

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 18th December, 1968/the
27th Agrahayana, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SCIENTIFIC ATTACHES IN INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

*630. SHRI KRISHAN KANT† :
SHRI R. P. SINHA :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be
pleased to state :

(a) the countries where Indian Scientific Attaches have been appointed in the Indian Missions abroad;

(b) what has been the experience of such appointments ; and

(c) whether Government propose to make similar appointments in our missions in other countries also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Scientific Attaches have been appointed, specifically, in our High Commission in London.

(b) These Attaches have worked for closer scientific collaboration between India and Britain and other participating Commonwealth countries and have performed clearing house functions for scientific information for our scientists.

(c) The Government will consider making such appointments in our Missions in other countries as and when necessary.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the Government whether it is not time that they think that such scientific attaches are appointed in countries like the USA, USSR, UAR and especially South East Asian countries where we want to develop our contacts and what is the hitch at present because this has been hanging fire for a number of years ? With the USA we are having scientific collaborations.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

May I know from the Government as to which are the countries with which we have scientific collaboration agreements and whether we are thinking of having such scientific attaches in these countries ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : At present we have such agreements with ten countries. They are UAR, GDR, West Germany, UK, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, USA, and Bulgaria. There are two proposals at present under consideration for appointment of scientific officers in our missions abroad, one in USSR and the other in UAR. About other countries also we are thinking and we will take a decision shortly.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the Government if these scientific attaches merely work as clearing house for information or they are also used for promoting Indian patents which have been filed in foreign countries by spending foreign exchange and secondly whether our scientific attaches, particularly in the U.K., are consulted when collaboration for scientific know-how is entered into because these are the people who should be able to tell what type of scientific collaboration this country needs and what type of collaboration those countries can supply ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : In addition to their functions as clearing house for information we do consult them and they also help us in getting scientific know-how which is necessary for research purposes and for industrial purposes also.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Minister to tell us whether he has instructed the scientific attaches to contact Indian scientists resident abroad who do not wish to return to India and find out from them their requirements in regard to job placement in India if they want to return ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : Yes, Sir. Very much so.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government whether these scientific attaches in the UK and the USA are scientists or whether they are Government servants in the IAS cadre and if so what purpose does the Government think they will serve

by appointing IAS Joint Secretaries in the cadre of scientific officers? Secondly may I know whether the Government has not found it necessary to have liaison with advanced countries, especially Japan which is developing scientific knowledge to a large extent by appointing a very formidable scientist to have liaison with Japanese scientists?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : So long the system was men from the cadre were sent to different countries as scientific attaches. Now we have taken a stand that we should send men from the universities, scientific men. We have taken a decision on that.

With regard to the second question about Japan, I personally invited the Minister of Education of Japan to come here. As a matter of fact he gave a date last month and he wanted to come but unfortunately due to students trouble in Japan he postponed it for a few months but we are at it and we will see that scientists from the universities are sent as scientific attaches for a period of time. That is our decision.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the terms of reference to the Scientific Attaches include contacting the Indian scientists and technologists in foreign countries and to persuade them and if that is admitted may I know why there is no Scientific Attache in the USA because the largest number of Indian scientists and technologists are at present in America?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, in the USA we have got one officer; he is in the rank of a Minister, I am told. But only last week we got a letter from the Ambassador that they are dividing USA into three zones and appointing officers in the three different zones to contact our scientists and to know their mind and to find out what they are doing and what facilities they would require on return. We have taken steps to have four officers in the four zones in different parts of the USA to take care of our nationals who are working in the universities and in industry.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : May I know what are the functions of these scientific attaches in the various embassies?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : That question has been answered, Sir.

TRANSPORT SURVEY (1967) ON INLAND WATERWAYS IN WEST BENGAL

*631. **SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 997 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th August 1968 and state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Government have since formulated their views on the report on the Transport Survey (1967) on inland waterways in West Bengal and transmitted them to the Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the essential features of the report, and

(c) the reactions of the Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO) : (a) to (c) The Government of West Bengal which have since considered the report on transport survey (1967) on inland waterways in West Bengal are of the view that the report contains guide materials regarding the waterways and the traffic over them and that there is nothing in the report that needs immediate implementation.

The development of inland waterways other than those declared as National Waterways is the responsibility of the State Government. Based on the decision of the National Development Council, only selected and well defined schemes relating to inland water transport would be taken up during the Fourth Plan as centrally sponsored schemes. The Government of India have also set up a Committee to study the problems relating to inland water transport in the country and against a perspective of development of this form of transport in different regions suggest phased programme of development and assessment of the possibility of drawing up specific schemes in selected regions in the first phase. The question of formulation and inclusion of any scheme for development of waterways which have got traffic potential and where there are possibilities of running commercial services will be considered on receipt of the recommendations of the Committee.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India considers it desirable