

[Shri M. C. Chagla]

Academic Council to pass an ordinance which suited their views. How can any university authorities accept that position?

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैरान) : सरकार ने क्या इस बात पर गौर किया है कि जगड़े का सब से बड़ा कारण यह है कि आयें माल वहां सप्लीमेंटरी इम्तहान होते थे उनको इस माल होल्ड करने से इंकार कर दिया गया है? दूसरे थर्ड डिविजन में जो लड़के पास होते हैं या कम नम्बरों में पास होते हैं, उम में उनकी खता नहीं है, वह हमारे अध्यापन कार्य का अपराध है। इस वास्ते जो लड़के कम नम्बरों में पास होते हैं उन्हें बाहर की यूनिवर्सिटीज नहीं लेती हैं और बनारस यूनिवर्सिटी ने यह एलान कर दिया है कि थर्ड डिविजनर्ज को हम नहीं लेंगे। इस तरह जिन लड़कों के कैरियर खराब हुये हैं वे लड़के कहां जाएं ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: It is not true that the system of supplementaries has been done away with. Supplementary examinations have been held or are being held and will be held under a new system. The system has been changed in order to maintain high standards in technical education.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय (मलेगपुर) : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि विश्व-विद्यालय तीन स्टेजिज में खोला जायेगा। इसमें जो विवाद है वह हल नहीं हो जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि विश्वविद्यालय के अधिकारियों और विद्यार्थियों के बीच में जो समस्त विवाद है, उनको हल करने के लिये क्या सरकार एक उच्च अधिकार प्राप्त समिति गठित करने का विचार कर रही है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not see the need for any high power committee. If I find the necessity, I will certainly do so. But at present, I see

no reason or justification for appointing any committee. All that I would beg of this House is to pass the Bill as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Half an hour discussion—Dr. C. B. Singh.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I wanted to ask a question.

Mr. Speaker: No. That would be a departure. I am sorry.

श्री तुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह बनारस के हैं, उससे इनका विशेष सम्बन्ध है, इनको मौका दे दिया जाए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं जानता हूँ कि उनका बहुत ज्यादा सम्बन्ध बनारस से है। उनके साथ मेरा भी बहुत सम्बन्ध है। लेकिन मैं दे नहीं सकता हूँ।

17.27 hrs.

INDIAN ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES*

Dr. Chandrabhan Singh (Bilaspur): In reply to Unstarred Question No. 1469 on 3rd March 1966 where it was asked whether the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences had decided that Post-Graduate examinations should be held for award of its membership, the reply given by the Minister was: 'Yes'. In reply to the last part of the question whether the Indian Medical Council and the Indian Medical Association are opposed to it, the answer given was:

"The Medical Council of India are of the view that there should be a separate statutory body for holding National examination".

17.29 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]
Now, the word 'National' has just gone. This is a very important point. National examinations which are deemed to be important have been demanded by the Medical Council of India, by the Indian Medical Associa-

tion, the Post-graduate Committee of the Medical Council, Conferences on Post-graduate medical education and by other important bodies. But it seems that the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences has been trying to get the work of conducting 'National' Post-graduate examinations to itself in this indirect manner.

Post-graduate examinations in medicine are a dire need of this country. There are 89 Medical Colleges. Thousands of students are going outside for qualifying in higher examinations. As such, post-graduate examination of a national stature has become the dire need of this country. If this answer had not been given, probably I would have kept silent, but this answer means indirectly that the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences is trying to take the function to itself. This is a very important point, and there is a misunderstanding and apprehension among the members of the teaching profession in this country that this national examination should not be allowed to be conducted by any private body. This is my main contention. This thing has been mentioned not only by the Post-graduate Medical Committee of the Medical Council, not only by the Post-graduate conferences held in this country recently but by other bodies also. So, because of this fear, I am very anxious to find out from the Health Minister if there is any effort on the part of this private body to arrogate this examination to itself.

Secondly, in view of the very great importance attached to it, is Government considering the desirability of having a National Board of Examinations which will conduct the national examinations in this country?

Thirdly, if the reply is in the affirmative, how soon will the Government bring forward a measure in Parliament so that the National Board of Examinations is started in this country and higher examina-

tions are held by this important body, a body which is constituted by Parliament?

Because of this only I have raised this discussion. I would like to hear the hon. Minister of Health on this point about national examinations for this country.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi (Firozabad): I want to know how long this Indian Academy of Medical Sciences has been in existence and what financial and other help the Government has been giving it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवान) : जो मेडिकल कालेज इस समय हैं, उन में विद्यार्थियों को दाखिला बड़ी मुश्किल से मिलता है। ऐसा रूल बनाया गया है कि फर्स्ट डिविजन वाले विद्यार्थियों को पहला चंस दिया जायेगा। इस कारण सैकंड और थर्ड डिविजन वाले विद्यार्थियों के दाखिले में बड़ी मुश्किल होती है। लेकिन यह देखा जाता है कि फर्स्ट डिविजन के विद्यार्थियों को भी दाखिले में काफी दिक्कत होती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ऐसी व्यवस्था करने जा रही है कि ऐसे लोगों को दाखिला मिलने में कोई दिक्कत न हो और हमारे देश की वर्तमान आवश्यकताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अधिक से अधिक लोग मेडिकल कालेजों से पढ़ कर निकलें और देहात में जायें।

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. Sushila Nayar): The has nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : दूसरी बात मैं या कहना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में जो विक्रम विश्वविद्यालय है, क्या सरकार वहाँ भी कोई मेडिकल कालेज खोलने का विचार रखती है?

Dr. Sushila Nayar: To dispose of the last speaker's points first, the discussion that is being held does

[Dr. Sushila Nayar]

not deal with the undergraduate medical colleges, their opening or admissions, and therefore if the hon. Member wishes to know anything, there are other ways in which he can get the information.

With regard to the question asked by Mr. Chaturvedi, the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences was started—I do not remember the exact year, but it was during Mr. Karmarkar's time, my predecessor's time that it came into being, and Panditji inaugurated it, so that it has been in existence anywhere from five to ten years, I do not remember the exact year.

Similarly, there is not any figure at present with me as to what financial assistance they have received, but I do know that some financial assistance was given to them, as has been done for other similar bodies for their work which is considered of sufficient importance, namely to recognise talent in the medical profession and to have a forum for the best trained people with the highest qualifications to get together and promote medical science in different fields.

As for the question raised by Dr. Singh, I am aware of the fact that there has been a demand for some kind of national examinations to standardise the level of post-graduate medical education and ensure uniformly high standards of higher medical education. The objections that Mr. C. B. Singh referred to from the Medical Council of India as well as the medical association have been based on different grounds. So far as the medical association is concerned, they say that there are universities and inter-university boards, etc. and they can do this work. The truth of the matter is that the universities have themselves varying standards and it is because of it that it is being insisted that some effort be made to have uniformly higher standard. So

far as the inter-university board is concerned, we requested them if they could do something of this nature to ensure uniformly high standards and they said that they could not, because it would interfere with the autonomy of the universities. The medical council of India at one stage said that they might be entrusted with this examination but when it was considered carefully, it was realised that they are the agency to supervise the examinations and therefore, they could not conduct examinations. Then they suggested that there should be a special statutory board set up for this purpose. We have been thinking about it but ultimately the decision was that the time is not ripe for such a step. Many specialists and eminent scientists from different countries advised us that it will not be proper for the Government to take up this type of work and set up a special board for this purpose. In the meantime, the Academy of Medical Sciences which incidentally has practically most or almost all the most highly qualified people on its rolls as—its members and fellows decided to institute an examination for its own membership. I might mention that in Britain there are the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, gynaecologists, etc. and these colleges conduct their own examinations for membership. Many of our students have been going to these countries and taking these examinations paying exorbitant fees, spending many years of their life in those countries and then coming back sometimes with the membership and sometimes without it. These royal colleges have been wanting to set up similar examinations in India and wanting to start branches of the royal colleges here. We have resisted it because we felt in this country we have enough talent of our own and we do not want to be a branch of some royal college somewhere else, however eminent that might be. In the meantime the Academy said: "we shall conduct examinations of the

higher standards for our membership" and they talked to these royal colleges, etc. The Royal colleges are thinking of having reciprocity with us. Some of these colleges expressed an interest to have this reciprocity with the Academy. The Indian Academy has decided to hold the examinations and at the present moment I believe they are going to hold these examinations in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, pathology, medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology. They have decided to follow more or less the method that the Royal College of Surgeon follows, that is, the examination is in two parts. Part I deals with the basic sciences and Part II deals with clinical sciences. The Academy have decided to do the same. They have gone further and decided that a minimum period of training, I think, of three years, is necessary before anybody can take their examinations. They are an independent, autonomous body, and under the circumstances, there is no reason why the Government should interfere with their choice to hold the examinations as they have decided to do. Government has not given them any assurance that their examinations will be recognised as national examination. If the standards are high enough, they will receive respect and recognition from all parts of the country, from all medical scientists in the country. If the standards are not high enough, well, they will not get that respect, and the boys and girls may not go to them to take these examinations. They have fixed certain fees: I think it is Rs. 250 for Part I and Rs. 350 for Part II of the

examinations; if their examinations are really able to command the respect from the medical expert opinion in the country, then only they will command sufficient respect with the candidates who are likely to take these examinations.

Under these circumstances I think the opposition to this idea is based on some kind of misconception and misunderstanding which I would like to remove. It is not that the Government of India has entrusted the academy with the conduct of national examination; it is not that the academy has taken upon itself to conduct the national examination. The academy has decided to conduct the examinations to admit members in future. To start with, they have taken members who are considered to be very highly qualified, but in future, they want to test the younger people and admit only those who are really qualified to be members. Out of the members they may elect fellows as they have been doing. That is a different matter, not related to examinations.

Therefore, I hope that Dr. Chandrabhan Singh will feel satisfied that nothing is contemplated or being done which is contrary to the interests of higher medical education in India.

17.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 5, 1966, Sravana 14, 1888 (Saka).