

[16th March 1923]

TRANSFER OF DR. T. C. GUHA FROM BETTIAH AND CHAMPARAN.

148. Babu LAKSHMI MOHAN MISRA : (a) Are the Government aware that the number of patients (in-door and out-door) have considerably decreased in the Bettiah K. E. M. Hospital since the transfer of Dr. Guha, Rai Bahadur ?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of patients treated was greater than in any hospital in the province ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the transfer of Rai Bahadur Dr. Guha from Bettiah was repeatedly postponed on the protest of the public, both European and Indian ?

(d) Are the Government aware that the public is much disheartened and put to much discomfort owing to his transfer from Bettiah and Champaran ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : (a) Government are not aware of this fact. The hospital was inspected by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in November last and it was then full to overflowing. The surgical work was good and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals was very satisfied with all he saw. In particular he congratulated Dr. S. B. Laha on the good surgical work he was doing. As regards out-patients there has been a decrease during the last three years, and during this time Dr. Guha was in charge of the hospital except for short periods.

(b) Yes. The total number of patients both in-patients and out-patients is greater than at any other hospital, but the number of in-patients is greater at the Patna General Hospital and at Cuttack and Gaya.

(c) Memorials have been received by Government regarding the retention of Dr. Guha at Bettiah and Government have endeavoured to meet the wishes of the public as far as possible, but could not agree to his permanent retention there. His transfer to a civil surgeoncy was sanctioned partly in view of the fact that had he not been promoted to be a Civil Surgeon he would have lost half his pension, and he himself for this reason asked to be so transferred.

(d) Government see no reason why the public should have been put to discomfort by Dr. Guha's transfer, as a competent assistant surgeon has taken his place.

[B. Lakshmi Mohan Misra]

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Are Government aware that there is a serious discontent throughout North Bihar owing to Dr. Guha being not stationed in any place in North Bihar ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : No, Sir, Government are not aware of that fact.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Are Government aware that Dr. Guha was by far the ablest surgeon, and that his removal from North Bihar has caused a serious discontent?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : I submit, Sir, that this is asking for an expression of opinion.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Dr. Guha was transferred from North Bihar in order to make room for a European I. M. S. officer ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : No, Sir, that is entirely untrue. The answer is, I believe, given in the paper. Had Dr. Guha not been transferred from Bettiah to Daltonganj, he would have lost the chance of being appointed Civil Surgeon.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Are Government aware that Dr. Guha's transfer from Motihari is considered by the people as due to the fact of his being an Indian ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : Government are not aware of that fact.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Is it a fact that Dr. Guha has been succeeded at Motihari by a European ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : Yes, Sir.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Will Government give the reasons why Dr. Guha was superseded by another man ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : Dr. Guha has not been superseded by any one. He was simply transferred from one place to another.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to Dr. Guha's transfer from Motihari to Daltonganj ?

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Mr. M. G. HALLETT : An able Civil Surgeon was needed at Palamau, because there are great opportunities for medical work there. In Daltonganj there are no private medical practitioners, it was thus in the interests of the place that an able and efficient doctor should be posted there.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Is it not a fact that Dr. Guha has lost several thousands of rupees a month by his transfer to Daltonganj ?

Mr. M. G. HALLETT : Government have no information as regards his private income. He has lost nothing in pay and it is understood that he has considerable private practice in Daltonganj.

Rai Bahadur DVARIKA NATH : Is it not a fact that there are certain stations reserved for I.M.S. officers ?

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT : Order, order. The hon'ble member is going beyond the scope of the question. He can ask questions so far as the transfer of Dr. Guha is concerned, but he cannot raise the question of I.M.S. officers.

RESOLUTIONS.

A PARK IN THE TOWN OF CUTTACK.

Khan Bahadur SHAIKH ABDUL MAJID : Sir, I beg to move :

That this Council recommends to the Government that a plot of waste land and a sum of Rs. 3,000 be granted to the Cuttack Municipality for the purpose of a suitable park on the bank of the river Katjuri.

I do not like to take up the time of the Council by making a long speech. My object in bringing this resolution is purely from a sanitary point of view. Formerly the climate of Cuttack, the old metropolis of Orissa, was considered to be the best but during recent years it is seen that it has now become the abode of different kinds of fevers, and from monthly statistics of the town it is seen that now-a-days most cases of deaths are due either to malaria or influenza. As we see Cuttack will within a few years assume the dreadful climate of Balasore which has now got the worst type in Orissa, and where people die of malaria in hundreds. The town of Cuttack, Sir, is a thickly populated one having a population of more than 70,000 people. It is gradually getting congested and it is expected to become