

As on 1st December, 1972, 2412 accounts were still to be closed involving an outstanding amount of Rs. 2.50 crores, inclusive of interest charged upto 31st December, 1971.

Thus, against the original loan of Rs. 11.22 crores advanced to about 15,000 loan accounts since the inception of the erstwhile Rehabilitation Finance Administration in 1948, 12588 accounts have been closed with aggregate recovery of Rs. 10.59 crores made both before and after 1st January, 1961.

12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: AGITATION BY DOCTORS IN DELHI HOSPITALS

(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : डाक्टरों की जरूरत तो सभी की है, किसी को किसी बीमारी के लिए, किसी को किसी बीमारी के लिए । इसमें कोई रुकावट नहीं है, मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है आप अगर 377 में बात करना चाहते हैं तो करें । मैं उनसे कह दूंगा । लेकिन एडजर्नमेंट मोजन कैसे घायेगा । इसके बारे में वह स्टेटमेंट करें उसके बाद विचार करना होगा तो कर लेंगे ।

श्री छटस बिहारी खाज्येयी (गालियर) : आप कालिग एटेन्शन मोजन एडमिट कर लीजिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कर लेंगे ।

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is coming on record. I am asking the hon. Minister whether he will be in a position to make a statement in the evening today.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): If it is your desire that I should make a statement, I shall do so. I have already made a statement in the other House. I shall give a summary of that now; and I shall place it on the Table of the House later on. It is difficult to summarise the facts.

As hon. Members may be aware, the interns and house surgeons, registrars and the post graduate medical students of the hospitals in Delhi, Willingdon, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjang and others, gave a notice to go on strike and on the 7th February they came in a procession to my residence. I met them and discussed this matter with them and told them that their demands had financial implications; and that it would be better if they postponed their strike which they fixed for the 28th of February at that time. On my request they deferred the strike till the 31st March. We had in between approached the Finance Ministry and we wanted to give them something, though not to their entire satisfaction. On the 20th of this month we had a meeting with representatives of the medical students and we told them that in the given situation we were not in a position to accept their demands entirely and that it would take a little more time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a serious matter and I do not want to summarise. If you permit me to read out the entire statement, I shall do so and take 10 or 20 minutes. I am in your hands.

MR. SPEAKER: I am also in your hands.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Both are in the hands of the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Let him read out a statement and we want to put questions; it is not only the doctors, even the employees are going on strike.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, I rise to make a statement on the threatened strike of Interns, House-Surgeons, Post-graduates and Registrars in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Maulana Azad Medical College, Lady Hardinge Medical College, Safdarjung Hospital

and the Willingdon Hospital. The Interns, House-Surgeons, Post-graduates and the Registrars of the Maulana Azad Medical College, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital came in a procession and met me on the 7th February, 1973. They also handed over a memorandum in which the following eight demands were raised:—

1. That the following rates of stipend be paid in Delhi as interim measure with immediate effect:—

Internship : Rs. 300/ p.m.
 Housejob : Rs. 400/- p.m.
 All Post—: Rs. 500/- p.m.
 Graduates

2. That the Registrars should be paid a basic salary of Rs. 450/- p.m. and a Non-Practising allowance of 50 per cent of basic salary besides other existing allowances.

3. That as a final measure, the House-Surgeons should be appointed as temporary Government servants in suitable grades and pay scales, e.g., G.D.M.O. Gr. II and should be entitled to all privileges of Government service, namely, free accommodation, dearness allowance, compensatory allowance etc.

4. That during the Post-graduation the services of these doctors should be utilised as junior registrars and suitable pay scales as temporary Government servants should be paid to these post-graduates (cum-Junior Registrars) with privileges of Government service mentioned above.

5. That the proposed pay scales of the House-Surgeons, Post-graduates-cum-Junior Registrars, Lecturers etc. should be linked in running grades.

6. That the period of House-Surgeoncy/Housemanship should be treated as Government service for the purpose of seniority promotion and other benefits accruing out of Government service.

7. That the period of Post-Graduation-cum-Junior Registrarship should be treated as Government service for the purpose of seniority, promotion and other benefits accruing out of Government service.

8. That the Government's proposed Rural Health Scheme (revised form) involving the unqualified practitioners of modern medicine, should be withdrawn.

In the memorandum it was indicated that if demands were not accepted by the Government by 4.00 p.m. on the 28th February, 1973 these persons would go on strike. Copies containing full text of the memorandum have been laid on the Table of the House separately.

The representatives of the agitating Interns, House-Surgeons, etc. again met me on the 20th February. After some preliminary discussion I informed them that their main demand in regard to the stipend/honorarium etc. was already under active consideration of the Government but since this involves financial implications with possible repercussions in the various States of the country they should wait for the decision of Government till the 31st March, 1973.

Accordingly the matter was examined in great detail in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Internship is a training period prescribed by the Indian Medical Council and extends for 12 months before they can be awarded M.B.B.S. degree. Interns are, therefore, students studying the M.B.B.S. degree. Interns in

[Shri R. K. Khadiolkar]

Delhi had been granted an honorarium @ 100/- p.m. prior to 1965. This amount was raised to Rs. 150/- p.m. with effect from 1-1-1965 on the basis of the recommendation of the Karmarkar Committee and was further enhanced to Rs. 200/- with effect from 1-1-1968. As against this amount Interns in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Orissa do not get any honorarium while those in Gujarat Mysore, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Goa get honorarium varying from Rs. 150 to Rs. 180/-. Rajasthan pays Rs. 225/- while Punjab and Haryana pay Rs. 250/- Interns in Delhi are generally provided with free accommodation.

House Surgeoncy of 6 to 12 months is treated in most States as a minimum qualification for entry into a post-graduate course. It is not compulsory for anyone who has already obtained the M.B.B.S. degree to join a teaching hospital as House-Surgeon unless he proposes to pursue a post-graduate course, to acquire more experience in the working of a hospital. House-surgeoncy is not a necessary requirement either for private practice or for entry into Government service at junior levels. The period of House-Surgeoncy is also designed to equip a person to be a good general practitioner. Prior to 1965 House-Surgeons were being paid an honorarium of Rs. 150/- which was increased to Rs. 200/- with effect from 1-1-1965 on the recommendations of the Karmarkar Committee. The amount has further increased to Rs. 275/- with effect from 1-1-1968. The House Surgeons have generally to stay in the campus and are also provided rent free accommodation. The very nature of House-Surgeoncy makes it incumbent on their part to assume direct responsibility for attending on patients in the hospital.

House-Surgeons in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu get

honorarium varying from Rs. 150/- to Rs. 250/- p.m.; in Rajasthan they get Rs. 275/- p.m., Gujarat Rs. 300/- p.m. and in Punjab and Haryana Rs. 325/- p.m. for the first six months and Rs. 350/- p.m. for the next six months.

Post-graduates as the very name implies undergo a course of post-graduate medical education. A post-graduate degree enhances the qualification of a doctor and ipso facto raises his market value. Even for Government service a post-graduate qualified doctor gets the benefit of higher emoluments.

A post-graduate course is just like the under-graduate course and there is a great deal of competition for securing admission to the course. The graduates undertaking the course are **required to pay, in most cases, usual fees for the course**, but in order to provide relief to meritorious and deserving students, who may not be in a position to undertake the course by themselves, the Government of India introduced a scheme of awarding a limited number of scholarships to such students based on an all-India selection. It will be seen that a person undertaking the Post-graduate course is treated as a scholar and not as a doctor giving medical care or assuming special responsibilities in hospital. In many disciplines, such scholars are, by the very nature of the course, require the necessary practical skills and experience. Incidentally, one of the objectives was to encourage students to take to courses in non-clinical or para-clinical disciplines.

In respect of post-graduates the Government of India have some years ago introduced a scheme of awarding scholarships to the meritorious students on an all India basis. Out of a total number of 377 scholarships awarded annually 100/ tenable at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, practically covering all their post-graduates, 52 at the other medi-

cal colleges in Delhi and only the balance of 225 scholarships are available in other medical institutions in the country.

The rate of scholarship at Delhi is Rs. 300/- per month, while, outside Delhi, it is restricted to Rs. 250/- per month. In addition, some States like Kerala, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu offer limited number of scholarships varying from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250 per month. Punjab and Haryana offer scholarships of Rs. 250 per month. It may also happen that some doctors employed as Registrars or as Government servants with the responsibilities attached to such posts are allowed to register for post-graduate courses. In such cases, they naturally draw the pay attached to the post held by them. Most of the other State Governments do not offer any such scholarships.

Registrars hold tenure posts for a period of three years on a scale of pay of Rs. 375—25—425.

The category of Registrars stand out on a different footing altogether unlike interns or post-graduates. They are selected in recognition of special merit or ability to assume greater responsibilities and to directly assist the head of the unit. They are drawn from the category of House-surgeons and they may be graduates or even Post-graduates. They are taken on a tenure basis for a period of 3 years on a scale of pay of Rs. 375—25—425 and are eligible to other compensatory allowances. At the initial stage, a Registrar now-a-days gets a total emolument of Rs. 609.80 p. If he is a post-graduate degree holder or diploma holder, he gets an additional allowance of Rs. 100/- or Rs. 50/- respectively.

Of the demands made by the agitating Interns, House-Surgeons, etc., it was felt that the demand in respect of the Registrars should await the

outcome of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. The other demands that the House-Surgeons, Post Graduates, etc., should be treated as Government servants and they should be linked in suitable running pay scales entitled to all privileges of Government service viz., accommodation, dearness allowances, compensatory allowance etc., were not found acceptable in so far as these are periods during which an individual is studying in a medical institution with a view to obtaining a post-graduate degree or is preparatory to entrance to a post-graduate course.

In addition to this position of their being trainees, it has also to be appreciated that out of a total of, say, 100 Interns passing out of an average medical college, in a particular year, not more than 25 to 30 will be able to join as House-Surgeons. Out of this number, about 50 per cent may later join as post-graduate students and eventually only 4 or 5 may be appointed as Registrars. If the 25 medical graduates who join initially as House Surgeons are to be appointed as demanded by the agitating interns etc., as regular government servants, it can be easily appreciated that half the number at the end of one year will not be able to continue in this appointment. After a further two or three years, the number who can continue in Government service would drop very steeply and would be limited to the posts of registrars that would in fact be available. In such a pattern of heavy depletion from year to year, it will be appreciated that a salary structure as applicable to regular government servants will not be feasible apart from the fact that there are no comparable responsibilities between these categories amongst themselves and regular Government doctors.

Thus, the Government felt that the main demand of the agitating Interns, House-Surgeons etc., was in relation to the rates of stipends to be paid to these categories of persons in Delhi.

[Shri R. K. Khadilkar]

Keeping in mind that similar categories of persons would also raise similar demands and pose problems to the States, but simultaneously feeling that the rates of stipends could be increased to some extent, my Ministry approached the Ministry of Finance to agree to increase the rates of stipends. The Ministry of Finance was agreeable to increases as follows:—

- (1) Interns from Rs. 200 to Rs. 225.
- (2) House-Surgeons from Rs. 275 to Rs. 325.
- (3) Post-Graduates from Rs. 300 (Scholarship) to Rs. 350.

I again met the representatives of the agitating Interns, House-Surgeons etc., on the 20th March, 1973, when they were informed of the increase agreed to by the Ministry of Finance, and asked to give their views so that these increases could be announced as Government decisions. It was also indicated to them in respect of their claim that they were putting in a lot of service in the hospitals in which they were undergoing training, that such services from an essential part of their training, and that these stipends scholarships offered by Government should not be construed to mean payment for services rendered but as a sort of assistance during the period of their course, so as to provide them some relief from the financial burden which they would otherwise have to bear.

My officers have again met them twice at my instance and have had prolonged discussions. It has been indicated to the agitating Interns etc., that if they could suggest any viable scheme which takes into consideration the process of selection at the stage of entry into the ranks of House-Surgeons and Post-Graduates, and such a scheme does not have a very serious financial implication, it would be favourably considered. The agitating Interns etc., have instead of responding to this offer insisted that at the very point of entry as House-Surgeons,

they should be treated as full-fledged Government servants and entitled to pay, Non Practising Allowance and other Allowances accruing to a regular doctor in Government service. Since this would have very serious implications all over the country, and would be attendant with practical difficulties, this could not be agreed to in the form demanded by the agitating Interns etc.

This agitating Interns, House-Surgeons, Post-Graduates etc. instead of appreciating the fact that the Government had gone out of their way to agree to increase the rates of stipends/scholarships, have rejected the offer made to them and have given notice to go on strike with effect from the mid-night of 31st March 1973. This proposed action of the agitating Interns, House-Surgeons etc., in the face of the Government's offer to increase in the rates of stipends comparable to the highest offered anywhere in the country, would not only upset the hospital services in Delhi to some extent, but also put the public to inconvenience. I still hope that wiser counsels would prevail and that sober sections of these persons would refrain taking the extreme step. I would also take this opportunity to assure the House that the Government, even in the event of the strike maturing, would take suitable measures to ensure that inconvenience likely to be faced by the general public is kept to the minimum.

श्री सटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, 25 र० बढ़ा रहे हैं। आप देखिये कि चपरसी की तनखाह भी डाक्टर से ज्यादा है। 24 घंटे उन्हें अस्पताल में रहना पड़ता है। . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी आप इस पर बहस क्यों कर रहे हैं।

श्री सटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : कल अगर हम को अस्पताल जाना पड़ा तो बहस करने के लिये हम वापस नहीं आयेगे (व्यवधान) हम चाहते हैं कि हड़ताल न हो। श्री महोदय

ने जो घोषणायें की हैं वे संतोषजनक नहीं हैं। अर्पयित हैं। (व्यवधान) श्री मंत्री महोदय की पत्नी स्वयं डाक्टर हैं, वह एक बार घर' (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इन को तो पत्नी के बारे में कुछ पता ही नहीं, तो बात क्या करते हैं।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Unless the doctors are given a fair deal, they go on strike causing untold hardships on the public... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing. (Interruptions)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह मामला बहुत गम्भीर है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He has made an appeal to the sobar sections of doctors. That means he wants to divide the doctors. We do not want black-legs to break any strike.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राज्ञ मणिपुर का बजट पास करना है। उस के बाद प्राप जब चाहें इस को रख लें, मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है।

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): To avert the strike, one proposal..... (Interruptions) I want a clarification to avert the strike. (Interruptions) Just as it has been postponed to the 31st, it can be further postponed.

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर प्राप को इस के बारे में बहस करनी है तो कर सकते हैं। प्राज्ञ मणिपुर का बजट पास करना है, प्राप चाहें तो सोमवार को कर सकते हैं।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद (भागलपुर) : सोमवार को बहुत देर हो जायेगी।

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): After discussing and disposing the Manipur Budget, will you please allow some time for this, Sir?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : यह बात साफ है कि अगर स्ट्राइक हो जायेगी तो स्थिति खराब हो जायेगी (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बजट को तो हम पोस्टपोन नहीं कर सकते। अगर प्राप प्राज्ञ ही इस पर बहस करना चाहें तो उस के बाद बैठ सकते हैं।

SHRI VASANT SATHE: We are willing to sit even late.

MR. SPEAKER: If you agree, we can postpone the half-an-hour discussion and take this up.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: My appeal is put off the half-an-hour discussion to some other date.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection if it is put off to another date

12.32 hrs.

RE: ALLEGED WRONG STATEMENT BY MINISTER

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I want to draw your attention to the two communications of a very comprehensive nature that I had sent you about ten days back. One relates to the procedural position with regard to the question of privilege and you will kindly recall that you have invited the Members to give you instances how misrepresentations have constituted the basis for raising the question of privilege. I have sought to do exactly that in response to your request to the House and I have cited a number of instances in the first communication that I sent you about ten twelve days back....

MR. SPEAKER: I have seen it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: And in the second communication which I have addressed to you with regard to my second complaint about