

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

[Dr. Sushila Nayar]

single bachelor accommodation as far as practicable within the hospital premises with free water and electricity. The House Surgeons are also entitled to the services of Class IV staff and the use of cutlery, crockery and other items in the mess. They get a weekly off day and 12 days casual leave in a year is also allowed subject to the exigencies of service. Medical and Welfare measures, library facilities etc. are provided as for other medical officers in the hospital.

The House Surgeons, I might mention, are not regular Government servants. The House Surgeonship is in the nature of extended training so that they are generally anxious to spend as much time as possible in the wards etc. and the mention of a 48 hour week is obviously based on some misconception. They are free not to join as House Surgeons if they do not wish to do so. They however have to go through a period of internship or rotating Housemanship as a compulsory period of training.

I am aware that the cost of living is showing rising trend and realise the hardship experienced by the young doctors on that account. That is why I have promised sympathetic consideration of their difficulties. But I do feel strongly that it would be wrong for the House Surgeons to resort to strike to enforce their demands. Strikes by those who have to deal with life and death would indicate a lack of due sense of responsibility imposed on them by the profession, which they have chosen for themselves. I hope and pray that they will desist from taking this very ill-advised step, which might even be construed as serious misconduct in terms of the Code of medical ethics adopted by the medical profession.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Besides giving this long lecture of medical ethics to House Surgeons and the interns, may

I know whether the hon. Minister has given them any assurance that within a reasonable time, say one month or two months, their pay will be upgraded in terms of the rising prices to which she has referred, because at least to some of us the demands seemed very reasonable?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: They have been assured that it will be done in the shortest possible time and the process will start after they have withdrawn their notice.

Shri Sezhiyan (Perambalur): May I know whether it is a fact that in Bombay the House Surgeons are given an allowance of Rs. 200 per month? If so, could it not be done in Delhi also?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: No. in Bombay they are not given Rs. 200. They are given only Rs 150.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) :

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हाउस सरजन्स ने जो यह हड़ताल की प्रम की दी है क्या इससे पहले उन्होंने अपनी मांगें जलाई, 1964 में स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सामने पेश की थीं, पर जब तीन महीने तक उन पर कोई निर्णय नहीं हो सका तब वह 16 तारीख को शिष्टमंडल की शकल में आए ? यदि यह स्थिति है तो कब तक उनकी मांगों के बारे में निर्णय कर लिया जाएगा ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : यह बात गलत है । पहली मर्तबा कल उनकी मांगें हमारे सामने आयी थीं ।

श्री मोहनस्वरूप (पीलीभीत) : जब मंत्री महोदय के नोटिस में यह बात थी कि यह स्थिति पैदा होने वाली है, तो उनकी शिकायतों को सुनने के लिए क्यों तत्काल कार्रवाई नहीं की गयी और उनकी बातों को हमदर्दी से क्यों नहीं सुना गया ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : जैसे ही 16 तारीख को उन्होंने समय मांगा, उनको 17 तारीख

को मौका दे दिया गया और मैंने करीब पौन घंटे तक बड़ी हमदर्दी से उनकी सारी बातें सुनीं ।

**श्री मोहन स्वरूप :** हमदर्दी से क्या बातचीत की, और गवर्नमेंट का एटीट्यूड क्या है । क्या सोचा है मंत्री जी ने उनकी स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए ।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय कितने हाउस सर्जन हैं, उनमें से कितनों के पास मकान हैं और कितनों के पास मकान नहीं हैं । इन सारी शिकायतों को लेकर कुछ लोग मंत्री महोदय से मिले थे, उनके साथ मंत्री महोदय का व्यवहार ठीक नहीं रहा, इसलिए उन्होंने हड़ताल की धमकी दी ?

**डा० सुशीला नायर :** यह सरासर गलत है । इस वक्त दिल्ली में जो चार मुख्य अस्पताल हैं विंलिगडन, इरविन, सफदरजंग और पन्त अस्पताल, इनमें हाउस सरजन्स की संख्या 247 है । इन में से बहुतों को वहीं पर मकान मिले हुए हैं । लेकिन मेरे पास सबके बारे में आंकड़े इस समय नहीं हैं ।

**श्री बड़े (खारगोन) :** परसेंटेज ?

**डा० सुशीला नायर :** ज्यादातर को हम वही रखने की कोशिश करते हैं क्योंकि वहीं उनकी ट्रेनिंग भी मुनासिब तरीके से हो सकती है । लेकिन इस थोड़े से समय में हाउस सरजन्स की संख्या बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गयी है, पर उनकी संख्या बढ़ जाने से एक दम मकान तो बढ़ नहीं गए । इसी वजह से कुछ कंसेज में दिक्कत सामने आयी है । जो हाउस सरजन मेरे पास आए थे उनसे कितना मीठा व्यवहार किया गया, इसका पता तो इस बात से चल सकता है कि वे मुझसे कहने लगे कि हमें ऐसा पता होता तो हम पहले ही आपके पास आ जाते लेकिन हमें मालूम नहीं था कि आप हमारी बात सुनेंगी या नहीं और न

जाने हमको क्या कहेंगी । मैंने उनको समझाया कि आपको ऐसा सोचना नहीं चाहिए क्योंकि स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के भलावा मैं एक डाक्टर भी हूँ और एक सीनियर कुलीग के नाते आप लोग मुझ से आकर बातचीत कर सकते थे । उनका यह कहना कि हमने स्ट्राइक की बात की ही नहीं है यह बतलाता है कि उन्हें स्वयं इस बात में शंका है कि वह कदम मुनासिब है या नहीं है और मेरी आशा है कि वह यह चीज समझ लेंगे और जैसे उनसे फल बात हो गई है वह अपने नोटिसेज विदद्दा कर लेते हैं उसी वक्त हमारी तरफ से भी उनके मामले में तेजी से कार्यवाही की जायेगी । जैसे हम उनके बारे में विचार तो कर ही रहे हैं लेकिन अगप वह अपने नोटिसेज विदद्दा कर लेते हैं तो और भी जितनी तेजी से कार्यवाही मुमकिन हो सकेगी हम अवश्य करेंगे । आखिर वे हमारे अपने बच्चे हैं, हम उनकी तकलीफ समझते हैं । और मैं यह भी समझती हूँ कि डाक्टरों के जितने भी इमोल्युमेंट्स बढ़ा सकेंगे और उनकी लिविंग कंडीशंस को हम अच्छा कर सकेंगे उतनी ही अच्छी तरह से वे समाज की सेवा कर सकेंगे । इसलिए भी हम यह करना चाहते हैं, और इसके लिए किसी को कुछ हमें कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं है ।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** सभापति महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया । मैंने पूछा था कि यह जितने हाउस सर्जन्स हैं इनमें से कितनों के पास मकान हैं और कितनों के पास मकान नहीं हैं । मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि हाउस सर्जन्स ज्यादा बढ़ गये हैं तो उनकी तावाद् बढ़ाने के पहले सरकार ने उनके लिए मकानों की व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की, इसके बारे में उनका क्या उत्तर है ?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister has already stated that now the number has gone up and they are trying to provide accommodation as early as possible.

श्री प्रकाशचर शशत्री : सभापति महोदय, डाक्टरों की तादाद जब उन्हें पता है तो उनको इसकी भी तो जानकारी होनी चाहिए कि कितनों को मकान मिले हुए हैं ?

श्री सुशीला नायर : कितनों को मकान मिले हुए हैं और कितनों को नहीं मिले हुए हैं इसकी ठीक ठीक, तादाद मैं बाद में बतला दूंगी। इस समय मेरे पास उसकी फिगर्स नहीं हैं लेकिन इतना मैं जरूर कह सकती हूँ कि ऐसे कम लोग हैं जिनके पास मकान नहीं है, अधिक लोगों के पास मकान हैं।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जब उनके पास डाक्टरों की फीगर्स हैं तो इस बारे में अर्थात् मकानों के बारे में सूचना क्यों उपलब्ध नहीं है, दोनों का सम्बन्ध साथ में जुड़ा हुआ है ?

श्री बड़े : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या इन हाउस सर्जन्स ने सितम्बर के महीने में सुपरिन्टेंडेंट के पास शिकायत की थी या अपनी शिकायतें दी थीं और वह शिकायतें आपके पास भेजी गई थीं और आपको उनके बारे में सितम्बर में ही विदित हो गया था क्या यह बात सच है ?

श्री सुशीला नायर : वह कहते हैं कि उन्होंने सितम्बर में सुपरिन्टेंडेंट के पास भेजी थी, और इर्विन अस्पताल में मौलाना आज़ाद मेडिकल कालेज के प्रिंसिपल का कहना है कि उनके पास तब वह शिकायतें नहीं आईं। हमारे पास तो परसों ही यह चीज सब से पहले आई है जब कि उन्होंने हमसे बक्त मांगा। तभी हमारे पास यह खबर आई है उससे पहले नहीं आई है।

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister, here is a letter addressed by those housemen of Irwin Hospital, New Delhi, to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi Administration,

Delhi, dated the 8th September, 1964, wherein they have said:—

"We are sure that the authorities are quite aware of these facts and we sincerely hope that you would take personal interest to make a substantial increase in the honorarium and make this job a decent, dignified and respectable one."

In view of the fact that such a letter had been sent as early as the 8th September which was followed by another letter to the Superintendent of the same date, what is the reason that the hon. Minister did not inquire into the matter and see whether this increase in their honorarium could be given or not and why it is now being denied on the plea that these men are going on action? The Government had enough time to consider this question and avoid a situation that is brewing today in all the hospitals. What is the reason for that?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I have already given the reply. The office of the Chief Commissioner, if this letter was sent to the Chief Commissioner, is completely different from the office of the Health Minister. There was no information received by the Health Ministry till the day before yesterday, that is, the 16th of this month.

Shri Nambiar: We are prepared to give the copies of both these letters now.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: That is not necessary now. It is obvious that if they have sent it to Chief Commissioner earlier, that office must have been thinking about it I cannot say.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members will resume their seats. Enough opportunity has been given to all hon. Members. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock on Friday.

17.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 20, 1964/Kartika 29, 1886 (Saka).