 1,000 scientists holds an important place in our efforts to improve the agrarian economy. Suggestions

from Honourable Members for improving the conditions of service and productivity of this Institute are most welcome. We have recently appointed a Committee headed by Dr. J. S. Patel, former Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India to enquire into the working of the Institute and make a critical assessment of the scientific contributions of the Institute during the last five years. Besides Dr. Patel, the Committee includes Prof. V. M. Landekar, Director of the Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics, Poona, S. M. Mukherjee, Member, National Commission on Agriculture, Dr. N. K. Anant Rao, Dean, Gobind Vallabh Pant University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Pantnagar, Dr. A. S. Paintal, Director of the Vithal Bhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, Dr. M. S. Muthana, Director of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and Prof. B. M. Johri, Head of the Department of Botany, University of Delhi. Government is referring the scientific points mentioned in the letter left behind by Dr. Shah at the time of his death to this Committee for a thorough examination and report. We will be happy to refer to this Committee any other scientific differences of opinion which might have come to the notice of Honourable Members. The ultimate judge of the worth of scientific findings in agriculture is the farmer and judged by his response, the work of our scientists deserve high praise.

I would now like to take a little of the valuable time of the Honourable Members to give factual data on the selections made to the posts of Professor of Agronomy at Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Assistant Director General (Foodgrains and Fodder Crops) at the headquarters of I. C. A. R.

According to the rules of I. C. A. R., selection for every scientific post has to be done through All-India advertisement and duly constituted Selection Boards, and accordingly, the past Professor of Agronomy at I. A. R. I., in the scale of Rs. 1100/1400 was

advertised in December, 1971. The post of Professor involves teaching, academic administration and some research duties. The Selection Committee for this post consisted of Dr. H. R. Arakori, Member, National Commission on Agriculture who was nominated by me as Chairman and two external experts, namely, Dr. C. J. Patel, Managing Director, Charotar Co-operative Sugar Industries Ltd., Kaira District and Dr. T. J. Mirchandani, formerly Dean of Agriculture of the University of Delhi, Principal of the Central College of Agriculture and Head of the Division of Agronomy. The *ex-officio* members were Dr. Rajat De, Head of the Division of Agronomy at I. A. R. I. and Secretary, I. C. A. R. Twelve candidate were interviewed, in person and one candidate who had applied from abroad was considered *in absentia*. The Committee ranked Dr. Rajendra Prasad as first and Dr. V. H. Shah is second.

Both Drs. Shah and Rajendra Prasad were also candidates for the post of Senior Agronomist and Associate Project Co-ordinator in the Maize Project in the scale of Rs. 1100-1400, which Dr. Shah held at the time of his death. The Selection Committee for this post consisted of Dr. A. K. Dutt, Director of Agriculture, West Bengal, Dr. T. J. Mirchandani, the late Dr. S. S. Bains of I. A. R. I. and Secretary, I. C. A. R. I wish to quote the conclusions of the Selection Committee :—

“xx xx xx the Selection Committee came to the conclusion that Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. V. H. Shah who appeared before the Committee as well as Dr. K. P. P. Nair who was considered *in absentia* were suitable for appointment to the post. Dr. Rajendra Prasad was found to be an outstanding candidate so far as general Agronomy is concerned, but in view of his experience in Maize Agronomy, the Committee recommended that the present post may be offered to Dr. V. H. Shah

who has been working in the line for a considerable period. xx xx”.

With regard to the post of Assistant Director General (Foodgrains and Fodder Crops) in the scale of Rs. 1300-1800, the Selection Committee consisted of Dr. B. P. Pat, former Director General of I. C. A. R. as *ex-officio* Chairman and Dr. R. L. Paliwal, Managing Director of the Terai Seed Development Corporation. Dr. Y. R. Mehta, Deputy General Manager of the National Seeds Corporation, Dr. S. Ramanujan, former Director of Research, Government of Bihar, Dr. T. R. Mehta, Deputy Director General of the I.C.A.R. and Secretary, I.C.A.R. This Committee did not recommend Dr. Shah for this post.

Honourable Members would thus see that with reference to the posts in which Dr. Shah was involved selections have been made by Committee consisting of eminent scientists in whose judgement can rely unquestionably.

Finally, although Dr. Shah's family is well to do, the Government will do their utmost to help the widow and minor children.

12.45 hrs.

## ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

### (i) COURT OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,  
 SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE  
 (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of clause (1) (xvi) of Statute 2 of the Statutes of the University of Delhi, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as member of the Court of the University of Delhi *vice* Shri