

### Russian Botanists

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\*572. { Shri R. C. Majhi:  
Shri Subodh Hasda:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of Russian Botanists visited India during May, 1957; and

(b) if so, whether the Leader of the team proposed an exchange of Botanists between India and U.S.S.R.?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):**

(a) Yes.

(b) An oral suggestion for such an exchange was made by the Leader, during a conversation with the Chief Botanist of the Botanical survey.

**Shri Subodh Hasda:** May I know whether the delegation came on the invitation of the Government of India and, if so, what is the amount spent on it by the Government of India?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The request was received from the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi, and the Government of India did not incur any expenses on it.

**Shri Subodh Hasda:** May I know whether the Botanical Team has been constituted and sent to Russia?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not able to follow the hon. Member.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** That does not arise out of the question, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We have not understood, and therefore it does not arise at all.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether, as a result of the report submitted by these Russian Botanists, a new proposal of loan for the drug industry has now been intimated to the Government of India?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** This has actually nothing to

do with the drug industry, as far as I can see; it has no connection. And in fact there was no report or any such thing, but just an oral talk.

श्री भक्त बंसन : इन रूसी बोटनिट्स ने देश के किन किन भागों का दौरा किया और क्या उहोंने कोई रिपोर्ट दी और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की जाने वाली है ?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The team visited Calcutta, Delhi, Darjeeling, Gauhati, Jorhat. And there is no report.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether this Team has suggested anything for the promotion of the study of palaeo-botany, especially with regard to its requirements for agriculture and soil engineering?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** As I have pointed out, apart from an oral suggestion, there was no proposal received from the Soviet authorities.

**Shri Dasappa:** May I know whether they have considered the question of suggesting a herbarium, and whether this scheme is going to help?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There are plenty of herbaria in India. I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to—there are any number of them.

**Shri Dasappa:** The one which Government was contemplating to start in Calcutta.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It has nothing to do with the visit of the Russian botanists.

### Kashmir

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\*673. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri Heda:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's delegation to the U.N. pleaded the cause of forlorn and dumb people of Pakistan occupied Kashmir; and