

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of the problems experienced by service personnel and their families in this matter and the State Governments have been requested to provide free legal assistance to them, in cases where Government is not a party. Some State Governments have made suitable provision for the purpose.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST DIRECTOR, ALL INDIA HANDLOOM FABRICS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED

5271. SHRI GANESH GHOSH
SHRI B. MODAK
SHRI K. HALDAR
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints of corruption against the Director, All India Handloom Fabric Cooprative Society Ltd.;

(b) if so, the nature of such complaints; and

(c) the action, if any taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). Government received some pseudonymous complaints of corruption against some of the Directors of the All India Handloom Fabric Cooperative Society Limited, but in the course of enquiry, the complaints were not proved.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM

5272. SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :
SHRI GUNANAD THAKUR :
SHRI GHAYOOR ALI KHAN :
SHRI B. P. MANDAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to accord diplomatic relations at the Embassy level to the Government of North Vietnam;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news of Quan Doi Nhan Dan, Hanoi, November 23, 1962 and other news concerning India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government are considering how best expression can be given to the desire in the two countries to strengthen their relations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government feel that it is not possible for relations and attitudes to remain static for all time. However, all factors will be taken into account before any decision about the level of relations with the Government of North Vietnam is taken.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 404 DATED 19-11-1969

Re. TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : In answer to parts (a) & (b) of the Unstarred Question No. 404 on the 19th November, 1969, the word 'Seven' may be substituted for 'eight' occurring in the first line of the reply and 'Sudan' occurring in the fourth line of the answer may kindly be deleted.

12.36 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED RESIGNATION OF TWO MORE DIRECTORS OF RESEARCH LABORATORIES UNDER C. S. I. R.

SHRI UMANATH (PUDUKKOTTAI) : Sir, I can call the attention of the Minister of Education and Youth Services to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The serious situation arising out of the reported resignation of two more Directors of research laboratories under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO) : The two Directors referred to in the Calling Attention Notice are Dr. H. A. B. Parpia, Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and Shri G. S. Chowdhury, Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar.

Shri Chowdhury was appointed as Director with effect from 15th June, 1964. He has been declared permanent in that post with effect from 6th May, 1965. Shri G. S. Chowdhury has recently submitted his resignation on personal grounds. This is under consideration. Shri Chowdhury met me on Thursday, the 18th of this month and requested that his resignation may be accepted. He mentioned to me that he wishes to go back to Hyderabad and attend to his family responsibilities. I suggested to him that he may think over the matter again and see if he could continue for at least two or three years.

Dr. Parpia was appointed as Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, on contract basis for a period of six years which expired on 3rd November, 1969. Dr. Parpia has been asked to continue to perform the functions of the Director of the Institute till a decision is taken regarding his continuance or otherwise as Director.

Dr. H. A. B. Parpia has written to the President, CSIR, on 6th December, 1969, expressing his desire to resign. He has stated that it has become difficult for him to be effective as a result of conditions created by the C. S. I. R. Central Office.

Certain questions regarding the working of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, with special reference to the role of the Director in terms of his contribution as Scientist and as Administrator, had arisen. I have referred these matters to the Chairman of the Executive Council of the Central Food Technological Research Institute for an enquiry and assessment of Dr. Parpia's work. There has also been some investigation on Dr. Parpia by the Central Bureau of Investigation undertaken on their own. Their report has been received and is under examination.

I may also inform the House that the C. S. I. R. Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice A. K. Sarkar have also called for information regarding the appointment of Dr. Parpia and other matters.

Under the circumstances, it is not possible to take any immediate decision in regard to Dr. Parpia's letter of resignation.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH (Khalilabad) : At least get rid of him.

SHRI UMANATH : It is really a matter of deep concern for you as well as for this House.....

SHRI RANJEET SINGH : And for the Communist Party especially.

SHRI UMANATH : And not the Jan Sangh, of course.

....that a premier organisation, especially its headquarters laying down the overall policies for about 40 laboratories and institutions in our country should convert or reduce itself to a position where it has become really a cockpit of nepotism, despotism and witch-hunting. I have followed the hon. Minister's statement and I feel that either he has not seriously understood the depth of the crisis in that organisation or he has just taken the brief from the Director General and just, without going into the merits, read it.

Yesterday evening I got certain information that another Director by name Shri M. S. Iyengar, Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Assam, had resigned, and another Director, Dr. Naidu Annal, Director, Leather Research Institute, Madras, out of discontent and disgust had applied for long leave. I am subject to correction about the second thing, but on the first thing my information is there.

I am also pained to find that the hon. Minister has raised a cloud of suspicion by referring to the C. B. I. inquiry against Dr. Parpia, because he is an eminent scientist, has got two degrees, apart from the other degrees, from two universities in the United States of America, and in fact when he earlier joined the C. S. I. R. and left it, he had a job in a private firm with a higher salary than what he was getting after

returning to the C. S. I. R., and he returned to the C. S. I. R.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH : Was selling oranges.

SHRI UMANATH : You are going to sell rotten plaintains.

He resigned such a higher post only on the request of the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, and joined a post with a lesser salary. I was pained to know that Dr. Rao was associating the C. B. I. inquiry with such an eminent scientist and was raising a cloud of suspicion. This was quite in contrast to his conduct the other day—when Dr. Gill's question came up and the C. B. I. inquiry and harassment came up, he said that he was pained that such Directors were being harassed. What he has said today is in contrast to that, and I do not understand why.....

MR. SPEAKER : He may put his question.

SHRI UMANATH : I am putting these things because I want to know whether they are facts or not. The C. B. I. inquiry, I understand, is the usual *modus operandi* in that organisation to do away with Directors or scientific personnel whom Dr. Atma Ram or anybody in the top of that organisation does not want.

I understand that this particular C. B. I. inquiry which Dr. Rao referred to is not against Dr. Parpia as such; it is not also on scientific matters as such. It was on certain routine administrative matters for which there is the provision of administrative wing of officials under the head of one Under Secretary from Government itself, and if at all, in those routine matters, any irregularities are found, it will be that particular wing that would be responsible. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the C. B. I. inquiry which was conducted has recognised this position which I have stated now. I also want to know this. Earlier when the inquiry was there, he was asked to go on compulsory leave during the inquiry, during the pendency of the inquiry, and I understand that on the Ministry's intervention and checking of the C. B. I. that there was nothing against him, he was asked not to

go on leave as he was asked earlier. The hon. Minister has said in his statement that the C. B. I. inquiry was 'on their own'. It is like a lady protesting too much—I find the emphasis on 'on their own'. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that this particular C. B. I. inquiry was instigated by the headquarters of the C. S. I. R. especially by Dr. Atma Ram, Director-General there. Is it not a fact that an Assistant Director—I do not want to give the names but I have got all documentary proof with me—in that very institution had approached a retired employee to give false evidence against Dr. Parpia before the C. B. I. officials promising him that he will get a job and re-employment in the C. S. I. R. ? It is on this basis these things have happened. I find that the very same Assistant Director—Dr. Rao need not smile though he does not know anything. I have got documentary evidence as well as oral evidence—I was shocked to hear because normally scientists emeritus are not appointed in the same institution where they retired as a matter of convention, that this particular Assistant Director who was employed by Dr. Atma Ram to prepare false evidence against Dr. Parpia, was appointed after retirement as scientist emeritus in the same institution to which the higher council of the CSIR in one of its meetings has taken objection. He was appointed not only as a reward but also to harass such eminent scientists like Dr. Parpia. I want to know the truth from the hon. Minister. Is it not also a fact that an administrative officer, an officer who has a very bad record, was appointed as the Administrative Officer against the views of the Director there, just to harass him and when Dr. Parpia's term was over, I was given to understand that the Administrative Officer wrote to the Director saying 'You should not sign any documents. You should not act as a Director. You should just take your salary.' This was the harassment that was going on. I mention just to verify the facts from the hon. Minister. This is the *modus operandi* against many other Directors. Now, the number of directors who have resigned, has come to 7 out of the very few Directors we have got. One thing is proved. After all the matters said by the hon. Minister one thing is certain that the Director Genera

—.....

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled to ask two questions, but this is your seventh or eighth question.

SHRI UMANATH : After all the Minister has given an explanation of various resignations. One thing is certain namely that the present Director-General is not able to carry with him these Directors and other scientific personnel in the CSIR laboratories. That has been proved. That is why I want to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister. I am prepared to prove with documentary evidence as well as other evidence that there is nepotism in the headquarters, the policy of the headquarters and the conduct of the headquarters, particularly, the Director-General, is nepotism and running down the work done by the scientific personnel, obstructing indigenous research, to make way for foreign collaboration—I am making these charges with a full sense of responsibility—giving wrong and distorted information and unethical practices. In respect of all these charges against the Director-General which I have made here with a full sense of responsibility I am prepared to give documentary as well as other evidence. I want to know from the hon. Minister. I do not want him to refer to the Sarkar Committee. I understand from the members of the Sarkar Committee that this sort of enquiry on the present administration is not within their competence and is not within their terms of reference. In the meantime all the Directors are going out one by one. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to refer these charges I have made which are leading to a brain drain from the CSIR, if not from the country, to an eminent scientist like Mr. Narielwala, Mr. Satish Dhawan or Mr. K. T. Chandy who are very senior scientists in the country and whether he is prepared in the meantime to freeze all relevant files and if it is proved that the Director-General and the Secretary have been guilty of these charges, they must be sent out from the organization. I would like to know from the Minister if he is prepared to refer these charges to these persons or any other eminent person.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH : He has taken fourteen minutes on this question.

SHRI UMANATH : That is usual here.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : The hon. Member has asked me so many questions. He will forgive me if he finds that I have forgotten one or two of his questions. He can remind me if I forget. But he has asked so many questions, and I shall try my best to answer them one by one.....

SHRI UMANATH : He has mentioned so many points, and, therefore, I have to ask so many questions.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I thought mine was a very brief statement.

SHRI RABI RAY (Puri) : He had provoked him to put so many questions.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I want to assure my hon. friend that I am not in the habit of taking things given to me like that by anybody in my office, whether it be the Secretary or the DG. I can assure Shri Umanath that the number of hours that I have spent on this particular subject certainly will convince any hard-working member like Shri Umanath that I have not taken the papers from anybody.....

SHRI UMANATH : I shall convince him. Let him give me an opportunity.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Regarding Dr. Iyengar, who he says has resigned.....

SHRI UMANATH : I did not say that he has resigned; I said that I got information.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : He says that he has got information that he has resigned. Up to this morning, up to yesterday's dak—this morning's dak has not yet come to me—I have received no letter of resignation from him. I would also mention to Shri Umanath that Dr. Iyengar is expecting me in Jorhat in January where he has called a conference or a get-together of the tea planters, and I am going to go there and visit his laboratory. That letter still stands.

SHRI UMANATH : In the meantime, he may have reacted to the hon. Minister's statement in the Rajya Sabha.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : The hon. Member may have his own sources of information.

SHRI UMANATH : Certainly, I have my sources of information. I have everything in my possession.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I know that the hon. Member has his own individual sources of information. I know that I am not arguing with him on that.

Regarding Dr. Nayudamma, I am rather surprised at his statement. Dr. Nayudamma is one of the most efficient and competent directors in the CSIR and he was present at the last meeting; I have not met him several times. At no stage has he told me that he wants to leave the institution. But, again, it may be that some letter may be there in today's *dak*; at any rate until Dr. Nayudamma's letter comes in today's *dak*, Shri Umanath, I hope, will have the goodness not to make any such statement in future before referring it to me, and I am always prepared to give him the information that he wants.

Then, it has been stated that I tried to cloud the issue. I have nothing against Dr. Parpia. Dr. Parpia is a distinguished person. He comes from Bombay; I am mentioning this because I am rather allergic to Bombay having been educated in Bombay myself.

In the case of Dr. Gill, the position that I took was that Dr. Gill had written to me a most piteous letter saying that the C. B. I. or the police had invaded his house, surrounded it and made a big display and humiliated him and so on. That was the reason why I mentioned it, and that was why I had to mention the CBI's name here. I can assure Shri Umanath that it is not a question against the institute or against the administration.

I did not want to tell this House about the CBI report. But the CBI report has been received, and if the House wants to know, I can also tell the House that the CBI report has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission. I did not want to say this, but since Shri Umanath is forcing the information from me, I may also tell the House that the CBI's report has gone against Dr. Parpia; they have found him guilty of certain charges, and it has been referred to the Central Vigilance Commission. I did not want to say all this, I can assure you, but I have been asked to do it; I am very anxious not to say anything

in this House which will bring any discredit to any scientist. If somebody has done something wrong, the law will take its own course. Unfortunately, my hon. friend Shri Umanath in his over-anxiety, I am afraid, or his inadequate briefing has brought into this.....

SHRI UMANATH : No briefing. This is an insinuation I can also say that the hon. Minister has been briefed by Dr. Atma Ram. This is unfair in Parliament. Just as he has sources of information, we have also got sources of information. Why should he say that I have been briefed?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am sorry I did not know that I had used any wrong word; I am not as good a student of English as my hon. friend is....

MR. SPEAKER : 'Briefing' in a certain context is not a bad word. It is not somebody stating something against any body.....

SHRI UMANATH : I have not been briefed. I am working in this country and in this nation, and I go through the various documents and papers and other things, and I work on my own.

MR. SPEAKER : That does not mean that anybody has briefed him in his speech. Certainly, the information comes, and the hon. Members use it.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I thank you Sir. I am afraid there is a confusion in semantics. I thought that I knew English fairly well, but I bow to the superior knowledge of English of Shri Umanath.

SHRI RABI RAY : The hon. Minister is a professor, and the hon. Member knows it.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : In regard to Dr. Parpia, I did not want to say anything on the CBI inquiry. But when it is said that the CBI report was asked and the CBI had said nothing against him,—I did not want to bring all these unnecessary things up here, but since the Member has asked for it,—I must say this that the CBI wanted him to go on leave; and then since we were asking the chairman of the executive council to go into the whole subject of the institute and Dr. Parpia, because his term was expiring and we wanted to take

[Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao]

a decision whether he should be continued for another six years or so, the chairman of the executive council requested me 'Please do not send him on leave; then it will not be possible for me to make my inquiry'; on that basis, we cancelled the orders for leave and permitted him to stay. It was not on the basis of the CBI telling us that the inquiry report was not against Dr. Parpia; on the other hand, their contention was that it was against him, and the findings of the inquiry would be hampered by his continuing to stay there as director. There again, my hon. friend has not got his facts aright. I shall not say 'briefing', but evidently he may have got the wrong papers or the wrong documents or he may have been thinking of something else when he was perusing them.

SHRI UMANATH : I have got the right papers, and I have challenged him only on the basis of those papers.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I would like to know whether the hon. Member is challenging me in Dr. Parpia's case.

I know that the hon. Members are getting impatient, and I would like to complete my answer as quickly as possible.

About the question of Dr. Atma Ram and the various things about him and so on, as I told the other House the other day.

MR. SPEAKER : I hope the hon. Minister will be very brief in his reply. The question may have been very long, and Members may have taken so much time, but the reply should be brief. It is no use taking so much time. We had dispensed with the Question Hour in order to save time, but we find that the whole of the Question Hour and also the time after that has been taken up by other motions and the calling-attention-notice and so on and then the privilege motions etc. will come up before the House, and this means that the House will not be able to finish the business before it. The CSIR is all the time on the head. Can he not make a final reply over it ?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am very glad to be told that I need not answer all the various remarks that Shri Umanath has made. But it must not be understood that I did not answer them. I am trying to answer the points as briefly as possible.

Regarding the DG and whether the charges made against him will be referred to another separate body, I am not prepared to give any such assurance.

SHRI UMANATH : Not any charges; I was asking the hon. Minister whether he was referring my charges against the DG to any separate body for inquiry, that is, about those six points which I had mentioned.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am talking of the same charges that Shri Umanath has made. He said that these should be referred not to the Sarkar Committee because he has heard from somebody that they are not competent to do this but they must be referred to somebody else. I have said that I am prepared to give no assurance that these charges will be referred to another body or any alternatives names that have been suggested.

SHRI UMANATH : Why not ?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I have already told the other House that the charges made against Dr. Atma Ram will be referred to the Sarkar Committee; they will examine the terms of reference and find out if they are in a position to take it up themselves or not; after that, I shall take a decision on this subject, and I shall welcome a written communication from Shri Umanath.

SHRI UMANATH : I can give him all this. Let him appoint a proper person for the inquiry.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Why should he wait till then ? He can send it to me earlier.

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY (Deoria) : I want to make one submission. I want to ask one question, because this is something very important.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may resume his seat. He knows that under the rules, he is not entitled to ask any question on this calling-attention-notice.

SHRI VIDYA DHAR BAJPAI rose—

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may kindly sit down. Hon. Members must be aware of this that time and again I have informed the House that only those Members can ask questions whose names are there on the notice.

SHRI VIDYADHAR BAJPAI (Amethi) : This is an important matter, and I want to say something on this calling-attention-notice.....

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. The hon. Member may resume his seat. Shri S. Kundu.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : It is most unfortunate that the CSIR has become a centre of all sorts of dirty intrigue, clique and mud-slinging among scientists, in which the politicians have also been involved. No purposive research is being done as was intended. This is indeed a shocking matter.

12 hrs.

The whole trouble about the CSIR is that two groups of scientists, one owing allegiance to the former Director General and the other owing allegiance to Dr. Atma Ram, have almost started a cold war. The Education Minister is just abetting this cold war by being a mere onlooker in a boxing match and thereby encouraging both the parties to go in a spree of free boxing. He is not going into the details of the trouble. I do not want to go into the details. Still I hold there are some scientists of great character and integrity in this organisation. But I want to ask a few questions.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask a question, not a few.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Yes. The hon. Minister cannot mislead this House by saying that the CSIR matter is being inquired into by the Sarkar Committee. This is not a fact. The Committee is inquiring into certain individual allegations made in this House about the appointment of certain scientists. How does he say that this will be gone into by the Committee? It is most unfortunate that he should say so when he can find out for himself from the terms of reference of the Committee what the actual position is, whether their terms of reference cover this aspect. I ask this question : when there have been allegations and counter-allegations by the scientists in the CSIR, whether the whole matter of the working of the CSIR will be referred to the Sarkar Committee for a detailed investigation? This is one question.

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough; I am not going to allow more than one question.

SHRI S. KUNDU : I am not going into the merits of what Dr. Parpia has alleged. But he has said two very important things. One is that a certain memorandum which was given to the Education Minister was not attended to and, therefore, it created a demoralising effect among the scientists. Is this true? Is it true that a certain scientist removed from the Laboratory on a specific allegation in 1963 was reappointed after the Education Minister came?

Then about the Director of the Bhubaneswar Laboratory, Shri Chowdhury, he said that on personal grounds he resigned. Did the Minister ask him on what personal grounds he resigned? What are the real reasons? I know that for years the CSIR is holding up certain schemes forwarded by the Orissa Government i.e., by the I.D.C., and it is not being finalised. I have written to the Minister about the low carbonisation plant. The CSIR is examining it. Why it takes years to finalise a scheme, I want specific answers to these questions.

श्री विद्याधर बाजपेयी : स्पीकर साहब, एक बहुत इम्पार्टेंट सवाल मुझे करना है....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसमें इसका रूल है कि आप पूछ नहीं सकते जब तक आपका नाम उसमें न हो। मैं मजबूर हूँ।

श्री विद्याधर बाजपेयी : मुझे पूछने का अधिकार है, नाम हो या न हो, मैं भी इस हाउस का मेम्बर हूँ। मुझे बोलने न दिया जाए, तो यह तो बड़ी ज्यादाती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या किया जाए? रूल नहीं है।

श्री विद्याधर बाजपेयी : मैं नाम भी देता हूँ तो आप के पास तक नहीं पहुँचता है। मैं बहुत कम बोलता हूँ। इस पर एक बहुत इम्पार्टेंट सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सी० बी० आई० को रेफर करते हैं तो सी० बी० आई० किस तरह से एन्क्वायरी कर रहा है यह भी देखते हैं? वह प्रलोभन देता है और रिश्तत देता है, मेरे पास लेटर है... (अपवादन)... सांइटिस्ट्स के साथ इस

[श्री विद्याधर बाजपेयी]

तरह का व्यवहार बहुत बड़ी ज्यादाती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं जरूर आप को मौका देता, लेकिन रूल्स आप के हाउस के बनाए हुए हैं।

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : I do not think I shall say anything about my being an onlooker in a boxing match and so on. As regards the role of the Sarkar Committee, I want to tell him that the Committee's terms of reference are not merely to inquire into certain personnel policies. I invite attention to item 3 of the terms of reference.

"To review the overall functioning of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and to suggest ways and means of improving it."

Therefore, when the Sarkar Committee on which hon. Members of this House are also represented—

SHRI S. KUNDU : It does not mean this allegation. Can you not understand? I do not understand why he brings in this overall functioning and so on. There were various allegations and counter-allegations by the scientists. Let him not again mislead.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Sir, I am sorry I take exception to what he says. I do not say, "Strong exception" because he is a good friend of mine. Now, first of all, he said this Committee was only enquiring into personnel policies. I wish to say that the Committee is not only enquiring into the personnel policies but it has been asked to enquire into the whole organisation of the CSIR, about enquiring into the allegations, in so far as the allegations form part of the personnel policies, I suppose they will also enquire into those allegations.

Then, the hon. Member talked about some memorandum which has been given to me and which has not been attended to and so on. I do not know what is the memorandum he is referring to. If he refers to some press report, I would like him to tell me; I would like him to tell me what is the memorandum which has not been attended to by me. Then, I can give him satisfaction.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Newspaper report.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Mr. Speaker, you will remember that once in this House, on the basis of a newspaper report, an esteemed colleague of mine was credited with having a second wife. At that time, your predecessor in office ruled—

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : A very pleasant thing.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : It may be so for you. At that time, your predecessor gave a ruling that if hon. Members put a question or make some observation in this House merely on the basis of a newspaper report, it would not be proper. Therefore, I cannot merely go on on the basis of an unfounded newspaper report.

Then, the hon. Member said another thing. I do not understand it. He said somebody who was removed was reappointed during the time of the present Education Minister. That is totally wrong. He is probably making a reference to an administrative officer in the Mysore Institute who is not on good terms with the Director. This gentleman was appointed two years ago. In fact, now, I am bringing up the case before the Transfer Committee: he is being transferred from there. Therefore, the facts are exactly the opposite of what my hon. friend has told the House.

Then, regarding Mr. G. S. Choudhury and why he resigned. Actually, there was a meeting in Delhi on the 18th. After that, I took him to my house and asked him, "Please tell me why you want to resign." He told me that his son has just returned from the United States; that he has got a high mechanical engineering degree. He has got some business already; he is a man of some substance. He is 52 or 53. He wants to start business along with his son. That is the reason why he wants to resign. This is what he told me. If he has told something else to the hon. Member, I am not responsible.

श्री विद्याधर बाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर आप सिर्फ दो मिनट मुझे इजाजत दें तो यह मामला इतना साफ हो जाता है कि एक रिटायर्ड हायरैक्टर को सी० बी० आई० के इंस्पेक्टर जनरल आफ पुलिस ने प्रलोभन दिया कि अगर तुम यह बयान

दे दो तो हम तुम को रिऍम्प्लाय कर देंगे। यह है सी० वी० आई० की एन्क्वायरी जिस पर मंत्री महोदय निर्भर करते हैं और विश्वास करते हैं। यह इस बात का प्रमाण है कि साईटिस्ट्स के साथ किस तरह ज्यादाती होती है डायरेक्टर जनरल की धांधली के कारण।

SHRI K. RAMANI (Coimbatore) : Sir, the CSIR, and its laboratories are in a very serious crisis, and there are very eminent scientists working there; they are very hardworking and genuine scientists, and most of them are getting demoralised and one after another they are resigning and going out. They want to get out of these institutes. Such a position has developed. Why this is happening is, it was said that the functioning and the whole set-up have completely gone wrong now. The governing body, the highest body of this organisation, used to meet once in six months formerly. Now, it has met only three times during the past two and a half years.

Another thing is, before the governing body meets, it used to meet the board on which all the directors were there to consult them (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Put a question only.

SHRI K. RAMANI : I am not going to take as much time as the other hon. Members took. They used to meet in order to take them into confidence as to what projects and what items were going to be placed before the governing body meeting. In such a way the meetings were conducted, but that has been given up completely now. Moreover, eight of the directors were removed from the Board of Directors and some other are also going. Because of all these activities, they are getting demoralised further and further.

Also, from the central office now they have been issuing statements after statements, attacking their own directors and also praising the Director-General. Such kind of partisan statements against their own directors and employees are being issued time after time. That is going on.

Then, a number of good inventions and achievements—

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. My only mistake was that I allowed Mr. Umanath much more time than he could get, and the result is, everybody is following him. I do not want that to be followed as a precedent.

SHRI UMANATH : Long before me, other hon. Members took much time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask only one question.

SHRI K. RAMANI : Even if that was a mistake, the hon. Member has talked of many things and that is good for our country and for the House. I am not going to take much time compared to others.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask a question.

SHRI K. RAMANI : I am coming to my question. Because of these happenings, a number of projects and inventions found out by many eminent scientists are put in cold storage. These things are not utilised. Then, how can they be expected to put in sincere work ? They will be forced to resign and go out. In such a situation, I want to know what action the Government is taking to see that the Governing Body meets once or twice in a year as it used to do before, and also that before the Governing Body meets, the meeting of the Board of Directors takes place so that they can put forth their opinion and put their opinions before the Governing Body. What action is the Government going to take to see that the demoralisation is not further spread among the employees and also the subordinates which is the case today ? What action, what prompt action is the Government going to take ? I want to know it from the Government.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : As far as the first question of the hon. Member is concerned, there is no doubt that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction with the working of the CSIR. This subject has been discussed in Parliament for quite a long time. It was as a result of this dissatisfaction that a Committee was appointed under Mr. Justice Sarkar including representatives of the Members of Parliament to enquire into the entire overall organisation as well as the various allegations, personnel policies, and so on. That Committee was appointed

[Dr. V.K. R. V. Rao]

in June, 1968. We are now in December, 1969. The Committee is taking its own time because it is a very conscientious Committee; they want to take all the details and so on; we have not yet received any report from them. Therefore, I cannot appoint another Committee again when a Committee is already there to go into the whole question of the CSIR.

Regarding the second point raised by the hon. Members, about the directors, that they were formerly consulted and they are not being consulted, now, the hon. Member will be glad to know that all the directors are in Delhi today in order to discuss the fourth Plan programme. I would also like to tell him that before the next Governing Body meeting, I have directed all the directors should be called and they will be meeting one day before that. Both these things are done. Therefore, the directors are not in the picture.

Then, regarding the question about statement against directors and statements in favour of the Director-General, I have issued no statements either against the directors or in favour of the Director-General. Even in this House, I make no statements; only when I am driven by questions, I have to answer them.

AN HON. MEMBER *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER Order, order. I am not going to tolerate this.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Lastly, the hon. Member referred to a number of inventions and projects as being under cold storage. That is not the information that I have.

SHRI P. GOPALAN (Tellicherry) : Sir, while replying to a Calling Attention on the same subject in the other House, the Minister is reported to have taken very serious objection to the conduct of some of the directors in going to the press on this matter.

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO (Kakinada) : Sir, it has been an accepted convention and practice that anything that has happened in the other House should not be referred to here. (Interruptions)

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श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) :

वह तो सिर्फ बयान के बारे में रेफर कर रहे हैं, उस पर उन्हें एतराज है, यह क्या बात है ? वह तो जायज बात कह रहे हैं, लेकिन ये ब्वाभ्वाह इसको उठा रहे हैं ।

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. I know much more than the hon. member. I am really wondering all the time how many things take place which go to waste the time rather than save the time of the House. We dispensed with Question hour to save time. Till now we have only disposed of 3 short notice questions and we are on the Calling Attention. We dispensed with the lunch hour and this hour also is being taken up by these things. God help us. How can we get through the list of business if we go on like this ? The hon. member may be brief in his question.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : When the Minister deprecated the conduct of some of the Directors in issuing statements to the press and stated that he is put in an awkward position here and the Director General also is put in an awkward position, an impression is created that the Directors are responsible for the entire state of mess in the CSIR. I want to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that it was the same Director General, Dr. Atma Ram, who first issued a press hand-out in 1967 which was used for self-advertising, praising himself and claiming himself to be a true disciple of Dr. Meghnad Saha and a lieutenant of Dr. Bhatnagar and in which he also said that after his becoming the chief of this institution, a new era has dawned in scientific research in this country. Is the minister aware that in the very same statement, Dr. Atma Ram has very bitterly criticised some of the directors in general saying that they are practising corruption and mismanagement and specially accusing them of incompetence ? When the minister was so much upset by the press statement issued by some of the directors, why did he fail to see the two statements issued by Dr. Atma Ram one in 1967 and another recently in June 1969 ? I want to know specifically whether any other previous D. G. resorted to this unethical practice of going to the press. (Interruptions). This very Director General,

Dr. Atma Ram, instead of promoting scientific research in our country is specialising in the research of vilification and character assassination and after his assuming office, the relations between the officers in CSIR organisations have deteriorated and an anarchical and chaotic condition is prevailing in the CSIR institutions. In view of all these, may I know whether this gentleman will be removed from his post, because he is unfit for this post on account of his outmoded viewpoints?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Is there any *atma* left in him?

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I have to leave the chair to receive the Nepalese delegation.

13.2 Hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : The hon. Member was correct in saying that speaking in the other House I deprecated directors of scientific laboratories issuing press statements on the problems concerning the laboratories, the relations with the central office and so on, because I think it becomes very difficult for any organisation to function in such an atmosphere. If there is something wrong, there are normal channels and complaints can be made. As a matter of fact, all complaints are now possibly investigated by a very important committee, including Members of Parliament. Now, when press statements are made by directors, I think it makes matters more difficult, both for the Minister as well as for the executive head of the organisation. But I do not agree with my hon. friend that this has created an impression that all the troubles have been created by the directors. I have got the full proceedings here. If the hon. Member has carefully gone through that, I have also stated that I am aware of the fact that there is considerable resentment against Dr. Atma Ram. I am finding out whether the Sarkar Committee terms of reference will permit them to go into this. They are already enquiring into many other things. I will find out whether they can enquire into this also. Therefore, I am afraid the hon. Member has got a wrong impression from what I have stated in the other House.

SHRI UMANATH : He further stated that Dr. Atma Ram was the first person to go to the press. Is it true?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : Why should he be impatient? When I have answered all his questions, why should he think that I will treat his colleague with less courtesy? In fact, I will be more courteous to him because he does not belong to Tirichinapalli.....
(interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A lot of time has been spent on this. Let us not spend more time. I would appeal to the Minister also not to get provoked but to pay attention to the questions which are asked.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO : All right, Sir. In the light of what you have stated, I will categorically answer this question. If there are charges against Dr. Atma Ram, those charges will have to be investigated according to the accepted procedures and processes and no person can be dismissed or sent out unless he is found guilty by the duly competent authority. Under the circumstances, I am afraid I cannot satisfy my hon. friend by telling him that Dr. Atma Ram will be sent out.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH : Shri Umanath has already referred to the point that there is nepotism and favouritism. But it started not with Dr. Atma Ram but with the previous Director-General. His very appointment itself was due to nepotism, casteism, communalism, favouritism and Statism. After this, the appointment of Dr. Parpia, an eminent scientist, was referred to. His eminence is that he was a sales officer in a private fruit and orange squash selling company called Kisan Products. From the wonderful Kisan Products he was picked up and appointed as a director in the CSIR. If that is not nepotism, if that is not favouritism, what is it? Now, every single questioner has lashed out at the Minister. I would request the Minister to make clear certain points. I would ask him only one question. I hope he will make it clear as to whether he has any authority over the CSIR.

Who is this so-called President of the CSIR? What is the President of the CSIR doing? Who makes the appointments—

[Shri Ranjeet Singh]

whether it is the Minister or the President of the CSIR? He must clarify these points and only then the House will be clear as to what is happening in the CSIR.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Umanath alluded to the statement of these directors to the press. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the Sarkar Committee had called for the papers of the seven directors and that they were under a shadow. Is it also not a fact that against most of those who have resigned and some others who came to meet the Minister, nine of them, there is a CBI inquiry going on?

We would also like the Minister to enlighten us more about Dr. Parpia's experience and about the experience and qualifications of some others. There is one B. Sc., who was appointed as Director, CSIR.....
(*interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not go into the details.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH: Now it is hurting them. I am bringing out certain facts and it is paining them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are to elicit information from the hon. Minister.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH: Would the Minister also clarify as to what was the result of his talks with the nine directors who came to meet him? Was any substance found in their allegations?

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: Regarding Dr. Parpia, I strongly deprecate the language which has been used by the hon. Member in describing him. I do not know whether he was selling orange squash or not.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Are you fond of orange squash?

SHRI RANJEET SINGH: It is time for beer now, not orange squash.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: I am not a Major, either retired or serving in the Army.

SHRI RABI RAY: You are a retired professor.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: I am not a retired professor; I am professor emeritus. Tomorrow if I leave this job, I can go back to my professorship.....(*interruption*).

I want to tell the hon. Member that Dr. Parpia is B. Sc. (Honours), First Class, from Bombay, Master of Science (Food Technology) from the Oregon State University and the University of California (1948), and Ph. D. (Food Technology) of Oregon University (1951). He has got excellent academic qualifications and I very much regret that my very good friend, Major Ranjeet Singh, should have suggested that the man had no academic qualifications.

SHRI RANJEET SINGH: I said, he had no experience.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: I am glad that the hon. Member has raised the question about the CSIR because it has a rather peculiar constitutional position. The CSIR is a registered society, the control of which vests in the governing body of the society. The President of the society is the Prime Minister. The Vice-President of the society, *ex-officio*, is the Minister under whose portfolio comes the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. That is how I am the Vice-President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam): On a point of order, Sir. Just now he has said that the Vice-President is *ex-officio* the Minister. Is that so or is the Minister *ex-officio* Vice-President?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

DR. V. K. R. V. RAO: As far as appointments and termination of services of directors are concerned, the Vice-President does not have the authority either to appoint or to dismiss a director.

Regarding the question of seven directors, to which Major Ranjeet Singh has made a reference, the Sarkar Committee has called for papers of practically all the directors in some connection or the other. I would, therefore, not like to single out any of these directors.

13.30 Hrs.

APOLOGY BY S. D. M., NEW DELHI
ARREST OF MEMBERS

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the