

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, through your goodself, I request the hon. Minister to answer a related question which is not beyond, of course, the plane of the erudite Minister. Sir, it has been reported by the National Institute of Financial Management that the Central Government expenditure on SCs, STs and other *Dalits* has come down from .005 per cent of the total non-Plan revenue to .004 per cent. Whether it is true that the total Central non-Plan expenditure has come down from .005 per cent to .004 per cent as the National Institute of Financial Management has mentioned?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. Member linking this to the Unstarred Question being answered today?

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Yes, Sir. Kindly permit this. This is my last supplementary in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. It is conceded.

SHRI MATIMEIRAKUMAR: Sir, a similar question has been asked at Question No.256 which comes later. It is asked not by the hon. Member, but by another hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In which case, the answer is there in the answer of Question No.256.

SHRIMATIMEIRA KUMAR: Yes, Sir.

Setting up of an Institute of studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib

\*243. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his visit to Amritsar, the Prime Minister had made a public announcement for setting up of an institute of studies on Sri Guru Granth Sahib in that city;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, for two years, various Department of the Ministry have held many meetings to finalize the project;

(c) whether the land for this project was being given free by the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar;

(d) what is the fate of this project, which is lingering on for three year; and

(e) whether the Prime Minister would honour his announcement?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) to (e) On the occasion of the 400th Anniversary of the installation of Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden Temple, the Prime Minister had announced that the Government of India would extend all possible help to set up a Centre of Research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib in the Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar. Thereafter, the proposal of the GNDU for setting up of a National Institute of Studies in Sri Guru Granth Sahib (NISSGGS), Amritsar, as an autonomous body, was approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) during X Plan Period. It was also decided by the UGC that the Expert Committee constituted by the UGC shall act as the Governing Body-cum-Advisory Committee to guide

the affairs of the NISSGGS at GNDU, Amritsar till such time that the Governing Body was formally constituted. The above Expert Committee of UGC also recommended that the proposed Institute was to be funded entirely by UGC/MHRD on a permanent basis. An amount of Rs. 1.00 crore was also sanctioned through the UGC as seed money to GNDU, Amritsar. Besides, land for the Institute was also provided by the GNDU, Amritsar, free of cost.

Subsequently, it was decided to establish the above Institute as an autonomous body under the MHRD and register it as a separate Society with the Registrar of Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. However, later on, it was decided that instead of a new autonomous body, a Centre of Research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib Studies would be set up in the GNDU itself, which shall be fully funded by the MHRD through the UGC. Accordingly, a fresh proposal has been submitted by the GNDU, Amritsar to the UGC for the setting up of the Centre of Research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib. This is being evaluated by an Expert Committee of the UGC for finalizing the budgetary requirements for the entire XI Plan period. The necessary funds to the GNDU will be released for this purpose by the UGC.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Sir, Guru Granth Sahib is the only holy book in the world, which is based on interfaith concept. It has verses of Kabir, Baba Farid, Ravidas, Namdev, Jaidev, Ramanand and Dhanna Jan. At this time, when we are fighting on religious issues, perhaps, the only message, "37^T STcW^WTT comes from the Guru Granth Sahib. It says, "RTTO ^ft \*nfa !\$ "03^ MfNI-HV. Luckily, when the hon. Prime Minister visited Amritsar in September 2004, he announced there in a public meeting that 'we would establish a National Institute on *Guru Granth Sahib*.'

It is not a Sikh Institute because Guru Granth Sahib has a universal acceptance. Sir, just allow me to quote Arnold Toyanbee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, don't quote; put your question.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Toyanbee said, "Guru Granth Sahib needs to go to all people." And, Toyanbee was the best philosopher and historian of his time. Pearl S. Buck, Bradshaw, all had recommended for Guru Granth Sahib message. Why should India keep it close? It should go out. When hon. Prime Minister himself made an announcement three-and-a-half years back, and till today, the HRD and Finance Ministry are sitting...

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: So, Sir, my first supplementary is that when this National Institute was fully approved by the Government; a Board was set up; Governing body was set up; everything is done; free land, which now costs Rs.80 crores, was given by the University, why, all of a sudden, the Ministry has now decided that instead of an autonomous Institute, a mere Centre be taken up. Is this the value of a statement of the hon. Prime Minister, or, is there some other reason that the Government is now trying to throw this on us instead of a full-fledged Institute? Already, the HRD Ministry has large number of institutes of various languages and various religions.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I am too small to say, but every religion in our country has been constantly talking about humanity as one. There is no difference. So, if you look up at the dome of the Central Hall, the words are written, "3TO^fc3T: TtffcT, WTT^ et^dUIH, JflwRdHHI, <J \*T\*jto «k£M+Hj" which means, "humanity is one." So, no religion can ever talk about bifurcating the society or humanity.

Sir, as far as the announcement made by hon. Prime Minister at the Golden Temple, when he visited Amritsar on the 400th year of the installation of Guru Granth Sahib, is concerned, he had made an announcement that Centre of Research on Guru Granth Sahib's studies would be set up. That has been his commitment and we have not been shying away. We have been very supportive and the very answer that has been furnished to the hon. Member has, in detail, given the chronology of how we have been communicating with the Government and the Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) also. So, there is no question of questioning our commitment to setting up the Centre. From day one, it has been a Centre that the hon. Prime Minister had emphasised on and we are committed to it.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Sir, I have all the copies of the documents given by the Ministry. Everywhere, the word is 'National Institute'. It was conveyed officially to the University. A Board was set up. Expert Committee decided the matter. Now, you are, in your own reply, saying, "However, later on...". So, why is there this word 'later on', who introduced this word 'later on', and which is the authority that has decided on this? Sir, I am asking this because in Minister's own reply, it has been agreed that Institute was sanctioned, Rs. 1 crore was given and Governing Body was set up. Nowhere, the word 'Centre' was there. All along, this was an 'Institute', an autonomous body. But, all of a sudden, now you have decided to set up new Committee to consider and this Committee comprises of Members of whom only one person known Guru Granth Sahib. All other eight members have nothing to do with Guru Granth Sahib subject. The earlier Committee was of the experts. That Committee's report is lying with you. So, why is there a need now for appointing new Committee after four years? Now, you have just decided that hon. Prime Minister honoured in a holy city, and now, after four years, the Ministry is now waking up and bringing up a new thing, that is, a 'Centre'. Sir, we don't approve it. For God's sake, you should stick to your earlier commitment and your Budget is less than Rs. 50 crore and land value is more than Rs. 70 crore which we are giving free. So, the Ministry is just shying away from fulfilling this announcement. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, it is important that such research, when it is being conducted, must necessarily have university linkages. And, it is also important that research work like this should also have inter-department interaction and inter-linkages also, particularly departments like theology, philosophy, religion, sociology, linguistic literature, etc. So, already, there is department of Guru Nanak Studies existing in the GNDU, and the Finance Department felt that when there was something of this kind happening, it would be more ideal to strengthen the already existing department and recognise it as a Centre, so that it could carry on the required research. Holding inter-departmental linkages and interactions would be more beneficial rather than spending the money on unnecessary brick and mortar. There is no question of scaling down the importance of this centre. The recommendations submitted by the Expert Committee would be completely honoured and the entire support would be given to the centre.

SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: But why the second *committee*...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough, ...(*Interruptions*)... Dr. Karan Singh, please.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Guru Granth Sahib is unique not only because it has verses from different religious and social traditions but also because the entire *Granth*, every single *shabad* has, got its own *raaga* and its *taal*, which makes it astounding and extraordinary text.

Sir, I share Sardar Tarlochan Singh's distress on the delay that has taken place in this matter. The announcement was made, I think, three or four years ago and there seems to have been a lot of thinking and rethinking. Sir, as you know—you are an academician—there is a qualitative difference between a centre in a university and a separate national institute. My own view is that a national institute should be set up, for which a proposal was made, which was ready, which was virtually sanctioned, for which there was a committee, an expert committee and so on. So, I would like to ask whether the Minister would revert to the original idea of setting up a national institute, which is very much needed so that the message of human welfare could be spread. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: As was pointed out, the expert committee has been set up, which is looking into all the aspects. Once the recommendations of the committee come to us, we would look into what needs to be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manohar Joshi.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I only want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the exact difference between a centre and an autonomous body. As this distinction has been made, I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister before the question has been answered in this House.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, at every stage, we have been letting the hon. Prime Minister know every communication or the consultation that has taken place between MHRD and the Government of Punjab or the University of Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chandan Mitra.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: What is the difference...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Sir, I would like to endorse Dr. Karan Singh's view and yet appeal to you because you are an academician. You know that there is a big difference between a centre and an institute, and, it seems that the Ministry has backtracked from its commitment. I think, the hon. Minister should come clean on this issue that for some reasons, there has been a backtracking from 'institute' to 'centre', which is not one and the same thing. So why this downscaling has taken place, and, I think, one would like to have a categorical response from the hon. Minister as to why has this been done. Despite an expert committee having been set up, now, the Minister says that another expert committee is being set up and the discussions would be taken forward. Does it mean that this new expert committee would decide whether it would be a 'centre' or an 'institute'? When the hon. Prime Minister has already said that it would be an autonomous institute, who is this expert committee to decide or override the Prime Minister's announcement. This is what I would like to know, Sir.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, once again, let me emphasize that the hon. Prime Minister's had said that there would be a 'centre'. The announcement was to set up a centre and not an institute. Let me make it very clear initially. Definitely, Sir, again, I would like to re-emphasize that there is no scaling down; we remain committed. As far as the question of recommendations that his expert committee would give in terms of monetary, economic or whatever is concerned, we stand by the Committee, and, we will definitely fulfil whatever the committee says. There is no question of reducing the allocation that would be made to this centre depending on recommendations given by the committee. Let me again assure the House that there is no question of scaling down. We will definitely look into how the

centre can be strengthened completely to continue the research work on the Guru Granth Sahib. We know the sensitivity, the value and the importance of Guru Granth Sahib. Sir, we will definitely communicate the feelings of the House to the Committee.

गुर्जरो के लिए अनुसूचित जनजाति का दर्जा

\*244. श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी:

डा. ज्ञान प्रकाश पिलानिया:

क्या जनजातीय कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राजस्थान में गुर्जर आरक्षण को लेकर चले आंदोलन के बाद गुर्जरो की मांग पर विचार करने के लिए न्यायमूर्ति, श्री जसराज चोपड़ा की अध्यक्षता में एक उच्चस्तरीय समिति गठित की गई थी;

(ख) क्या उक्त कमेटी की रिपोर्ट राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा भारत सरकार को भेज दी गई है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस समिति की प्रमुख सिफारिशें क्या हैं और उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है; और

(घ) क्या न्यायमूर्ति, श्री चोपड़ा ने यह कहा है कि अनुसूचित जनजाति का दर्जा प्रदान करने के मानदंड अब लागू नहीं होते और उन पर पुनः विचार करने की आवश्यकता है?

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी. आर. किडिया): (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क)जी, हां। अनुसूचित जनजातियों की अधिसूचित सूची में शामिल किए जाने के लिए गुर्जर समुदाय की सतत मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए राजस्थान सरकार ने, इस मामले की विस्तार से जांच करने और इसकी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) जसराज चोपड़ा की अध्यक्षता में एक उच्चाधिकारप्राप्त समिति का गठन किया है।

(ख)न्यायमूर्ति (सेवानिवृत्त) जसराज चोपड़ा की अध्यक्षता में गठित उच्चाधिकारप्राप्त समिति की रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति राजस्थान राज्य सरकार द्वारा दिसम्बर, 2007 में जनजाति कार्य मंत्रालय को भेज दी गई है।

(ग) और (घ) अपनी मुख्य सिफारिशों में उच्चाधिकारप्राप्त समिति ने राजस्थान सरकार को (1) अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में किसी भी श्रेणी के लोगों को शामिल करने के लिए अब तक प्रयुक्त मानदंडों का निराकरण करने के लिए यह मामला भारत सरकार को भेजने का परामर्श दिया गया है चूंकि वे अप्रचलित और पुराने हो गये हैं। इन्हें मौजूदा संदर्भ में संगत परिमाणनीय मानदंडों द्वारा प्रतिस्थापित किया जाना चाहिए। मानदंड ऐसे होने चाहिए कि उनकी न्यायिक संवीक्षा करते उन्हें सही पाया जा सके और सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त भावी आयोगों अथवा समितियों को इस योग्य बनाया जा सके कि वे मुद्दे की, यथातथ्यता और वास्तविकता से जांच कर सकें।

(2) दरों (रेविनस), डैग्स और छिन्दस, वनों और पहाड़ियों जैसे अगम्य, दूरस्थ और असुविधाजनक क्षेत्रों, जहां अभी तक विकास नहीं हुआ है, -में दयनीय गरीबी का जीवन जीने वाले लोगों द्वारा सामना की गई समस्याओं का समाधान करने के लिए विकासाधीन और असुविधाजनक क्षेत्रों के लिए बोर्ड की स्थापना करने हेतु तुरंत कदम उठाना। ये ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहां गुर्जरो के विकास को वर्गीकृत प्रयास के परिणाम की प्रतीक्षा नहीं करनी चाहिए। इस उद्देश्य हेतु सरकार को यथोचित अवधि के लिए विकासात्मक गतिविधियों को पुनः प्राथमिकता देते हुए एक उचित निधि को स्वेच्छा से आबंटित करना चाहिए। (1) समुदाय को मुख्य धारा से जोड़ने के लिए संपर्क सड़क; (2) उन परिवारों के बच्चों को शिक्षा हेतु प्रेरित करने; (3) पेयजल, प्रमुख बीमारियों हेतु टीकाकरण तथा बच्चों एवं बुजुर्गों के लिए बेहतर स्वास्थ्य परिचर्या के माध्यम से समुदायों के स्वास्थ्य एवं स्वच्छता में सुधार करने पर बल दिया जाना होगा।

††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी द्वारा पूछा गया।