

MEDICAL TEST OF GOVERNMENT
SERVANTS

*509. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that candidates are required to undergo medical tests before they are employed as Government servants; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether the candidates for Foreign Service or for appointment as Ambassadors are also required to undergo similar medical tests, if not, why not?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON). (a) Under the Fundamental Rules, no person may be substantively appointed to a permanent post in Government service without a medical certificate of health.

(b) Candidates for the Indian Foreign Service have to undergo examination by a Medical Board before they are appointed to the Service. Non-officials appointed as Heads of Mission are not required to undergo a medical examination, as their appointment is temporary and for short periods only.

SHRI M P N SINHA: Are the Ministers and Deputy Ministers put to this test?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That question does not arise.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Why not, Sir? They are also Government servants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question refers to foreign missions.

INDIAN WOMEN EMPLOYED IN THE
U.N.O. SECRETARIAT

*510. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian women are employed in the United Nations Organisation Secretariat;

(b) what is the basis of selection of candidates for appointment,

(c) whether appointments are made on a contract basis, if so, for how many years the contract is signed usually;

(d) whether the recruitment is made in India or outside India, and

(e) whether the Government of India are consulted in the case of all appointments of Indian nationals in International Organisations of which India is a member?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) (a) Six

(b) Under Art 101 of the Charter of the U.N. 'the paramount consideration is the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.' The Article also requires that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

(c) Staff is generally on contract. Appointments are:

(i) Temporary indefinite; (ii) For a fixed term of one or 2 years; (iii) Permanent, reviewable after 5 years.

(d) Recruitment is made at the headquarters of the United Nations.

(e) In the case of Government officials, Government are always consulted. It is open to the International Organisation to consult Government in other cases also.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: What is the proportion of the Indian women to Indian men employed?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: There are 52 out of whom 6 are women.

DR P C MITRA: How many are married and how many unmarried?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: One is married.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is there any guarantee that the unmarried will not marry there? (Laughter.)

(No reply.)

RULES GOVERNING PURCHASES FOR GOVERNMENT PURPOSES

*511. SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Will the Minister for WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state whether there are any specific rules for giving preference to Swadeshi and cottage industries articles in respect of purchases for Government purposes; if so, what are they?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN): Preference is given to Swadeshi and cottage industries articles for Government purchases and two Government Resolutions, dated 12th December 1929 and 20th June 1952, contain specific rules on the point, and copies of both these Resolutions are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 126.]

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Do the Government think that these alone will secure the object in view?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Government have appointed recently a Stores Purchase Committee and one of the terms of reference is to see to what extent the Swadeshi articles could be given preference and other small-scale and cottage industries could be assisted by the Government's Purchase Policy.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: Do the Government think that the Rules should be reviewed in the light of the Resolutions, as the hon. Minister has said just now.

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Certainly to the extent necessary. When the recommendations of the Committee are received by Government, the matter will be taken up.

SHRI T. D. PUSTAKE: What is this 'Viceregal residence' appearing on page 5 under 'Annexure A' (See rule 7) against item (x)?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Yes, Sir, this appears in the 1929 Resolution and the Rules then made and they have not yet been modified. This is one of the matters taken up by the Committee which has recently been set up.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Who are the members of the Stores Purchase Committee?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: Sir, the Resolution appointing that Committee has been published in the *Gazette of India* and the members of the Committee who are all officials are drawn from the various Ministries. They are senior officials of the Government of India and they include those belonging to the important indenting departments like Defence and Railways. There are also representatives of the Finance Ministry and of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. These officials have had experience over a number of years in this type of work.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will it not be desirable to associate Parliament Members with this Committee?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: This is a specialised type of work. That is why the Committee that has been appointed is some kind of an expert Committee.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: But will it not be desirable to associate Parliament Members, who have got better interest in Swadeshi, with this Committee? What is the harm?

SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIN: I think the Committee can have the benefit of their advice or evidence on the questionnaire that is soon going to be issued.

SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Does not the Government consider it necessary to lay down a fixed percentage in regard to concession in price?