

and that is not the fault of the Ministry or the Secretariat. It is done as quickly as is possible. If the hon. Member was in too great a hurry I would not have allowed the Calling Attention Notice at all.

Shri Nath Pai: The matter was urgent and this was the only course open to us.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is surprising that he should be worried about the calling off of the strike.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO A SUPPLEMENTARY ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 135

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, on 14th February, 1958 I replied to question No. 135 tabled by Shri Rameshwar Tantia and 12 other Members on the Mangla Dam. I stated in the reply that we had seen press reports to the effect that Pakistan has signed a contract with a U.K. firm for the construction of Mangla Dam and that an American engineering firm is also taking part in the construction, and I put a copy of the letter addressed by the Permanent Representative of the Government of India in the United Nations to President of the Security Council on this matter on the Table of the House. Shri Ranga asked in a supplementary question whether Government of India had made any enquiries or representation to the U.K. and U.S. Governments in regard to this particular matter. In reply to Shri Ranga I said "so far as I know, there has been no such representation except to the Security Council." This reply is not quite correct. We had in fact informed the representatives of the U.S.A. and U.K. in Delhi of the letter that our Permanent Representative was sending to the President of the Security Council on the subject of the contracts for the construction of the Mangla Dam by Pakistan and told them that the Government of India are distressed to find that

engineering firms of permanent member countries of the Security Council should become parties to this contract, the execution of which is in direct violation of the Security Council resolution of January 17th 1948, the UNCIP resolutions of August 13th 1948, and January 5th 1949, and the U.N. Commission's assurances given to the Prime Minister of India on behalf of the Security Council.

STATEMENT RE SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF DELHI POLYTECHNIC AND CONSEQUENT STRIKE BY OTHER STUDENTS

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): Shri Harcharan Singh Chakkal, a student of Delhi Polytechnic, who committed suicide on the 8th February, 1958 in the Allnut Hostel of the Institute, joined the Institute for Engineering Degree course in 1953. In the first year examination, he passed in all subjects. In the second year examination, he failed in one subject and passed in the compartmental examination. In the third year examination, he failed in two subjects and passed again in the compartmental examination. In the final Degree Examination held by the University in 1957, he failed in three papers and one practical. As per regulations of the University, he was required to study in the Polytechnic as a regular student for another year before appearing in the Degree Examination again. It appears that his failures in the examinations had gradually unsettled his mind.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): No, no.

Shri M. M. Das: In August-September, 1957, Shri Chakkal complained to the Principal that the examiners were unfair to him. The Principal was surprised and advised Shri Chakkal not to entertain such thoughts. He also told him that if he was serious about his complaint, he should submit a written representation. The Principal

[Shri M. M. Das.]

ceased, Shri Chakkal's mind and told him that if he worked hard, he would pass in the next examination.

In November, 1957, the Principal, as the Dean of Faculty of Technology Delhi University, received two representations from Shri Chakkal seeking exemption from attendance at the Polytechnic, and from submitting sessional records against the University rules, however, required that a student who had failed in the final year Engineering Examination, should undergo a further regular course of one academic year in the Institution before appearing for the examination again. The Principal referred the representation of Shri Chakkal seeking exemption from attendance, to the University, and the authorities of the University informed Shri Chakkal that it was not possible to grant exemption from the rules.

On Friday, the 7th February, 1958, when the Principal was out of town attending a meeting of the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions in Smdri, a telephonic message was received in the Polytechnic from the Parliament Street Police Station that a student of the Institute had sustained injuries in jumping out of a running bus in New Delhi. The message also said that the student was at the Police Station and he had refused to give his name. The Registrar immediately sent some members of the staff to the Police Station. They identified the boy as Shri Harcharan Singh Chakkal. The Police informed that the boy had refused either to be removed, to the police hospital or to go to his hostel in the Polytechnic. The injuries, however, were minor. Shri Chakkal was persuaded to return to the hostel. He gave a statement to the police that no one need be blamed for the incident, and that he needed no medical aid from the police doctor.

The hostel doctor examined Shri Chakkal and gave him an injection,

and also some tranquilliser pills. He found the boy's mental condition deranged. A telegram was, therefore, sent to Shri Chakkal's parents about the incident, and they were advised to come over to Delhi. In view of the doctor's opinion about his mental condition, the glazed windows of his room were made secure as a precautionary measure, and some of his hostel friends were advised to keep a watch over him. In the morning of the 8th February, 1958, the Assistant Superintendent of the hostel requested some students living in the hostel to watch Shri Chakkal unobtrusively. Since the classes began at 10 A.M., he also arranged for one of the servants in the hostel to be near Shri Chakkal's room. He saw Shri Chakkal at 11 A.M., and found him composed. At about 12 noon he met the hostel doctor who suggested that the relatives of Shri Chakkal, who were expected that day in response to the telegram sent earlier, may be advised to take Shri Chakkal to a mental specialist for examination and treatment. The Assistant Superintendent agreed and anxiously awaited the arrival of the relatives. At about 1-30 P.M., he was informed by some students that Shri Chakkal had taken his meals with them and seemed to be normal and jovial. At about 2-45 P.M., he went to Shri Chakkal's room and found him sleeping. Some students were also keeping an eye on him.

At about 3-15 P.M. on the 8th February, 1958, when everything seemed to be quiet, the Assistant Superintendent of the hostel heard a sudden commotion and found some students rushing out. A student also informed that Shri Chakkal had jumped from the roof of the hostel. The Assistant Superintendent rushed out and found Shri Chakkal lying on the road bleeding in the head. He and a student removed Shri Chakkal in a police van to Irwin Hospital. The hospital authorities attended to the case immediately, but Shri Chakkal passed away at about 4-25 P.M.

It is understood that at about 3-15 P.M., some students saw Shri Chakkal coming out of his room in a jovial mood and going towards the lavatory. Evidently, he went up to the terrace without rousing any suspicions in others and jumped out.

An express telegram was sent to Shri Chakkal's relatives at 7 P.M. and a condolence meeting was held in the hostel, which was attended, amongst others, by some members of the staff.

The relatives of the late Shri Chakkal had not arrived even on Sunday the 9th February, 1958. Therefore, an express telegram was sent to his brother, who was said to be living about three miles from Shri Chakkal's village. Efforts were also made to establish telephonic contact with the police station within whose jurisdiction the village was, but without success. The Superintendent of the hostel, therefore, suggested that a student who knew the village and his relatives, should be sent. This was arranged and a student left at about 1 P.M. on the 9th February by train. He brought the relatives in the morning of 10th February.

After post-mortem examination, by the police in the afternoon of 9th February, the body was removed to the Polytechnic and kept there till the arrival of the relatives on 10th February, after which the body was cremated. The Institution was also closed on 10th February as a mark of respect to the deceased. The Principal and staff of the Institution joined the students in the funeral procession and stayed on the cremation ground till after the funeral pyre was lit. After the lighting of the—(Interruptions)—Shall I lay it on the Table, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Yes; Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. I cannot go on allowing a long statement to be read. It may be laid on the Table.

Shri Nath Pal: It is no fault of ours.

Mr. Speaker: Why suddenly make everything important? All the relevant matters have been stated before the House. The relatives also came and ultimately cremation also took place. What I say is, we are rushing for time, and I see that some more pages are to be read yet.

Shri M. M. Das: Four more pages.

Mr. Speaker: The statement will be placed on the Table of the House. The hon Members may see it.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): Two students have committed suicide in the same institute in the last ten years. There must be reason for it.

Mr. Speaker: He has read out all that. I am not going to allow any question on the statement.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad (Nasik): I want to put another question, not regarding this matter. My point is, the hon. Finance Minister....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members cannot interpose any particular question now.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Only for information.

Mr. Speaker: No information. Apart from those matters which appear in the agenda, no other question ought to be put on the floor of the House. If they want any permission to be granted they may write to me or talk to me. I am always available in the chambers. Therefore, suddenly, the normal business of the House as appears on the agenda ought not to be interrupted for any reason.

Portion of the Statement laid on the Table

After the lighting of the pyre, some students passed round type-written sheets containing a pledge. The pledge was taken by the students.

On the 14th February, 1958, some students of the Polytechnic abstained from classes and prevented others from attending. This was done without any notice and provocation. Since then, all students have been on strike, holding meetings and taking out processions. They have also resorted to some unseemly acts.

A Memorandum has been received on the 13th February, 1958, from the Convener, Action Committee, Delhi Polytechnic Students, which sets forth the following demands:—

- (1) Public enquiry into the causes of the tragic end.
- (2) Public enquiry into the academic and the administrative set up of Delhi Polytechnic.
- (3) Removal of Principal S. C. Sen.
- (4) Ex-studentship for Final Year students; conception of sessional records should not be used as a means of victimization.
- (5) Putting into practice the decision for starting the Civil Engineering Courses (for Degree and Certificate).
- (6) Affiliation of Fine Arts to the Delhi University.
- (7) Starting of National Diploma (part-time course) for National Certificate Course (Engineering) Students in July, 1958.
- (8) Holding of compartmental examinations of the All-India Council for Technical Education in the month of September as is done in other University examinations.
- (9) Sufficient number of seats for Technical, Higher, Secondary School and Pre-Engineering Students in other Courses of Polytechnic.

(10) Memorial for Shri Har-charan Singh Chakkal.

The Memorandum also says that "the students have unanimously resolved that till the above mentioned demands are accepted, they will continue the strike".

An enquiry has already been conducted by the Police and the report states that "it was a clear case of suicide on account of frustration caused by failure in the examination". Government, therefore, do not see any reason for ordering a public enquiry in the matter.

As regards the academic and administrative set-up of the Polytechnic, all courses and facilities for conducting them are governed by the rules and regulations of the Delhi University and the All-India Council for Technical Education. As such, the question of holding a public enquiry does not arise. Proposals have already been formulated for the re-organisation and development of the polytechnic, establishment of a governing body vested with necessary powers for the administration of the institute and other aspects. An early decision will be taken in the matter.

Government also see no justification in the demand for the removal of Principal S. C. Sen from the polytechnic.

As regards "Ex-studentship for Final Year Students", the matter is governed by the rules and regulations of the University. The request of the students will be forwarded to the University for consideration. The apprehension of the students that the sessional records will be used as a means of victimisation, is totally unfounded and unjustified. Even in the case of the late Shri Chakkal, his sessional records were good and he had failed in the University Examinations.

Government have already decided to start the Civil Engineering Courses for Degree and Certificate in the coming session.

The affiliation of the Arts Department of the Polytechnic to the Delhi University has ramifications which have to be examined in consultation with the University. The University has, however, not yet set up an Art Faculty.

Arrangements have already been taken in hand for starting National Diploma Courses (part time) in the Session 1958-59 for the National Certificate holders.

The question of holding compartmental examinations of the All-India Council for Technical Education in September will be referred to the Council for consideration.

The Delhi Polytechnic is an all-India institution. There can, therefore, be no question of reserving seats for a particular group of students. However, weightage is always given to the students of the Technical High School and the pre-Engineering Courses in considering their applications for admission to other courses at the institute.

Government cannot agree to any proposal for a memorial to Shri Chakral.

The Deputy Minister for Education and Scientific Research and Secretary, Department of Scientific Research and Technical Education, have met the representatives of the students more than once and have assured them that their legitimate grievances will be considered sympathetically and there will be no victimisation if they return to their classes. In spite of their repeated advice to call off the strike, the students have not paid any heed and the strike is continuing.

On the 15th February, the students gave to the Principal a representation purported to have been signed in blood, calling upon him to resign. They also took out a torch light procession to his residence that night.

Government deeply regret that a student of the Polytechnic should

have committed suicide as a sequel to failure in examination. While Government are always prepared to consider sympathetically all reasonable grievances of students and redress them as far as possible, Government deplore the action of the students and hope that good sense will prevail and the students will resume their normal studies.

STATEMENT BY SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI ON HIS RESIGNATION FROM OFFICE AS FINANCE MINISTER

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I express my gratitude to you, Mr. Speaker, for the indulgence you have shown me in allowing me to make this statement? It is customary for a resigning Minister to make a statement justifying his resignation which in most cases arises out of difference of opinion with his colleagues or with Government's policies. My resignation does not conform to this pattern. I have no difference either with my chief or with my colleagues; and I am very grateful to my chief for having made this very clear in his letter accepting my resignation. It may be asked, why then should I make a statement?

Primarily I am standing before you to deal with the report of the Commission of Inquiry on the investments of the Life Insurance Corporation in so far as it affects my standing, reputation and character. I am not so much concerned about myself, since in the future of my existence, it is unlikely that I would be affected by these aspersions on my character. But I have a duty to perform, namely, to uphold the prestige of the Government of which I was a member, and it is from this point of view that I would like to make a few observations in regard to the findings of the Commission of Inquiry, as they relate to me.