LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

———

Wednesday, April 2, 1986/Chaitra 12, 1908 (Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I wish you happy *bon voyage.*

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you, Sir. Then I am going to be very successful.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

New Plan to Attract Indian Talents from Abroad

*514. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH† :
SHRI T. BASHEER :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any new plan to attract Indian talents in Science and Technology who during ths past few years had gone to other countries to better their prospects; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the plan and what has been the response to it from our scientists and technicians abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Government is trying to evolve a new plan to attract Indian talent in science and technology, who during the past few years had gone to other countries.

(b) As the details of the plan are being worked out, there is no question of there being any response to it from our scientists and technologists abroad. In the past, a number of measures had been adopted to attract Indian scientists and technologists settled abroad to come back to this country. Some of these are :

1. Programmes have been launched through which 'core' groups of scientists are created in the country with all necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science.
2. There is a provision for temporary placement of scientists and technologists under the scheme of Scientists Pool.
3. A provision has also been made for creation of supernumerary posts.
4. Facilities to import equipments have been provided to the scientists and technologists returing from abroad.
5. With a view to assisting non-resident Indians to secure expeditious clearance of their applications for setting up of industrial units in the country, a Special Cell has been created in the Ministry of Industry.
6. Delegations of enhaced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve working conditions of scientists.
7. New scientific departments/organisations such as Departments of Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non-Conventional

Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics (CDoT) etc. have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas which are likely to provide exciting opportunities for the scientists and technologists and attract them into the country.

8. Total outlay for science and technology has been increased in the successive Five Year Plans.

Upto 1-1-1986, the number of Indian scientists/technologists, engineers and medical personnel registered in the Indians Abroad Register was about 25000. Out of this, more than 11900 are reported to have returned to India. Indian scientists and technologists, in small and big numbers have returned to other institutions, organisations, private and public industry too; the exact number of them is not available.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that the Government have given special facilities to the Indian Scientists to work in the country itself. Still, brain drain continues to be a major problem for the country and the main reason for this is that a number of foreign companies lure the scientists and doctors who complete their studies in India to their respective countries by offering them high salaries. With a view to checking the brain drain, will the Government make in obligatory for the scientists, doctors and technicians to work in India for a specified period as a lot of country's money is spent on their education, training, etc. ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, such a system already exists in India. We have taken up work in new fields of science, such as, bio-technology, electronics, space, atomic energy and other areas. We feel that our scientists will work in these fields with a sense of participation. Besides, we also propose to give them other facilities.

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many of our doctors and thchnicians are working in gulf countries, in Middle East, U.K. and France. Some of them are also working in the ordnance factories in these countries. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they have expressed desire to return to India and if so, what main facilities have they demanded to be given to them and whether Government have assured them also that those facilities would be made available to them ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, we have apprised the people working with foreign companies abroad about the activities being undertaken here. They have also expressed their desire to return to India. We have made arrangements to provide them facilities on their coming back in the country. They have been told that should they choose to return to India and should they engineers or doctors—like to set up a factory on cooperative basis, they would be given assistance by the Government in the ratio of 1 : 3, *i.e.* the contribution by the Government would be 3/4. The State Governments have also been told to extend them other facilities like charging a lower rent for the premises, exemption from octroi, sales tax, etc.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri T. Basheer.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Sir, We are living in an age of science and technology. We are happy that our Prime Minister visualises India of the 21st Century. While the oppsition was in power, they were carrying this country backward,

(*Interruptions*)

When we talk about marching forward, they are irked by it. The role of science and technology in terms of national development deserves utmost importance. But I would like to point out there is a gap between planning of science and technology and utilisation of science and technology manpower for the growth of our economy. So, the brain-drain is a glaring example.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday I pointed out. Again you are following the same technique.

SHRI T. BASHEER : It is a glaring example. The percentage of the clientale is very high especially in thrust areas like Computer Science.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Basheer, I am going to disallow you if you don't put the question.

SHRI T. BASHEER : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : Brain Drain !

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. BASHEER : Whether the Government proposes to have a compulsory national service for a prescribed period for those scientists who are desirous of going abroad.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This proposal was made. But then our approach to this problem is very much enlightened and it was explained to the House by the Hon. Prime Minister also. We would like the scientists and technologists who are abroad to acquire knowledge and come back also. They will be very much welcome. If they come back we will try to provide them all the facilities. If some of the scientists would like to go to foreign countries to acquire more knowledge and get acquainted with new things that are happening in the world, the question is whether we should stop them going abroad. Between these two interests we have to strike a balance and by striking a balance we have allowed them to go as well as we are trying to create a situation in which they will come back.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : My question is that has it come to the notice of the Government, because the age of superannuation is 58, the noted scientists who have a good reputation like Directors in BARC go to the United Nations on deputation and from there they go out to other countries. In this context I would like to ask the Government whether they will relax the age of superannuation in the case of these noted scientists to serve in this country.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : In fact, we are allowing the scientists to serve not upto 58 years of age, but beyond that also. The question of their leaving the service at the age of 56, does not arise. I am not aware of the fact that they leave at 56 and go to some other countries. If there are some individual cases, we will look into them. Our intention is to retain the scientists at the top as well as to induct the young scientists also. Because the young scientists get themselves acquainted with new things, they provide a very great strength for the development of science and technology. Our approach is to have the scientists who are of young age as well as to retain the scientists who are exceptionally good and not to throw them out before a certain age.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : The Hon. Prime Minister while addressing Indian National Congress of America on the 15th of June said, "we will tempt you and take you back home". At this juncture I would like to bring to the notice of the Prime Minister that a young scientist from Andhra Pradesh who has invented "third eye" for silocon chip of the computer is being harassed by the Professors of the Michigan University. He had come to meet the Prime Minister; but failed to get the interview. At this juncture I would request him to intervene and do something for this young scientist.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : It is an individual case. If the particulars are given to us, we will examine.

Therapeutic Value of Garlic

*515. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that garlic is being thought of in respect of treatment of fungal and other ailments in Western countries like U.K., USA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that therapeutic value of garlic was established in CSIR laboratories in Lahore it the forties and antibacterial compounds isolated;

(c) whether steps have been taken to carry out controlled field trials in this regard by CSIR/ICMR; and

(d) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir, there are press reports to this effect.

(b) In the forties, S. Siddiqui, N.L. Datta and A. Krishnamurthi of CSIR carried out a systematic reinvestigation of garlic and active principles were separated by fractionation and partitioning. Two distinct