

ing is fixed, it would help in improving the teacher pupil ratio. The number of students would be fixed and, therefore, the teacher-pupil ratio will improve.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Is it a fact that though for the Delhi University colleges formerly the number of students was fixed at 600, without increasing accommodation that number has been increased to 1,000 as has been done in the case of the Indraprastha College?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The hon. Member is going very much beyond the question. If she puts a separate question, I shall be glad to answer it.

DAMAGE TO THE TAJ GARDEN DUE TO HAIL AND DUST STORMS IN MARCH, 1957

*256. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the hailstorm of March 1957 and heavy dust storms thereafter, all the famous and rare trees like *Bigrionic Adinophyllia* and *Nimusopoelengii* in the garden of the "Taj" mausoleum at Agra were lost;

(b) whether the flower beds in the four square sections of the gardens were also heavily damaged and many precious varieties of Persian roses destroyed;

(c) whether the tall cypress trees also suffered damage; and

(d) whether Government propose to re-orient the gardens in the old Moghul fashion and if so, when the whole scheme will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Flower beds were damaged but the rose varieties did not suffer.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The layout of the garden is already in the Moghul fashion.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know the actual damage done to the "Taj" garden by this hailstorm and also whether any such damage was done to any other garden in Delhi, in the Rashtrapati Bhavan or anywhere else?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The hon. Member's question related to the "Taj" and I can give him answers only with regard to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not made enquiries about other gardens but only about the Taj.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: There was a hailstorm on the 19th March and the report is that no rare trees in the "Taj" garden were destroyed. It is only some old trees like . . . Is the hon. Member interested in the names?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: What are the Indian names for these trees?

(No reply)

AGE LIMIT FOR RETIREMENT OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

*257. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIR be pleased to state whether Government have decided to raise the retirement age of its employees from 5 years to 58 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): No decision has been taken for the reason that there is no such proposal before Government. It is the policy of Government, however, to grant extensions of service liberally to engineering and technical personnel. On account of the large demand for such persons, it has been suggested that their case should be examined in this respect.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the Government of India had made any enquiries from the State Governments for any proposal to increase the retirement age or not?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It was not necessary to make any such enquiries.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: I want to know whether any enquiry was made or not.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am not aware whether any such enquiry was made or not before 1953 or 1954 when a firm decision was taken in this respect.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether any State Government has raised the retirement age from 55 to 58?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The hon. Member is possibly referring to the U.P. Government, Sir.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Does the Government of India approve of that extension of the age? Has it looked into the matter and has it given some advice to the U.P. Government?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is not the duty of the Government of India to either approve or disapprove of anything. It is for them to take action. They have taken already an action and there is no need for revising it.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the medical people have already been given this extension?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I have already pointed out that in suitable cases the matter is looked into on individual merits, not as a general principle, and in respect of technical and engineering personnel extensions are granted.

SHRIMATI SHARDA BHARGAVA: Will the Government let us know as to how many engineers were retired last year and not given any extension?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I cannot give that figure just now.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether this extension of age limit in U.P. relates to the All-India Services also?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, it relates to the personnel under the U.P. Government.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: The hon. Minister stated that the question of extending the age limit was liberally considered by the Government of India when recommendations for such extension were made to them. May I know, when other Ministries, want to extend the services of their subordinate staff—not of their officers—whether those cases are referred to the Home Ministry or not?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: No, Sir. It is for them to consider. We have made the rules. The general rule has been laid down, and I am confident that they are making use of this rule whenever necessary.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the raising of the age limit for retirement would affect the promotions of the other employees? If so, in what manner is it likely to affect their promotion?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, there are considerations for and also against this proposal. After considering all of them Government have come to the conclusion that 55 should be the age of superannuation.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARNAND: Was a representation made to Government several times on the floor of the House and otherwise that, when giving these extensions, reference should be made to the Public Service Commission, and that qualifications relating to health, etc. should be taken into consideration? Is this done? And, if not, is Government aware that this leads to favouritism and heart-burning in the services?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, when the extension is for a period below one year, then naturally it is open to the Ministries to consider this question but, if it is for a longer period, then the U.P.S.C. also is consulted.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Are Government aware that there are several cases where there are extensions of three years and four years as, for example, in the I.F.S., where recently there have been cases wherein, without any reference to either the Public Service Commission or to the Medical Board, extensions of three years and four years have been given?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: If the hon. Member brings it to my notice I shall surely look into the matter.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: As the U.P. Government has extended the retirement age of its own Government servants, has it made any request to the Central Government in respect of its employees serving under it that their ages may also be correspondingly raised to that level?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: It is not necessary for them to make any request to us because, so far as the members of the All-India Services are concerned, they are governed by the rules which are placed on the Table of the House here and these rules will not in any way be affected by what the U.P. Government does.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister stated that there were arguments both in favour of and against this extension. I know the Government is fond of superannuation even in very high places. May I know, Sir, what are the arguments in favour and what are the arguments against? That is very important for us to know.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is a very large question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very large question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Can I make it small?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you cannot.

STEPS TO INCREASE THE TECHNICAL MANPOWER

*258. **SHRI S. C. DEB:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether any steps have so far been taken by Government to increase the technical manpower in order to cope with the industrial development of the country and if so, what are those steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): A statement, explaining briefly the steps being taken to meet country's future requirements for technical manpower, is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Precise programmes for providing training facilities for different categories of technical personnel to meet the probable future requirements of the country, can be worked out only after systematic surveys have been made of the demand and supply of each category of personnel, in the context of the Second and subsequent Five Year Plans. So far there has been such a study only of the engineering personnel; and on the basis of the recommendations of the Engineering Personnel Committee a programme of expansion of facilities for engineering education has been worked out. It comprises expansion of 19 existing engineering colleges and 41 polytechnics, providing for 2,458 additional seats for degree courses and 4,370 additional seats for diploma courses. Decision about the establishment of new institutions is expected to be taken in the near future. This expansion of facilities for engineering education is in addition to the provision already made in the Second Five Year Plan, namely, the establishment of 5 new engineering colleges, 21 polytechnics, and 3 higher technological institutes.