

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, May 2, 1985/ Vaisakha 12, 1907
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : You are welcome back, Sir.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : You have come very early.

MR. SPEAKER : Seven days' work has been completed in two and a half days.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : We had been missing you in the House.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : What have you brought for the children ?

MR. SPEAKER : Is not this big toy enough ?

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : You are welcome back again Sir. The Deputy Speaker has also done very well in your absence.

MR. SPEAKER : He is a good man. He has done good work. Secretary-General to call the Member to take oath.

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2

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN
(Tiruchendur)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Recognition of Medical College, Trichur
(Kerala)

*670. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government Medical College, Trichur (Kerala) has sought recognition for its degrees from the Medical Council of India and the date on which Kerala Government sought such recognition on behalf of the College ;

(b) the details of action taken by the Medical Council of India in this regard ; and

(c) if the Council has denied recognition, what deficiencies on the staff pattern, equipment or laboratory facilities have been noticed and the details of the ground on which such recognition has been denied ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala made a reference to the Medical Council of India on 26.4.84 for the recognition of the M.B.B.S. qualifications granted by Calicut University for the students being trained at Government Medical College, Trichur. The Council informed the college authorities that the inspection would be carried out in the first

week of April, 1985. However, the Director of Medical Education, Kerala and the Principal, Government Medical College, Trichur requested for postponement of the inspection for 3 to 4 months on the ground that the building of the District Hospital, Trichur which was providing clinical facilities to the Medical college was under repair.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : This is an astonishing answer. As a result of long standing demand, the Government of Kerala started this medical college in Trichur. Now the students have already entered the final year. The first batch of students in the first year have to be taught anatomy, physiology and bio-chemistry and this batch had to go through these courses without any laboratory facilities for any of these subjects. So, I do not know how their examinations were conducted. This answer concedes that earlier the medical college, according to a reply given in Kerala Assembly—I do not want to say that—was refused recognition and now it says that the college is undergoing repairs. There are no buildings to be repaired. They have had a master plan made in the suburbs of Trichur, near Mulugunatha Kavay for a complex of buildings and hospitals.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : They can have the repairs first and then the buildings.

MR. SPEAKER : Anticipated repairs ?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : But this has not come up. Now the students have to appear in Pathology and Microbiology and there are no functioning laboratories for both these subjects. This is the condition. As for staff, most of the staff posted here from Calicut or Trivandrum, are taking leave because there are no quarters and there are no facilities. So, students are left to fend for themselves. This amounts to cheating of students by the Government and I am astonished that the hon. Minister is also becoming a party to this by saying that it is under repairs. It is very clear from the second part of the question that they have again sought 3 or 4 months for a further inspection by the Council. Therefore, I want to know what is the policy of the Government of India, which is responsible in Parlia-

ment for the Medical Council and its functioning not only for the Trichur college but for various other colleges which are mushrooming all over India, providing sub-standard medical education and endangering the lives of people. So, I would like to know the policy.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Government of India's policy is very clear, viz. We are not encouraging any new medical college at present. In spite of that, various State Governments and private organizations also have started medical colleges in some parts of the country.....

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Because there is a demand.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes; there is a demand. That may be one of the reasons for that. But it is not the college, as the hon. Member says; they have said that it is the hospital building which they are going to use for clinical purposes, that is under repairs. Therefore, they have sought 3 or 4 months' time. But the policy of the Government of India, as I said, is not to encourage, any more colleges, particularly medical colleges in the country.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : But they cannot ban them,

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : My second question would relate to the first question. He says that the policy is not that; but what about the colleges which have already been established ? You have a problem here now, viz. that these students are being provided sub-standard medical education, and they do not know what will happen, whether their degrees will be recognized, so that they can practise.

MR. SPEAKER : How did they start it at all ?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : That is exactly the question. How were they allowed ? What are the criteria laid down by the Government for acceptance or recognition of a medical college ; and if it does not fulfil them, is Government of India going to be a helpless spectator ; or would it force the State Government or whosoever is

running this medical college or other institutions which are running, to conform to certain standards? (*Interruption*) There are certain standards to be maintained in professional education. Otherwise, you will be ruining the careers of people who have joined, in the hope that their degrees will be recognized. Do you have any such policy? Will you give any instructions to this college, as well as other colleges?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Indian Medical Council Act is very clear. Under Section 11 (1) of the Indian Medical Council Act, it is said that the medical qualifications granted by any University or Medical Institution in India which are included in the First Schedule, shall be the recognized medical qualifications for the purpose of this Act.

So, those who are recognized, are mentioned in the First Schedule of the Act. If they are in the First Schedule, then they are recognized. If they are not recognized or if they are not in the First Schedule of the Act, then according to Section 11 (2), they have to apply. Then the Indian Medical Council inspects it. If, from all standards they are found fit, then recognition is given. But in the case of certain Universities, e.g. the Calicut University—this college is under the Calicut University—the Calicut University itself is under Schedule I of the Act. Therefore, there is no question of recognizing this college. It is already recognized, because it is affiliated to the University which is already recognized by the Indian Medical Council. It is the University which is recognized, and the particular individual colleges. The standard of the college and everything else is seen by the Universities before affiliating it. So, it is for the Universities to decide whether it should be affiliated, or not.

Now, the Calicut University in its wisdom has affiliated this college. That means, we have to take it for granted that certain facilities are available. But when we go and inspect, we will look at it from the point of view of all the standards, and we will see that they are there, and if they are not there, then we will ask the University and the college to conform to them.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : As things stand, to-day anybody or any agency can start a medical college, provided the University gives recognition. That is what he said. But, for the approval of MBBS Degree the Indian Medical Council has to give recognition. Not only the Trichur Medical College, there are other medical colleges also where students have been admitted, as you know, after talking huge amount as capitation fee. They study for two or three years and after that they come to know that there is no approval of the degree by the Indian Medical Council. Such situation prevails in other States also. I can give names of the college also. Why can't you devise a system by which the university can start a medical college only after getting approval of the Indian Medical Council also? Why should you allow mushrooming of medical college to be started with so-called recognition of the university who do not look into the medical aspect or equipment or building or other aspects. So, there should be a condition that a medical college and for that matter the engineering college also can be started only after getting approval of the concerned central authority. What is your reaction?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The first thing is that Prof. Kurien himself is under confusion. The degree is not given by the medical college, the degree is always given by the university to which it is affiliated, and the university is recognised by the Indian Medical Council and not an individual college. I have already told you about section 11 (1) and 11 (2) of the Indian Medical Council Act. So, it is the university whose degree is recognised. So far as the other part of the question is concerned about mushrooming of colleges coming up all over the country and lowering the standard, the Government is seized of the situation. We are in the process of amending the Act and making it stringent so that nobody can do it. But, so far as the law as it exists today is concerned, it is there and they can do it.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The Minister just now said that it is the university which recognise, a degree. But I may remind him that after the Medical Council gives the approval of the college, then only the university will recognise a degree.

There was a proposal before the government that there should be prior approval of the institution before actually the institution starts. Is that proposal under the consideration of the government ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have already explained the policy and again I would like to inform the hon. member that health is a State subject and the universities are autonomous under the UGC Act, and it is for the university to affiliate any college. The Government of India has to see that it has maintained all standards and that we do when we go for inspection. But that stage comes when they approach us, if they do not approach then we do not go for inspection also, for your information, because it is not within our jurisdiction, we cannot do it : and we are rather helpless. Therefore, I said, we are going to amend this Act.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Before opening any new medical college or engineering college, is there any manpower planning about the requirement of the technical or other aspects' medical personnel or whether they are just being given permission to open them by saying that they are in need of more technical manpower or whether it is based specifically on any planning done in this regard ? Is it in the knowledge of Government of India that the Government of Maharashtra proposes to open some new private medical colleges in the State ; if so, what is the decision of the government in this regard ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The same question is coming in different form. I have already explained the policy of the government, the position as it exists today, according to the law and about opening up of new colleges. Now so far as Maharashtra Government is concerned, I do not know whether they are opening new college or not. But once they will open we also will come to know and the hon. Member also will come to know.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria. Absent.

DR. Vijaya Rama Rao. Absent.

Recognition of Loaders Engaged in Loco-Sheds and Transhipment Sheds as Railway employees

* 673 : **SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI :**

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Western, Southern and a portion of Central Railways recognise persons engaged in loading and unloading of coal including ash clearance in loco-sheds and loading and unloading of goods in transhipment sheds as Railway employees while other Railways do not recognise them as such ;

(b) whether these jobs were declared to be of permanent nature by Railway Advisory Board as far back as 1977 ; and

(c) if so, why this discrimination and when it is likely to be rectified ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c). The work of loading and unloading of coal including ash clearance in Loco Sheds and loading and unloading of goods in Transhipment Sheds on the Railways is normally executed through private Contractors/Labour Contract Cooperative Societies except in certain cases on Central, South Central, Western and Southern Railways where this work is done departmentally. Persons employed by the Railway administrations departmentally are railway employees whereas those employed by the Contractors/Labour Contract Cooperative Societies are not.

The Hon'ble Member seems to be referring to the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board, which had not drawn any conclusion in regard to the jobs done by Contract labour engaged in coal and ash handling operation as of permanent nature. However, the said Board after a good deal of discussions had reached general consensus, with the Ministry of Railways representatives having reservations, in favour of abolition of the