

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What is the excise duty on power alcohol?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I cannot say.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: -Is it not a fact that there is a very heavy infliction of excise duty on it and have Government not received representations to that effect?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I should like to have notice.

QUALIFIED INDIAN DOCTORS FOR AFGHANISTAN

*83. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. K. DHAGE): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have received a request from the Government of Afghanistan for the services of qualified doctors; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). In May 1954, the Rector of the Kabul University made a request to the Indian Embassy in Kabul for the recruitment of highly qualified medical professors. The Government of India advertised the terms of appointment and also addressed various State Governments. Later on it was understood that the requirements of the Afghan Government were met from some other country. No medical professors were, therefore, recruited from India.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know whether those medical officers are Government officers or University professors?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No professors were recruited.

CONSULTATIONS AMONG COLOMBO POWERS

*84. SHRI N. B. DESHMUKH (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. K. DHAGE): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letters have been sent recently by him to the Prime Minister of Ceylon urging the need for closer consultations among the Colombo Powers; and

(b) if so, whether any reply has been received from the Prime Minister of Ceylon?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Are there any proposals for a meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Colombo Conference countries at all?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: What has happened to the Burmese Prime Minister's proposal for economic co-operation among the Colombo Conference countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I am not able to answer that.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether there is any proposal to call a Conference of the Prime Ministers of Asian countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I am not in a position to answer it.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Are they meeting again?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have no information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.