

The House reassembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

**MOTION RE THE CASE OF DR.
M. T. JOSEPH**

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhargava will move the motion

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is all right but before that I would like to say this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He gave notice earlier.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to make one point clear. Last time I gave notice of the motion even before the last session was over but the motion was held over. The date was fixed and Mr. Patil was to have come and taken part in the debate but he had to go to Amritsar and I accommodated him. And I was told that the motion had been held over. Now, due to this technical flaw, this has happened.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will also speak.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But it is an advantage if from the Opposition side the motion is moved. Anyway, I would only point out that I was under the impression that it was held over and the matter would come up again. Otherwise, I could have insisted on that date that Mr. S. K. Patil should come here. I accommodated him and this is the return that I have got. Thank you. Let him speak.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to move the following motion:

"That the circumstances relating to the suicide by Dr. M. T. Joseph, a Teaching Assistant at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, as disclosed in the statement on the subject made by the Minister of

Food and Agriculture in the Rajya Sabha on February 10, 1960, be taken into consideration."

Sir, at the outset I want to thank the Food Minister, Mr. S. K. Patil, for all the interest he has been taking in the affair after the incident. He has gone out of the way to make some funds available to the family and he is trying to do whatever is possible. Now, in the statement made by Mr. Patil he has said . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will please take 15 minutes, Mr. Bhargava and give 15 minutes to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I hope the time will be extended by two minutes because I began late.

Now, in his statement Mr. Patil has said that the cause of his death was reported to be frustration due to the fact that he was drawing meagre salary in spite of high qualifications and that Government was standing in the way of his promotion. In the light of the evidence we have to judge whether the facts indicated in the statement are correct or whether the facts as I am going to place would lead us to some other conclusion. Much has been said about his qualifications and that he was only a third class B.Sc. Now, if a person happens to get a third class in B.Sc., it does not mean that for all his future life he has a disqualification, and even if he improves in subsequent years it remains a disqualification.

Mr. Joseph joined the Institute in 1945. I will give the opinion of a person under whom he had the opportunity to work even as far back as 1945 and that is the opinion of Mr. P. V. Isaac, Imperial Entomologist, who wrote about him towards the end of the year 1945 as follows:

"He has considerable teaching experience both in school and college. He has considerable research experience in Entomology. He is also an experienced Economic Entomologist and has

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been carrying out large-scale insect control operations throughout India. He has also been engaged in experiments in pest control. He has also worked in Indian villages for intensive agricultural production. He has special training in statistics and has gained considerable and wide office experience by working under American experts. He is keenly interested in research work and has the capacity to do independent research carefully and intelligently. I have great pleasure in strongly recommending him for higher training in applied Entomology.

He has considerable teaching experience both in school and college and good training in Zoology and Botany. He is very methodical and has the capacity for investigational work in Biology. His training in Statistics is an additional help in doing research work."

If I am wrong, the hon. Minister will correct me. Then it is said that he took very long for his Ph.D. Degree abroad. Now, I will give you some opinion about his work abroad. Early in 1954, the Head of the Entomology Division, wrote something about him. It is as follows:

"The results embodied in the M.Sc. thesis have established useful facts of theoretical and practical importance. Shri Joseph has good experience of controlling insect infestations of agricultural crops in the field, and pests of stored grain in godowns by the use of organic and inorganic insecticides. I have known him well for about nine years and have a good opinion about his character and initiative in tackling insect control problems in the field."

This was about his M.Sc. thesis. Then the Director of the Personnel Service wrote in 1955:

"He is an excellent student, reliable, honest and trustworthy."

Then I will quote from the opinion of Prof. James Mullen of Fordham University in which Mr. Joseph had occasion to work. Prof. James Mullen says:

"Mr. Joseph is very thorough and greatly interested in Entomology. His work was well appreciated by me and my students. There were times when he conducted the classes alone. I feel that Mr. Joseph will prove an asset to any institution just as he has to Fordham."

Then Dr. Bailey P. Pepper, Chairman of the Department of Entomology of Rutgers University, while writing about him says:

"Mr. Joseph showed outstanding interest in the research by the staff members of this department. His reports were of excellent quality and from all appearances he gained considerable information of practical nature from his contacts in this department."

Then when he came back, Dr. Narayan, Head of the Entomology Division again wrote about him:

"Dr. Joseph is a diligent and intelligent research worker deeply interested in his work. With the advanced training he has received in the latest techniques in insect physiology, he ought to be able to accomplish much in this country where insect physiology has not made much headway. He bears an excellent character."

Dr. Alexander Wolsky of New York, Professor of Entomology, with whom he had the opportunity to work, wrote as follows:

"His work and activity here . . . That is in America.

" . . . was of high quality and the results obtained very important."

From all these, what is the conclusion we derive? The conclusion is that he was above the average and we cannot brush aside the whole affair by saying that he was a Third

Division B.Sc. The very fact that in spite of the unhelpful attitude and obstructionist tactics of the authorities of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute he was able to get the M.Sc. Degree by research from the University of Travancore in 1953 and a Ph.D. from the U.S.A. bears ample testimony to his interest in research work. That is one side of the picture.

Now, I come to the second side of the picture and that is about the denial of posts. He came back from America and then he was trying to better his prospects. But from the facts that I will give you will see how he was hampered at every stage. In the statement which Mr. S. K. Patil made it was said that he was interviewed on five occasions but not selected. He was called for interview for the sixth post but did not appear. On the 7th occasion he was selected for being interviewed but the interview had not taken place when he committed suicide. Now, so far back as 6th June 1959, he submitted an application for the post of Assistant Director, Plant Protection. That application reached the Union Public Service Commission on 12th August 1959, $1\frac{1}{2}$ months after the closing date.

That is the first instance. Then, he applied for the post of Assistant Professor of Entomology. And what happens there? In respect of the same posts in the Botany and Mycology departments of IARI, four out of six posts were filled by departmental candidates, even though they were not Ph.D. holders. Thus, departmental candidates of Botany and Mycology were given preference over well-qualified outside candidates. In the Entomology Division, where Dr. Joseph worked, on the other hand, highly qualified applicants like Dr. Joseph and some others having an international reputation were just ignored. The candidates actually selected stood nowhere in comparison

with some of the rejected candidates. It would appear that there was a lot of behind-the-scene activity in respect of this selection.

Then, he applied for the post of Assistant Toxicologist and in preference to him one of his students was selected. Then, he was called for another interview and a funny thing happened, please note. It was about the post of Assistant Entomologist in the same department. The interview call came from the U.P.S.C. in November, 1959. By then Dr. Joseph was highly dejected and not particularly interested in any more applications and interviews. Added to this, the Head of the Entomology Division advised him not to appear for interview, since he had no chance of getting the job. The Head pointed out that having qualified, but not selected, a month previously for a Class II post when interviewed by the U.P.S.C. for the post of Assistant Toxicologist, Dr. Joseph would be prejudicing the Commission if he failed to get qualified this time. Now, this advice was not given without motive. The motive for this advice, which Dr. Joseph believed to be sincere, became clear when the Head of the Division, by a special letter, requested the Commission to include for interview the name of his lady assistant, who is an M.Sc. with only three years' experience. This lady had not been considered for interview by the Commission. Dr. Joseph's desire to avoid the embarrassment of being in Delhi and not appearing for interview by the U.P.S.C., as advised by the Head, was one of the reasons which prompted him to leave Delhi for Bombay. How much this betrayal damaged the dejected man is evident from his leave application dated 4th December, 1959, in which he says:—

"I have not been feeling well for two or three weeks."

Then, come another two posts.

There are several other cases which I could give to show how his applica-

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tions were being delayed. It is not one or two cases as was made out in the statement. There are at least a dozen cases where his application was either delayed—or not sent—in his own department. As far as the other departments were concerned, he was told that it was not in the bond. What was the bond? The bond which he gave is only this:—

"I, M. T. Joseph, Senior Scientific Assistant, Entomology Division, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, hereby solemnly give an undertaking that I will serve the Government of India in whatever capacity I am called upon to do at least for a period of three years after my return from training in the U.S.A. on the expiry of the special leave."

Now, the bond was that he would serve the Government of India. Why were his applications not forwarded for posts in the Government of India, for example the Haffkine Institute, the Atomic Energy Commission, I fail to understand. All these things lead me to think that there is something seriously wrong in that institution in which Dr. Joseph was working. It is not so much a case of Dr. Joseph's suicide as the underlying principle of the treatment being meted out to our young scientists at the IARI. Something is seriously wrong. It must be attended to immediately. There some officers, it seems, have made themselves into some sort of a clique and a thorough and impartial enquiry into its working seems to be the only remedy to restore the shaken confidence of the people working there.

Another important question is how to ensure the future of the Government servants in their own departments or failing that in the Government of India elsewhere. As the House is aware, I had taken up this question with the Home Ministry and in the last session the Home Minister said that they were considering issuing a circular to liberalise the rules

for forwarding applications. In this session when I repeated the question, what I was told was that there was no intention of doing this. This is something which I cannot understand. So, this is a question which must be taken up. It is not a question that one man has died and some arrangements have been made. It is a question affecting all the scientific workers in India, not only in the Food and Agriculture Ministry, but elsewhere also. So we must look into this question and try to set matters right.

In the end, I would only like to invite the attention of the House to a letter which was published in the "*Hindustan Standard*" from one Mr. K. C. Saxena and I would like that to be part of the proceedings. It gives the present fate of our scientific workers. I hope, dynamic as Mr. Patil is, he will take steps to remedy the defects wherever they exist.

Thank you.

The question was proposed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, just before his suicide, Dr. M. T. Joseph wrote to the hon. Minister, Shri S. K. Patil, that the authorities at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the Ministry were responsible for this tragedy. That was on the 1st January this year. What is most regrettable is that after this tragedy the entire endeavour of the Ministry and this particular Institute has been to suppress facts and suggest falsehood. And I can tell you that not all the thousands of rupees that Shri S. K. Patil had been collecting would be able to hide the glaring and howling truth demanding justice and remedy. In February, Shri S. K. Patil made a statement before this House, based on a report by one of his Deputy Secretaries, Mr. Tyabji. I have nothing against Mr. Tyabji personally. I do not know him. But from the materials that I have collected from Bombay and other places, through

interviews and otherwise, I am convinced that the entire enquiry was based on the official records. There was no proper enquiry at all. It is no wonder that this enquiry and the statement based on the enquiry have not satisfied the country. Public confidence remains shaken as ever and, if I may say so, Shri S. K. Patil's statement has been an insult to the intelligence of the nation, because many of the things which he has said in the statement are contradicted by undisputed facts coming from irreproachable quarters and even from official records. Moreover, by this statement he and his Government have done less than justice to the members of the bereaved family and to the memory of the departed scientist. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Dr. Joseph's family consisted of his wife, five children and himself. It was a sizeable family, and what the hon. Minister says about his earnings does not give the real picture. Actually, at the time of his suicide he was getting Rs. 245 per month as salary, but that is nominal. After deductions of provident fund, house rent and postal life insurance he was getting Rs. 200. Then more deductions were made by the Education Department for repayment of the loan on account of the passage expenses at the rate of Rs. 100 per month. Then there was deduction on account of electricity bill which came to in November and December to Rs. 72. I shall explain why it was Rs. 72. After his return Dr. Joseph was put in a different flat where the electric meter was shared by forty flats, and he protested against it, but he was given no remedy. Earlier he was occupying a three-room flat, but after returning from the United States he was shifted to a two-room flat and the electric charges went high, and much of it fell on him although he was not responsible for the consumption of electricity by other tenants.

Now I find, and I verified it, that the actual pay packet—please note it—of Dr. Joseph, the head of a

family of seven, varied from Rs. 7 to Rs. 60 per month. That was the position, let there be no mistake about it. This in itself should have chilled the conscience of any decent man functioning under such conditions. How on earth a scientist who is the head of a family of seven could manage with a sum between Rs. 7 and Rs. 60, Rs. 60 at the highest and Rs. 7 at the lowest, is hard to understand. This is the position. Therefore, that aspect of the statement is wrong, because the Minister suppresses the human part of it, the relevant truth.

Then, Sir, let me come to another aspect of the matter. Actually he made 21 applications for higher positions, and except three or four applications not one application was forwarded in time to the proper authorities. It is no use telling us that they were forwarded later, some of them, because by that time he had lost his chance. Three applications for posts in the I.A.R.I. itself were forwarded but he was not selected. Seven applications were for posts in the Food and Agriculture Ministry. Three of them were not forwarded. Three applications were forwarded after the closing date for receiving applications, and the remaining application for a post in the Food and Agriculture Ministry was being tossed back and forth between the Ministry and the Institute till December 1959. I should like this fact to be challenged. Two applications for posts in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research were held up for long, and there is an admission about it in the Minister's statement itself. For Government of India jobs outside the Food and Agriculture Ministry three applications were made. An application for a job in the Malaria Institute of India, Delhi, submitted in September 1958 was forwarded after eleven months, in August 1959. The chance was lost. An application for a job in the Atomic Energy Establishment in Bombay was made. The "no objection" certificate by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute was issued

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too late and worded in a very ambiguous manner.

. Then there was an application for a job in the Haffkine Institute of Bombay. The job was offered directly by the Institute to Dr. Joseph provided the application was forwarded through the I.A.R.I. The Institute refused to forward the application, and a good chance, a good opportunity before him was again lost. Later on the post was advertised by the Bombay Public Service Commission. The Institute demanded that he should refund Rs. 2565.50 before his application for the post could be forwarded. This demand was put after the closing date for receiving applications was over. First of all they did not forward it in time. Then they insisted on the repayment of Rs. 2500 which he took as a loan. It was not merely a question of getting from him a bond. He was treated all through, this is my allegation, as a bond-slave by the authorities of the Institute, and nothing could be more shocking, more inhuman, more scandalous, than this kind of treatment meted out to one of the scientists of our country, more especially when we are short of scientists and technicians today. That is the position that I take in this connection.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, there is another story. In his D.O. letter No. DG/PS/59-42 of 9th January 1959 to the Secretary, University Grants Commission, the Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research wrote:

"Dr. Joseph might get a post-doctorate fellowship from C.S.I.R. if the I.A.R.I. and the scientist under whom he is working make such recommendation to us."

This letter was forwarded to Dr. Joseph who duly submitted his application proposing a scheme for the study of the effect of poisoning on insect blood. The scheme was recommended by the head of the division who offered the working facilities of

the I.A.R.I. But the authorities of the I.A.R.I. turned down the application after sleeping over it for three months. This is how the tale goes.

Reference has been made to the U.P.S.C. method, but who constituted the Selection Board of the U.P.S.C.? One member was from the U.P.S.C.; one was an official of the Ministry; the third the Director of the Institute or his nominee. The Director of the Institute or his nominee was the technical adviser and his word was decisive. Many of the interviews took only five minutes or so, and decision was taken on the basis of the advice of the Director of the Institute or his nominee none of whom had taken kindly to Dr. Joseph. Naturally, you cannot expect a person from the Union Public Service Commission or an official of the Ministry to know much about the matter. Therefore, naturally, reasonably, to some extent they depended on the advice given by the expert coming from the particular Institute, and always he gave wrong advice and unkind advice. The result was that rejections took place one after another. That is how he was treated. Therefore, let us not make much about the rejections by the Selection Board of the U.P.S.C. because we know how they took place.

Then, Sir, there was the question of the confidential file. A confidential file about him was kept. It was said that there was nothing in the file against him. Now much was decided on the basis of the confidential file. But it was those hands that handled the file—let there be no mistake about it—which made him strangle himself to death. That is the position, and it is a serious matter. Therefore, Sir, the whole thing has got to be gone into again, gone into by a Committee of Parliament if you like. The circumstances should be gone into. Why the Minister should fight shy of it I cannot understand. It is not a question.

of raising funds. I am not accusing Mr. Patil personally. He may have raised money and all that. But how to handle such affairs? Are we to see our scientists committing suicide and hanging themselves in such conditions? Are we to be satisfied with a mere trivial report coming from a Deputy Secretary based on the official records when the entire Department, the entire Institute is suspect in the eyes of the people? This is a question before the nation, this is a poser before the nation. Answer has to be found for it not merely in the interests of the departed scientist but in the interests of those who will come forward to serve the nation. We must find an answer to satisfy our whole conscience. That is very important.

Then, again, there are his various qualifications. Twice mention had been made about Third Division and so on. He passed B.Sc. Am I to understand that he was an unqualified, useless person? Then why did the Government take the decision to send him to the U.S.A. and give him at least some accommodation so that he could continue his research?

He must have done something, 3 p.m. he must have shown some talent in the course of practical work to order in influence the Government favourably for his going abroad and the Government gave him some amenities. There again the Institute behaved very tardily. He was given 19 months' leave without pay and he was given 25 months' leave on half pay. This was the position. On the whole, it seems that somehow or other, some people took a very unfriendly, unsympathetic and hostile attitude towards him. When he came back, he was given an assurance that he would be put in the scale of pay Rs. 160-330, but somebody else was allowed to double-cross him and was put in that place. He was not put in that place. He felt disappointed. Wherever he went for some assistance and sympathy, he was rejected. Wherever he looked for

some kind of help and consideration, he was treated with unkindness and with cynicism. That has been the position. He did not know where to live and how to live. As a scientist, his honour has been taken away. As a scientist, he has been made a bond-slave under a bond always hanging over his head like the sword of Damocles. Sir, when he wanted to get the job, he found no one there in the Institute—in the high-ups—sympathetic to him, to listen to him, to look to his conditions, to look to the conditions which a family of seven, including five children, faced. He sought salvation in his own death leaving us to raise this issue here in this Parliament so that this monstrosity that goes on in the Department is called to account. Here is an example of cynicism, of bureaucracy, of inhuman consideration in human matters, of complete disregard for scientific talent, of everything that one has to condemn by all means.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, I do not want to say anything more. The whole statement is a fantastic statement. It is a prepared brief and it is regrettable that Mr. Patil was raising money on the one hand giving expression to his deep sympathies for the bereaved family and on the other, was trotting out fatuous half-truths, false suggestions and suppressions of so many things. It does not speak well of the Food Minister here.

My final suggestion is, let the matter not be buried in a conspiracy of silence or under the files of the Government. Appoint a Committee of this House. I would like Congressmen to be there, do not take the Opposition. I would like any five Congressmen from this House to be appointed to the Committee; let them go into the matter and give a report of their own and we shall see who is responsible for Dr. Joseph's death—whether it was Dr. Joseph himself or somebody else. Sir, finally it was Dr. Joseph who got the rope to hang himself but the rope that was given

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to him to die came from the hands of those who control the affairs of the Institute and the Ministry in this respect.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it is more than three months, I think since the suicide of Dr. Joseph that we are having this debate. But, in my opinion, this lapse of time has not taken away the edge from the grimness of the tragedy. The grimness of the tragedy has, to some extent, in my opinion, been relieved by the generous impulses of our magnanimous Food Minister and by those who felt impelled in their conscience to extend their generous aid to the bereaved family. I think that not only does the bereaved family owe a debt of gratitude to the Food Minister, Shri Patil, but also everyone of us and the whole country must extend our admiration and respect for him.

But the statement that he has made in this House on this subject makes strange reading. I will put it the other way round. The Minister who has made the statement sounds strange, a complete stranger to the Minister who went about hat in hand collecting benefactions for the bereaved family. It seems to me that that statement was written by the very persons responsible for the suicide of Dr. Joseph, struggling very hard to find reasons to exculpate themselves. To say that the Union Public Service Commission thrice found Dr. Joseph as a man of average ability is, in my opinion, not saying very much. Because anybody who has been on the Union Public Service Commission would tell you that a departmental officer sits on the Commission during the selection of candidates. This departmental officer has a large say particularly in the case of the departmental candidates and he can damn anybody he wants, as they say, even by faint praise. Besides, as Shri Bhupesh Gupta has mentioned, what are called "character rolls" are produced before the Commission and any adverse entry in it is regarded as the final

word. These "character rolls" have always seemed to me obnoxious because they breathe nothing but favouritism or vindictiveness depending on the man who writes them. The sooner they are done away with, I think, the better for all concerned.

SHRI J. S. BISHT (Uttar Pradesh): But there will be no record at all about the employee.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI J. S. BISHT: There must be some way of knowing it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bisht, you have to turn this side and address the Chair.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He wants the right direction to address.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: Such was the fate of the scientist, Dr. Joseph. If such is the fate of scientists in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, I want to ask the Minister and the House, what can be the fate of science in the Ministry? According to my information, Sir, it is a sorry fate—a fate of rape, pillage, exploitation, desecration and even massacre. I hold science in such high esteem that I have dared use such strong words. In the Ministry is a coterie of so-called specialists who exploit the results of research or discoveries of the scientists employed in the Ministry. There is also in the Ministry another coterie of persons who have set themselves up as a kind of a refereeing body responsible for all scientific papers emanating from the Ministry. Young scientists send papers about their discoveries or results of research to this refereeing body for publication, and members of this refereeing body usually sit on them, take out points out of the papers and publish them as their own and publish them in their names. It is a very sorry state. Some of these so-called specialists visit the various research stations throughout the country belonging to the Ministry and to them are shown the results of the research by the young scientists.

They come to Delhi and publish them under their own names. Five years ago, I am told, a young scientist employed in the Ministry discovered an antibiotic from a fungus and sent it for publication to the refereeing body. He was denied the credit for it, and he quit his job in disgust. I ask the Minister: Can science grow in such conditions? Can real scientists work under such conditions and bring out their results into the open for fear that they might be stolen by these self-appointed specialists or condemned half-baked scientists? This has been going on for a long time and I hope the Minister will take the necessary steps to preserve the pure name of science and make it grow in his Ministry not only by looking after the scientists but also science itself.

Thank you.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this incident of Dr. Joseph is no doubt very tragic, but the events that have taken place after that are none the less tragic. My two friends, the two co-sponsors of this motion, have placed facts before this House which go to prove that the statement which was dished out by the hon. Minister to this House and the other—rather to the nation—was a travesty of truth. I expect that a Minister making such statements on the basis of the reports that he receives from his department should, before making such statements in the House, examine the truth behind those statements.

Sir, I would like in the limited time at my disposal to draw your attention to the Scientific Policy Resolution—the grand Resolution which was adopted—which was published by the Government of India on the 4th March, 1958. Now, I would not read the whole of it, but it is a very laudable Resolution no doubt in which they have stated that scientists should be encouraged, and in the end they say how they should be encouraged. They say:

"The Government of India have decided to pursue and accomplish these aims by offering good conditions of service to scientists and according to them an honoured position, by associating scientists with the formulation of policies, and by taking such other measures as may be deemed necessary from time to time."

Sir, the tragic incident of Dr. Joseph has made a mockery of this Resolution of the Government of India. More than two years have passed after the Government of India adopted this Resolution, and the sad incident of the suicide of Dr. Joseph came after that Resolution. Sir, I was rather surprised when Mr. Bhargava told us that the Government of India have even gone back upon their word to revise the rules which stand in the way of the promotion of scientists, in the way of their getting higher scales of salary and other emoluments. Sir, it was stated by the Minister himself that the rules that were standing in the way of such prospects would soon be revised. Now, two or three months have already passed and we are told that the Government has since given up the idea of revising those rules, the rules being that the application of a Government servant cannot be normally forwarded, and to be forwarded it has got to go through the head of the department. Now these are the two rules which are standing in the way of the promotion of officers, particularly scientists. We thought that these rules would be liberalised so that people who are still suffering like the late Dr. Joseph will get a chance to promotion. I do hope, Sir, that the Government will consider their suffering and liberalise the rules, which they had promised to do.

PROF. A. R. WADIA (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, there can be no denying that the circumstances which led to the suicide of Dr. Joseph were most deplorable, and I am afraid the authorities of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute figure rather badly. It cannot be denied that the whole treatment of Dr. Joseph shows

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an utter lack of imagination and, even more, an utter lack of human sympathy. I am glad that the statement as issued by the Minister tries to make up for it to a certain extent. In fact it tries to make the best of a bad job. I appreciate the frankness of the statement when it says that all the various delays were wholly unjustifiable. I also appreciate the promise held out in the statement that the rules of promotion will be made more flexible, and I appreciate all that the Minister has done to help his family after this deplorable incident. But, Sir, we have to look to the future about this. Now, Sir, so far as the loan advanced to him was concerned, here was a man drawing a comparatively low salary and even then, with the spirit of a Shylock, a definite deduction was made from his salary every month. I think it is a question for the Government to consider to whom they should give loans. Naturally, they should give loans to people who may be reasonably expected to pay them back because it must be admitted that Government is not a charitable institution, and if they give a loan, they have a right to expect that loan to be repaid. But the conditions of repayment of the loan should be very liberal. In Bombay, Sir, I know there is an endowment which gives very large sums to very promising students and they have to pay them back with 4 per cent. interest but then there is also a clause that till the candidate begins to earn at least Rs. 400 no deduction shall be made—he will not be required to make any repayment. Surely, Sir, a welfare Government with crores and crores of rupees as its income can afford to have such a liberal rule for the repayment of loans so that men in Dr. Joseph's position may not be put to financial stresses and strains.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Shylock would have blushed at the sight of this gentleman.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: Now Sir, there is another point which I should like particularly to refer to. Dr. Joseph

has practically become a martyr in a particular cause, but we all know that there is a tremendous amount of frustration among the educated people and even among the scientists. On the one hand we say that there is dearth of scientists in our country, and I know that there are plenty of very able scientists who do not get employment in our country. That is the simple reason why some of our best fellow-countrymen are now settled down in various countries and they do not want to come back—one can understand that. There are others who are patriotic and who would like to come back to India if only they are given a reasonably decent salary. But when even this is not forthcoming against their will they are forced to accept well-paid appointments in foreign countries. Over and above that there are plenty of scientists in our country who are without jobs at the present moment. Now, why should this predicament arise? We talk so much about planning. It seems to me that there is one department in which there can be very efficient planning and that is in connection with the possibilities of scientific employment. It should be possible for the Government to know in advance what scientists they want in what particular branches and where they can be appointed. It should be possible for them to know, to get information even from private employers as to what their requirements are and what scientists they can absorb. It is only on that basis that scholarships should be given, not in any subject but in the subjects which are really required for the benefit of our country. If this sort of planning is resorted to by the Government, they will save a lot of money, and what is more, they will save a lot of frustration to our talented youngmen.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. K. PATIL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it will help the discussion if I separate the issues that have come out of this debate and speak about them separately. One is the status of the scientist; how they

are treated and how they would be treated in future. It is a very vital and a very important subject, Sir. I do not want to get it mixed up with the suicide of the late Dr. Joseph. I agree with Prof. Wadia that it is a most deplorable incident, and I feel so much embarrassed while speaking about it because had the suicide not been in the background, I would have stated the case in a manner in which it should be stated. But there being the suicide of the man, there being the emotions of the people—personally I am moved as much, if not more than anybody else by this most regrettable incident—you can quite understand how embarrassed I feel even while stating the facts as they are.

The facts also take a different complexion according to the background against which they are narrated. If Dr. Joseph had not committed suicide, or supposing he had failed in his attempt of suicide and had still been alive, these facts would have looked different. But it is not so, unfortunately. I was not lucky in knowing Dr. Joseph. I learned that he was an officer in my department only after he had committed suicide—I had just taken over the department. I had no knowledge of his desperation. He had never approached me. Of course, miracles could not have been done, but surely I could have inspired some kind of confidence in him, and possibly this kind of unfortunate incident could have been averted. But there it is.

The facts were studied. And if I were to take the Members of the House into confidence, I could tell them—even before I put the facts before them—that not once but half a dozen times I had gone into his case and had tried to see that not a word should go into the statement that was placed before the Parliament that would really hurt anybody's feelings. I could not change the facts, but I could change the thing here and there in order to make it as harmless as I possibly could. Beyond that, a poor Minister . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Is it a kind of . . .

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Please do not interrupt. Let me finish. Therefore, the facts of the case, as I said, were that Dr. Joseph had passed his B.Sc. in third division.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You said that twice.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Twice or thrice, but it is a fact. It is not disparaging to the man. It is a fact because if you take the suicide out of it, surely these facts are facts. You cannot change the character roll.

Some hon. Member said, "Tear away the character roll". Surely, the character roll can be taken away. I have not introduced it. I will give you an example. I was thinking of appointing a man in another department, not in this department, on a very high salary, somewhere about Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000, because he was so highly qualified. He was in service, not of the Government but of some other institution. He was an ideal man so far as I was concerned. This famous C. R. was called for. It came to me. The character roll spoke of some kind of incompatibility of that particular officer. It was worded in a manner that I was tied down and I could not appoint the man. The appointment had to be cancelled on the basis of the C.R.

I am merely saying that these are not matters which in a fit of emotion you can simply dismiss as if they do not count. I feel it more keenly than any other Member of this House. A time has come when our administration has got to be humanised. There ought to be some kind of feelings of humanity. I feel ashamed over what has happened. I do not say so in order to harass or criticise any particular officer. But here is a Minister having all the sympathy in the world for the thing, but having

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been compelled to make apologies simply because it is a human factor. I am not saying that anything was done which was illegal or immoral. Nothing of that type. But surely there are things and things. If there is a little more human element introduced into the procedure, things would become different. And surely the man was frustrated. There is no doubt about it. I am not merely saying whether the man was of an extraordinary calibre. He may or may not be of an extraordinary calibre. I am not the judge of it because I did not know him. I could merely go by his record.

The Department had done certain things, good things because he was allowed to keep his M. Sc. terms which was within the competence of the Department. They could have prevented him. On his passing his examination in the third division he was not qualified to keep those terms. But they even did that. It was the human part of it. It was good that he got it.

He was not sent to America by the Government. He secured a scholarship. He was able to secure the scholarship of some thousand dollars. If I mistake not, they said . . .

(Interruptions by Shri Bhupesh Gupta)

Yes, Yes. I may tell you that I am more qualified to know the facts than the hon. Member opposite.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why is it not stated in this report that he was teaching? He was made to conduct classes for M.Sc. and Ph. D. and that he published six papers.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: He had to publish them if he had to pass in the Ph.D. or any other examination. *(Interruption by Shri Bhupesh Gupta)*. I am not yielding ground to the hon. Member. What I am saying is this. The Department thought that if he had secured the scholarship, he should also go abroad. Therefore, they gave him all these things, namely, Rs. 2000

loan and 25 months half pay salary. All these things were not exactly according to the rules but a kind of concession was shown to him. He got his doctorate. He came back. Now, there comes the human part of it. Surely if he had been taken up by the officers concerned who themselves were scientists—we are non-scientists; I am a non-scientist; if the scientist has no feeling for a scientist that does not mean that the non-scientist should not have it; I am merely stating the facts as they are—something could have been done.

I can quite understand the U.P.S.C., the administration, etc. They are wooden machineries. If you really leave it to them, it becomes impossible for anything, unless there is human sympathy in it. The fact remains that his application was forwarded twice, thrice. The fact remains—all these things might have happened—there was delay. The man who represented the Ministry might not have put in a good word. I grant all these things. Therefore, I say that a time has come for the humanising of that administration. And if it is not humanised, not only it is not good for the scientists, it is not good for the Government, but it is not good for the people of this country. I can assure this House that so far as that aspect of humanising the administration within the competence of the Food and Agriculture Minister is concerned, with respect to all the institutions over which he presides, I would tell you that I shall do that to the extent that it is possible.

I am not satisfied with these explanations but what can I do? Should I come and say that these explanations are wrong? Explanations are not wrong. Words are put together in a manner in which I cannot find any fault, but surely there is nothing in those words that really gives them that lubrication, that little kindness out of which something could have emerged. It is possible some time. Even if the U.P.S.C. does it, if it could be seen that the poor fellow was poor, he could not get more, his

salary was low, it could not be done perhaps. I can even share with you some kind of secret. Even though my Ministry found an application from him—it all happened when I was not the Minister but I could see it from the papers; I have access to these papers—and our suggestion was that he should get some Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 more which was within the competence of our Ministry, that proposal was turned down by another Ministry because it was against rules. Prof. Wadia was right when he said that the Ministries always sit over where they have got to decide a matter where money is concerned. Prof. Wadia was quite right when he said that when the Government gives or when the Ministry gives a scholarship, surely they expect that it should be returned. That is perfectly logical. You cannot say that you give the scholarship and then it need not be returned. This Ministry of Food and Agriculture had no power by itself to give a relaxation of that kind, of that particular condition, unless some other conditions were satisfied and other Ministries were concerned and they also had to say that these conditions should be relaxed. They ultimately were relaxed towards the end. But what I am saying is that there were a series of circumstances which were very bad indeed. I have not said a word in support of these conditions. I am merely stating these unfortunate facts as they are, and facts cannot be changed because somebody had committed suicide.

Now, I have dealt with qualifications etc. It has been pointed out by Mr. Bhargava and it was stated that it was not given without motive. I don't know. These things happen, I do agree. I don't know every fact of it. Somebody might be interested in somebody and he really wanted that this man should not come in his way. Well, it is very difficult to prove that kind of thing. These things may happen not only in the case of suicide but possibly galore. Therefore, I say it is the individual who should

deal with the case with human sympathy and he should also hold the scales even and he must not really tip them in favour of somebody in whom he is interested. These are facts and they may be proved or they may not be proved. But surely the time has come when all administrators or those, in whose competence it is to give jobs, must try, as far as possible and as far as is humanly possible, to be human and also to hold the scales even. But this, unfortunately in this case, was not done.

Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, said that Dr. Joseph was treated as a slave.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Bond-slave.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: These are expressions and the language is so rich in phraseology. But I had to satisfy myself and I tried to find out whether what was done was because anybody had any grievance against the late Dr. Joseph. Was he particularly discriminated against as a person? I have tried to find that out and I can assure the House that there is no case of that description.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Is it not discrimination to send one application with a recommendation letter and to stop another without reason?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: The case I am talking of is of general discrimination. I am not talking of Dr. Joseph. I have begun and I have prefaced it by saying this. Take aside the suicide part of it and objectively judge the case. It is bad and I am not defending it. It may be happening everyday. Somebody sits on behalf of the Ministry and surely his word has got some meaning and what is said in the C.R. etc.? If somebody's C.R. is not very good, yet it is possible that something may be said in a manner by which a misapprehension may not be created and if he really wants, the U.P.S.C. may kindly and sympathetically look into the

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application. It is possible and that could be done. That I am conceding not because there is this case of Dr. Joseph, but because that is the general impression that I have got all along in the administration.

Then some suggestions were made and it was asked, what is to happen in the future? I can tell you one thing, although it is not proper to do so, that this suicide or this misfortune that has befallen the family of the late Dr. Joseph has not gone in vain. It has opened the eyes of the administration. It has started the movement of the machinery. It has created a quantum of human sympathy. It will not simply disappear and the House should not feel that because these have been done, the matter is forgotten. Nothing of the kind.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Has it equally created a sense of guilt?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: What I am saying is this. We are all guilty, and my hon. friend is not less guilty than anybody else. It is quite all right to sit at a place and after the event to give dissertations or judgements over it. Surely, when it comes to personal dealings. I do not know if the hon. Member would have dealt with a case like this in any manner different from the one in which others have done it.

I may say that the Cabinet has now appointed a sub-committee after this incident, under the Cabinet Secretary and from that I understand some kind of questionnaire has issued and they are looking at this question generally as to how in future all these conditions have got to be liberalised so that these things may not happen. The case of scientists particularly should be looked into because they are not many in this country and we are in need of them. Incidentally, I can tell you—and this has nothing to do with Dr. Joseph—it might be supposed that because somebody has passed

the M. Sc. degree and another has passed the Ph. D., therefore, he is a better scientist than the M. Sc. man. Not necessarily. And mere degrees do not make a scientist. That has nothing to do with Dr. Joseph. Otherwise you will accuse me and say that after the man is dead I say it and he is not here to defend himself, nor his wife nor anybody else to defend him. Therefore, it will be a wrong thing to do and surely it is not a gentleman's job to do that. This has no reference to him. I am talking of Scientists and you must not confuse scientists with degrees etc. Yet scientists have got to be protected. Their profession has got to be protected and something has got to be done because a similar case should not occur. That is why this Committee has been appointed and the questionnaire has issued and things are looked into.

One word more. So far as it fell to my lot, after I heard that this had happened I did something. It is not that what I have done is something extraordinary. Mr. Samuel said that here was a Minister who went hand in hand and he makes a statement like this. I have made the statement. The statement I have made, but the facts are not the facts that I have created. I have got the facts and on the basis of those facts I have made the statement.

So far as the family is concerned, whatever could be done has been done and I may take the House into confidence and say that a sum of somewhere about Rs. 85,000/- I have already given to the wife of the late Dr. Joseph and a little trust of some kind of arrangement has been made so that the children could be protected. Government have given their money and they are giving some grant also of Rs. 3,000. We are trying to do something ourselves. I do not say that this is something out of the way or something great, but it is done because the conscience is stung. One feels that all this disaster

should not have come to the poor children. They have not done anything. In the name of God and in the eyes of man, they are innocent and surely they ought not to have got the cruel fate that they have got. Therefore, if this is done, it is not really because we want to make light of the other side, the side of the administration's responsibility.

I again assure the House that I share the anxiety of the House and I share also their anxiety because what has happened in the case of Dr. Joseph is a symptom and therefore, the thing has got to be taken into consideration so that there is no recurrence of an incident of that type, and with the House on my side, Sir, I would be able to do that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We have nothing personal here, but may I ask why in this Statement or report there is no reference to the various certificates that Dr. Joseph had got from the foreign universities and experts? That is number one. Secondly, why is it not stated that he was conducting classes for M. Sc. and Ph. D. and also that it was within your knowledge that he had published a number of erudite papers? When it has been mentioned twice here that he failed or that he got a third division and all that, why are not these facts mentioned in this report? Surely the hon. Minister at least owes an explanation to the House.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: As I said, this has nothing to do with Dr. Joseph, but what I am saying is that a student who passes an examination does get all the certificates that he got.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhargava, any reply?

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, after the assurance of the hon. Minister, Shri Patil, that he will try to bring the human aspect in his Ministry, I have nothing to add.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The discussion is over.

THE DELHI PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL, 1960—continued.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we go back to our consideration of the Delhi Primary Education Bill.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was speaking on the necessity to conduct a survey of the children in the locality where compulsory primary education is to be introduced. The private institutions should be extended some financial assistance so as to absorb these students in their institutions for imparting free and compulsory education.

Sir, while speaking about the medium of instruction in the schools where compulsory primary education is introduced, we will have to consider the possibility of introducing all the media of instruction that are accepted in the different States of India. If it is not possible to introduce all the media in the same school, I think, Sir, it will be advisable to recognise those private agencies which come forward to start schools in that medium which is accepted by any of the States in India. Sir, our friend, Mr. Rao, while speaking on this Bill, pointed out the progressive nature of the Kerala Education Act that was enacted by the Communist Ministry. We have seen, Sir, the repercussion on the people of that measure. That was an issue before the last General Election, and most of the members who had supported that Bill, including the Education Minister of the Kerala Government, were defeated during the election. The P. S. T. A. representing more than 95 per cent. of the teachers opposed that measure. The students' organisation, representing at least 95 per cent. of the students of Kerala also opposed that measure because that Bill took away