

be adequate enough reason for taking steps to nationalise these general insurance companies and would the Government take immediate steps to nationalise them?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: May I say that the very fact that there is emergency will delay the whole consideration because it is not good to disturb these things just now in the emergency? And then it is also a wrong idea to suppose that there are enormous funds lying in general insurance companies. That also is wrong.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a fact that when this matter of life insurance was considered all the material facts in regard to general insurance were also known to the Government and if so what exactly is the Government enquiring into—apart from the consideration of delay—and in what manner is the enquiry being conducted? May I know whether the employees are also being consulted in this matter?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: There is no question of consulting the employees. The employees are agitating for nationalisation; it is true but the Government do not consult them for this purpose. Of course their privileges and other things should also be considered whenever anything is done but that does not mean that they should be consulted; then the owners should also be consulted. The Government will take all the facts into consideration, all the representations that are there. It may take into consideration some aspects of general insurance and not all aspects of it. Therefore there are various things which are being considered.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I was not suggesting that I was opposed to owners<sup>4</sup> being consulted. Is it not a fact that these employees and their unions have placed before the Government various memoranda and material facts making out a very

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strong! case for nationalisation and may I know whether in view of this they are going to be consulted in this matter? I am not objecting to other consultations being made.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: No. Sir.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May we have some idea of the funds now lying with the general insurance companies?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We do not have information about the specific amount but it must be stated clearly that the reserves are not very much.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: I want to know whether it is not a fact that these companies have built up certain reserves—may not be enormous according to the Finance Minister—and would not the Government take steps to somehow utilise these reserves for the purpose of meeting the needs of defence.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a fact that the control of general insurance on certain aspects of our economy is some thing which is far beyond the financial resources of the State and that this in itself is an important factor for nationalising these concerns?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: That presumption is not true.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that most of the reserves of general insurance companies are already in Government securities?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir, to a large extent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

#### ADMISSION TO M.B.B.S. CLASSES ON MERIT

•332. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical College Authorities have been advised to admit students to M.B.B.S. classes strictly on merit in future;

(b) if so, whether all the said Authorities have agreed to abide by the advice; and

(c) whether all the State Governments have also agreed to abide by this advice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (DR. D. S. RAJU) : (a) to (c) The Central Council of Health at their meeting held in October, 1962 recommended that as far as admission to medical colleges was concerned, merit should be the major criterion for admission. Copies of the resolution passed by the Council have been forwarded to the State Governments and Union Territories. The State Governments have yet to formulate their views and decisions. In the Colleges under the Control of the Union Government the general principle of merit is already being followed.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Are we to understand that till now admissions to the various medical colleges were not being made strictly on grounds of merit and that is why it was considered necessary by the Central Council of Health to render such advice to all the medical institutions?

DR. D. S. RAJU: It is the general policy and view of the Central Government that merit should be the sole criterion but there are certain constitutional provisions, certain reservations in the Constitution for the Scheduled Castes and Backward Tribes. Apart from that I think they generally go by merit.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I might add—the hon. Member knows it as well as we do that—besides the constitutional provision there are reservations in the name of backward com-

munities, backward districts and all kinds of other reservations. As a matter of fact the Courts have intervened in certain cases and declared that there should not be such an extent of reservation. The Central Council of Health felt that medicine is one field which deals with life and death and everyone wants to have a first rate doctor when he or she or their near ones are seriously ill. And, therefore, it considered necessary that in admission to medical colleges no other consideration except merit should weigh.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether at present most of the institutes have been admitting candidates strictly on a regional basis? May I know from the Government whether any instructions have been issued to admit students to medical colleges strictly on merit without considerations of region?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: So far as institutions under the control of the Government of India are concerned, merit and merit alone is being borne in mind and not regional considerations. So far as medical colleges under the control of the State Governments are concerned, they have different rules in different States.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister said that the general principle followed in Union territories is that of merit. I should like to ask her whether merit means going by the marks obtained in the examination or examination marks plus marks secured at an oral interview?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Generally speaking what has been done is this. Fifty per cent, of marks are counted on the basis of the pre-University examination marks. Sometimes special tests are held and 25 per cent, is counted for the test papers and 25 per cent, on the basis of interview.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government

are aware that there are several institutes still in the country which do not hold any written tests for admission to these colleges and they select candidates by interview or based on mere applications and whether the Government are considering issuing advice to all institutions to hold written tests also?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir it is a matter which is being discussed at various levels whether a separate and pre-admission examination should be considered necessary in view of differing standards in different universities, but there is no final conclusion on that.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know, Sir, if the Central Government will refuse financial assistance to State medical colleges which admit people on grounds other than merit?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: There is no such proposal at the moment. We are all anxious to have better standards of performance in every field, particularly in the field of medicine, and we are discussing it with the State Governments. We hope that the State Governments will agree with us that it is important to give consideration to merit.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know from the hon. Minister why, in addition to the 50 per cent, of the university examination marks and 25 per cent, marks for the test, there is the necessity of having 25 per cent, for interview? It is not service, it is admission.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: The hon. Member knows very well that besides the answers in written examinations there are certain other criteria which go to make a good doctor and which can be judged better in an interview.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if she is aware that there are

colleges which admit students on payment of money, greater the money, greater the number of seats and the first preference is given to the greatest amount offered. I would like to know if such a system is prevailing in the country.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: What the hon. Member has said is not exactly correct. There are certain colleges which have been started by private agencies wherein they have charged something like Rs. 5,000 at the time of admission and afterwards a thousand rupees per year as fees. There are a large number of medical students of well-to-do parents, and all applicants are not able to find seats in medical colleges, seats being limited. We need more medical colleges. If some enterprising people have started these colleges on their own strength, I do not think that it is a matter for anyone to complain about. The well-to-do can pay the money and secure admission. I may add that even in these colleges the minimum standards for admission laid down by the Government of India and the universities are observed.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know how the hon. Minister is going to resolve this contradiction. In one case she wants the best man and merit alone shall be the criterion. In the other case it is money. How does she propose to effect a compromise between the two?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 'She has said that the standards and criteria of admission are the same.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it is proposed to allow liberal inter-State transfers of students in the first and second year and even in the beginning of the third year? May I know whether inter-State transfers are allowed?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: If I may say it, inter-State transfers are not allowed frequently in the middle of the

tt | Hindi transliteration.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAK: I wish to inform the hon. Member that that is already so because the Government of India has given them a certain amount of money and on the basis of that it has got a certain number of seats to which it nominates pupils.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Is it not a fact that one of these speculative Medical Colleges was refused affiliation by the Madras University, and immediately on that refusal it turned to another University which was good enough to recognise that speculative Medical College?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAK: I have not quite followed him. Perhaps he has said that somebody has refused admission in one place.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: I said refused affiliation by the Madras University on account of the speculative character of that Medical College, and that College immediately applied to another University and got its affiliation recognised.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAK: I do not accept the charge. I do not know what he means by speculative activities. There are no speculative activities. The accounts of these institutions are audited, they are open to everybody. They are honourable men who are managing these institutions in different parts of the country. It is possible that the Madras University might not have affiliated a particular college and another University might have done that. I do not remember offhand.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Are we to understand that the Government of India is paying to these private institutions some amount of money for the admission of the students selected by the Government of India?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAK: The Government of India is paying money to a large number of private institutions including some of these private Medi-

cal Colleges, and the Government of India is keeping a certain number of seats in these Colleges as in some others.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: Is it a fact that one College in Calcutta is charging Rs. 12,000 and not Rs. 5,000 for admission that there are no "floor" marks, and that marks are not taken into consideration for admission into the College?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAK: I have no knowledge about that. If the hon. Member tells me about it I shall pass it on to the State Government, and the Calcutta University will look into it.

#### DECISIONS TAKEN AT WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION MEETING IN DELHI

\*333. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state the decisions taken at the Session of the Regional Body for India and other Eastern countries of World Health Organisation held recently in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAK): A Statement containing the main decisions is laid on the table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

##### *Malaria Eradication*

The Committee recommended that W.H.O. should assist Member Countries in undertaking independent appraisals of the various stages of their malaria eradication programme.

##### *Advancement of National Health Planning*

The Regional Committee,

(1) Recommended that W.H.O. should study the possibilities of utilizing the facilities already existing in some countries for orienting health administrators in the techniques of national planning and should assist in the development of such facilities in the Region;