

17 hrs.

(iii) A single seated furnished room free of rent be provided to each House Surgeon.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**THIRTY-FIRST REPORT**

**Shri Rane (Buldana):** Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee

17.0½ hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**STRIKE THREAT BY HOUSE SURGEONS OF HOSPITALS IN DELHI**

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** I call the attention of the Minister of Health to the strike threat by House Surgeons of hospitals in Delhi to press their demands.

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): On the 16th of November, the Interns and House Surgeons of the Irwin Hospital and G. B. Pant Hospital made a representation to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi in respect of demands for increase in their monthly allowance and alterations of their working conditions. They wanted an increase in the monthly allowance from Rs. 150/- to Rs 250/- p.m. for House Surgeons and from Rs 100/- to Rs. 150/- p.m. for Interns with effect from the current session. On the same day, the House Surgeons of Safdarjang Hospital and House Surgeons and Interns of the Lady Hardinge Hospital and Registrars of the Willingdon Hospital made representation to their Superintendents along similar lines. They asked for time to see me and I received a deputation of House Surgeons on the 17th evening. Demands in their working conditions made by some of them were as follows:—

- (i) Duty hours should not be more than 48 hours and not more than 8 hours a day.
- (ii) One holiday every week

There were various other demands relating to casual leave, medical care, linen, moderate rate of boarding, recreation centre etc. The representatives of the House surgeons and Interns saw me yesterday and explained their difficulties and grievances. I might mention that this was the first time that they had brought up this subject, so far as I am concerned. I gave them a sympathetic hearing and told them that their demands would be considered carefully but it was not proper for them to put forth their demands together with their threat of strike. I explained to them that doctors belonged to a noble profession and were not expected to resort to trade union methods and that such conduct was in fact a breach of the Code of Ethics which every doctor was expected to observe. The House Surgeons' representatives told me that the newspaper report was incorrect and they had not given any notice of a strike at all. I advised them to withdraw whatever notice they had given after which they went away to consult their colleagues. I had expected that they would take the advice to heart and refrain from strike but was painfully surprised to learn today that some of them have served a strike notice from mid-night tonight.

The Interns or Rotating Housemen as they are now called, are graduates under training and are all allowed full registration under the Indian Medical Council Act only after completing this period of training.

The House Surgeons who have completed their year of compulsory housemanship are people undergoing a period of further training during which they develop self-confidence and acquire clinical experience required to fit them for joining Post-graduate course if they so desire. The rotating housemen and the House Surgeons are also employed for a period of 12 months in two spells of six months each, get Rs. 100 and Rs. 150 p.m. respectively along with free furnished