

we will work out a programme in consultation with the State Governments. For such a programme we have really initiated certain action to convene a meeting of Health Ministers from all the States. We will offer certain programmes to take. Health care to the rural country.

प्रो० रामबल्लभ सिंह वर्मा: मान्यवर सभापति जी, बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद। मान्यवर, जो यह माननीय मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया है इसका जो "ए" पार्ट है— "Whether Government would consider extending full health cover to senior citizens in rural areas;"

इसका उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी ने नहीं दिया है। परंतु माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बताने की कोशिश की है कि इस देश में नागरिक जिनमें सीनियर सिटीजन्स भी शामिल हैं, उनको कौन-कौन सी फैसिलिटीज उपलब्ध है। जबकि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में स्वयं बतलाया है कि इस देश में जो प्रायमरी हेल्थ सेंटर हैं, जो कम्युनिटी हेल्थ सेंटर हैं, उनकी क्या स्थिति है। तो मैं पुनः माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि सीनियर सिटीजन्स जो हैं, क्या उनको फुल मेडिकल हेल्थ कवर देने का सरकार का विचार है? उसके साथ साथ जो उत्तर में लास्ट में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है— "In addition, citizens can avail themselves of various medical insurance schemes available through the insurance companies." तो माननीय मंत्री जी से मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन-कौन सी इश्योरेंस कंपनियों हैं जिनके माध्यम से इस तरह से मेडिकल इश्योरेंस स्कीम चल रही है, जिनका फायदा उठाया जा सकता है। ये दो हमारे प्रश्न हैं, माननीय मंत्री जी से।

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Ministry, our Government very much want to provide to senior citizens health cover which is available in other sectors also. But the fact is that medical health care, as on date, is still a far cry to many of our rural people in several places. We have noted that point also.

I am pointing out to the hon. Member about the actual position as on date. I very much agree with the hon. Member that our senior citizens should be extended adequate and necessary health cover. He asked about the schemes that are available to the senior citizens in the

rural areas of the country. One is the Jana Arogya Scheme. This is one of the insurance schemes. The other is the Mediclaim Insurance Scheme. These two schemes are available to the senior citizens.

144. [The Questioner (Shri Shiv Charan Singh) was absent for answer vide Col... in Fara]

Working of Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi

*145. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the specific recommendations of the P.N. Haskar Committee appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Lalit Kala Akademi that have been accepted;

(b) the recommendations that have been rejected and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is proposed to appoint similar committees to review the working of the Sahitya Akademi and the Sangeet Natak Akademi?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the table of the house (See below).

(c) The Haskar Committee had reviewed working of the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi as well. There is no proposal to appoint another Committee.

Statement

(a) Part 'A' — attached gives the list of Haskar Committee Recommendations in respect of Lalit Kala Akademi which were accepted.

(b) Part 'B' — attached gives the Haskar Committee Recommendation in respect of Lalit Kala Akademi which was not accepted.

(A) List of Recommendations of Haskar Committee

*Accepted in case of
LALIT KALA AKADEMI*

S.No. Exhibitions and Awards

1. There is a feeling that Lalit Kala Akademi's National Exhibitions and annual awards are not always fair and there is decline in standards. The Akademi must adopt a system of appointing a Jury. The General Council may prepare a special roll of distinguished artists etc. for Jury for the National Exhibition and Akademi awards.
2. Cash prize accompanying the Akademi awards may be raised to Rs. 25,000 as in the other two Akademies. The Akademi may secure ten works from each award winning artist and organise a special exhibition. Conferment of the award be restricted to a single occasion.
3. Akademi must maintain the highest standards in the selection of exhibitions for international exhibitions.
4. More retrospectives of our eminent artist be organised.

THE TRIENNALE

5. No need to have separate organisation for the Triennale. It should be prerogative of the Akademi.
6. No virtue in the idea of restricting the Triennale to non-aligned Nations.
7. Decline in the standards of the Indian exhibits in the Triennale must be checked. Better to select not more than ten artists than to have a large number of artists.
8. The Commissioners must be drawn from amongst the panel of eminent artists, art historians & art critics.

S.No. Exhibitions and Awards

RESEARCH &
DOCUMENTATION

9. Greater priority should be given to research and documentation in contemporary art in collaboration with state Akademies.

PUBLICATIONS
DISSEMINATION

10. The Akademi must consider bringing out its journals at regular intervals, journals must also aim at achieving similar standards of editing and printing.
11. The Akademi must find more effective ways of selling its publications in collaboration with Commercial distributors.
12. An extensive collection of significant art reviews appearing in newspapers and journals in India and abroad must be built up and should be easily accessible to artists and scholars.
13. For the dissemination of art, the Akademi might work in close collaboration with organisations like the State Akademies, Universities, Museums, National Book Trust, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts etc.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/ASPECTS

14. A fresh set of enforceable guidelines for the occupation and vacation of the studios in Garhi in New Delhi must be framed.
15. It is not necessary to have State-wise representation for art organisations in the Akademi's General Council. Ten Members co-opted by the Council to represent these organisations would be sufficient.
16. The Akademi must, jointly with State Akademies and Governments, promote the proper growth and functioning of art associations.

S.No. Exhibitions and Awards

ART EDUCATION

17. The most neglected area of culture is art education. The Akademi must generate constructive discussion on this issue.
18. The Akademi should provide expertise to set up art museums in the States and Union Territories.

19. The Akademi must have close links with museums all over India.

INCENTIVES TO ARTISTS

20. The production of art materials within the country needs to be augmented, and better quality ensured. Import of art materials be placed on Open General Licence. There should be no import duties, or only a nominal one.
21. The Government of India's policy of setting aside a portion of the outlay on public buildings to include the making of murals and purchase of works of art should be strictly enforced.
22. A rebate for corporate expenditure on the acquisition of artistic works for the purpose of income tax, on the basis of present provision for recognised donations might be adopted.
23. The Govt. may, in consultation with the Akademies and the Indian Council of Cultural Relations look into the problem faced by artists intending to take their work abroad for participation in exhibitions. Insistence on including an Indian Commissioner might be given up. The procedure for selling works of contemporary Indian art abroad may be liberalised.
24. The Akademi should have a practical scheme for subsidizing the transport of works of art for the National Exhibition and the Triennale from distant places in the

S.No. Exhibitions and Awards

country. The co-operation of the Railways must be secured in this context.

ARTISTS' CONSTITUENCY

25. Although serious controversies have arisen over the election of fifteen members to the Akademi's General Council from the Artists community, the system must be continued with important modification.
26. The number of General Council Members belonging to the category of those elected from that artists constituency who may sit on the Executive Board may be restricted to two.
27. The electoral roll for the artists constituency should consist of artist's who have won an award or an honourable mention in any of the Akademi's national or International exhibitions held since the beginning and also the living fellows of the Akademi.
28. All members of the electorate, and all other artists whose works have been shown at least once in exhibitions, may be eligible for being considered for election.

INTERNAL CONFLICTS

29. Internal conflicts have been to the fore clouding the affairs of the Akademi in recent years. In order to generate confidence the existing General Council may be dissolved, and the revised structure and procedure recommended by the Committee may be adopted.

THE CONSTITUTION

30. The General Council, and Executive Board of the Akademi may be restructured.

(B) Haskar Committee Recommendation in respect of Lalit Akademi which was not Accepted

Recommendation	Rationale/Explanation
The Akademi's programme of purchasing works of art from contemporary artists is a marginal one, but has given rise to intense controversy and charges of favouritism. It has no special merit, and should be given up.	The Akademi's programme of purchase of art works serves a very significant purpose of encouraging the young and upcoming artists. The works purchased are also representative of their times and benefit scholars and artists in reference and research work. However, after the take over of the management of Lalit Kala Akademi, purchase of art works has been suspended.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I deeply appreciate the Minister's statement. But I think there is a little background to what has been happening to the three Akademies: particularly, to the Lalit Kala Akademi.

At a certain juncture, about fifteen years ago, faction fights proliferated within the Akademi, between two groups of artists, backed by some bureaucrats and politicians, which made the Akademi a sickening battle-ground. There was a lot of commotion. Then this Committee was appointed.

This Committee had submitted its report. It has been lying for quite a member of years. But nothing, apparently has happened with the Lalit Kala Akademi.

Sir, when you get prepared a report by an eminent person on an issue which affects the nation's art and culture, one would expect that those who are most

deeply involved in the process, namely, the artists themselves, would be drawn in and the recommendations would be discussed with them. But no such discussion has at all taken place. Artists come and complain to some of us that they themselves do not know what exactly are the follow-up measures that the Government is proposing to take.

At this juncture, there is an Administrator who has nothing to do with art, fine or non-fine. He is an Audit and Accounts Officer. He is ruling the roost. I do not want to make any insinuation. But he is ruling the roost; without any imagination and according to this whims.

There is one particular recommendation which the Haskar Committee had made, which has been allowed to be pushed to the wayside. The Haskar Committee had said that there was a lot of corruption attached to the giving of prizes, grants, etc. One recommendation was that, in order to avoid the accusation of partisanship—may be, for a member of years—there should be a suspension of this kind of offer of special awards to artists. I do not know what exactly is happening.

Sir, I find that it is a Government's standard practice—try to tell as little as you can to the public and to the peoples representatives. But I have succeeded in ferreting out a piece of paper on the recommendations which goes into greater details beyond what the document placed by the hon. Minister goes. I shall, with ceremony or without ceremony, make a presentation of these detailed recommendations to the hon. Minister after the Question Hour is over.

Thank you.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the Haskar Committee's recommendations were analysed by the Government. There were 137 recommendations, out of which 28 were not found acceptable by the Department. We are following a consensual approach in the matter of these reputed

institutions. We do not want to impose anything on them. But when complaints were received that in the case of the Lalit Kala Akademi, the Chairman promoted himself for an award and there were also other complaints received by the Government such as favouritism and nepotism in giving awards of the Lalit Kala Akademi, irregular grants-in-aid, irregular purchase of art objects and irregular TA and DA. So, this Administrator was appointed and the Government is now very seriously contemplating restructured rules etc. to be enforced and to be brought into practice. I can give you the time-frame. The time-schedule for restoration of normalcy in the Lalit Kala Akademi. Preparation of final draft of the Akademi after placing it before the Advisory Committee was set up to 30th April, 1998. It has been completed. Examining the final draft version in the Department in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Finance and the Registrar of Societies,—by 31st May 1998. It has also been completed. Obtaining the approval of Human Resource Minister and if required, of the Cabinet will be by 30th June. We will then notify this revised constitution by 31st July. The issue of notification of the revised electoral colleges by the Akademi will be on 14th August. Election to the General Council Executive Board etc., as per the revised Constitution by the Akademi, will be on 15th October. Issue of gazette relinquishing the management of the society as per Section 6(1) of the Lalit Kala Akademi taking over the Management Act, 1997 will be on 31st December, 1998.

I have given you the time schedule by which the administration will be restructured, new rules and regulations will be re-enforced and the Akademi will be handed over back to the artists. This is how we are proceeding.

Now, you are saying that many of the recommendations have not been implemented. Well, these Lalit Kala Akademies and all such Akademies are

bodies in which reputed artists and intellectuals with full autonomy and full dissenting voices work. So, we have to take into consideration the fact that nothing is done to impinge upon the autonomy, but simultaneously we have to ensure that the accountability of these Akademies to the Parliament is also ensured. After all, they are totally funded by the public money. I assure you that while the moneys voted by the Parliament are spent in accordance with the wishes of the Parliament, the Government is not going to interfere with any intellectual autonomy. This is our approach. I assure you that in the case of the Lalit Kala Akademi, you will find that by 31st December, 1998 it is restored back to the artists.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I thank the hon. Minister for the information provided. I would enter two caveats. First, before the hon. Minister finalises the Government decisions, it would be perhaps an excellent gesture, if some of the steps, which the Government proposes to take, could be discussed with a group of leading artists. They may have certain points of view which could be at least of some use to the Government.

The second issue, which is slightly more emergent, is the issue of certain cooperative societies of the artists, which were being organised by them at some locations arranged by the Lalit Kala Akademi. I am told that an uncertainty has come about in the continuation of this programme. I wish the Minister could kindly look into this matter.

DR. M. M. JOSHI: Which programme has the hon. Member referred to?

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: This is about the artists' cooperative colony in Delhi.

DR. M.M. JOSHI: Is the name of the colony Gharhi?

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: It is next to East of Kailash.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, what we have said is that rules have been framed, and those who want to occupy any accommodation, they will have to apply. Their applications will be considered and they will be decided on the basis of merit. There is enough accommodation available in various centres of our country, in, Bhunaneswar, in Chennai, and there will be difficulty for artist to get accommodation. But they should not be occupying the accommodation *ad infinitum*. There are artists who have never paid any rent, who continue to occupy the accommodation without any consideration for other artists. So, we have now framed the rules and people have applied and they will be considered. I will assure you that if there is any case where you find that there has been discrimination, you please bring it to our notice and we will rectify the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Sir, may I have the indulgence of just another clarification? There was one important recommendation by the Haksar Committee that the Central Akademies should operate in close collaboration with the State Akademies. The Committee was very strong about this particular fact of the matter. Now, has the Government thought about this issue at all?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We will consider this suggestion in consultation with artists also because there are different opinions on this matter.

श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय: सभापति महोदय मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी ने केवल एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगी हक्सर कमेटी की सिफारिशों को लेकर हमने वहां काफी बहस की थी। क्या 29 नवम्बर की सिफारिशों स्वीकार कर ली गई है, जिसमें लिखा हुआ है—“अंतर्कलह के कारण मौजूदा सामान्य परिषद भंग कर दी जाए और समिति द्वारा अनुरक्षित संरक्षित संरचनाएं और प्रक्रियाएं अपनाई जाएं”? अगर यह मान ली गई है तो जो नए कलाकार हैं, उनके प्रोत्साहन देने

के लिए उनकी कलाकृतियों की खरीद क्यों बन्द कर दी गई है? तर्क में कहा गया है कि इसमें कोई गुणवत्ता नहीं है। माननीय मंत्री जी क्या बताएंगे कि नए नियम कलाकारों के प्रोत्साहन के लिए क्या कोई प्रक्रियाएं अपनाई जाएंगी?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, मैंने जैसा बताया, अभी नए बन रहे हैं और इन नियमों में इस बात की आवश्यकता बरती जा रही है कि सब प्रकार के कलाकारों को प्रोत्साहित किया जाए। चूंकि केवल विशेष प्रकार के कलाकारों को ही प्रोत्साहित किया जा रहा था और उसमें इस बारे में शिकायतें मिली थीं कि वहां फेवरेटिज्म है, पक्षपात है, तो उस सबको ध्यान में रखकर नए नियम बनाए जा रहे हैं, जिसमें उस समय इस बात का पूरा ध्यान रखा जाएगा कि किसी भी श्रेणी के कलाकार को किसी प्रकार से भेदभाव या पक्षपात का शिकार न होना पड़े।

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि ललित कलाओं का स्तर उन्नत करने और ललित कलाओं को लोकप्रिय बनाने के ललित कला अकादमी के योगदान का कोई ओब्जेक्टिव मूल्यांकन विगत में किया गया है या नहीं? और, यदि किया गया है तो ऐसे मूल्यांकन का क्या सार और निचोड़ है?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सभापति जी, पहले हक्सर कमेटी ने इस ललित कला अकादमी और अन्य अकादमियों का मूल्यांकन किया और पूरी एक रपट बड़ी मेहनत के साथ बनाई। उसके पश्चात यह हक्सर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट पर, इस अकादमी पर चर्चा चल रही थी, सरकार के पास जब शिकायतें आईं तो स्वयं सरकार की एक कमेटी बनी, जिसने इन सब बातों का मूल्यांकन किया। उसके बाद ही यह विचार आया कि इसका प्रबंध अधिगृहीत कर लिया जाए ताकि ललित कला अकादमी जिस उद्देश्य के लिए बनाई गई थी उसको सार्थकता के साथ पूरा किया जा सके और ललित कला के विकास, उनके प्रचार, कलाकारों के योगदान में सहायता, यह सब अच्छे ढंग से किया जा सके। यह उसका सार है।

डा० चार्म लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, आदरणीय अशोक मित्रा जी के प्रश्न का “स्ते” पार्ट है, उस संदर्भ में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जाना चाहूंगा कि ऐसी कमेटी का गठन साहित्य अकादमी और संगीत नाटक अकादमी के संदर्भ में करने का कोई विचार है? यह मेरे प्रश्न का प्रथम भाग है और दूसरा भाग यह है कि किसी भी पुरस्कार के अंतर्गत दी जाने वाली धनराशि को देखने

से ही उस पुरस्कार की गुणवत्ता तोली जाती है। ज्ञानपीठ और सखती सम्मान में 2 लाख और 3 लाख दिए जाते हैं, लेकिन साहित्य अकादमी में केवल 25 हजार दिए जाते हैं, इसलिए क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा विचार है कि उसकी इस पुरस्कार राशि को बढ़ाया जाए?

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी: सर, आपके प्रश्न के प्रथम भाग का तो उत्तर मैं दे चुका हूँ। इसमें

The Haksar Committee had reviewed the working of the Sahitya Akademi and the Sangeet Natak Akademi as well.

There is no proposal to appoint another Committee at the moment.

बाकी जहाँ तक पुरस्कार का सवाल है, तो यह तो आप लोगों पर निर्भर करता है, जितनी धनराशि संसद हमें स्वीकृत करेगी उसके हिसाब से पुरस्कार बंट जायेंगे।

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to enquire whether any steps are being taken to stop and even withdraw the vulgar and forward paintings that are circulating in the country under the name of a distinguished artist like Hussain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This supplementary does not arise out of this question.

Specification for Mineral Water

*146. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 979 given in the Rajys Sabha on 31st July, 1997 and state:

(a) the specifications for mineral water formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) whether there is any check on different mineral water brands and if so, when, where and how;

(c) whether any brands have been found to violate the specifications formulated by the B.I.S.; and

(d) the penalty, if any, imposed during the last three years;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) a statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The extract of Standards for natural mineral water formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are at Annexure [See Appendix 184 Annexure No. 34].

(b) to (d) As the Standards formulated by the BIS are primarily voluntary in nature and no manufacturer has taken BIS Certification mark so far for mineral water, the question of BIS taking punitive action does not arise.

However, under the Prevention of Food Adulteration rules 1955, standards for mineral water have been laid down and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954, provides for penalties in cases where violation comes to notice. Therefore, the Food Health Authorities of States/UTs, administering the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954, keep a vigil on quality of mineral water by drawing random samples of mineral water from the market and checking the quality.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Sir, I am afraid, the authorities are not conscious of what is happening in the name of mineral water. Perhaps, the first mineral water brand that hit the market was Bisleri. A couple of years back, an important Embassy in India said that it was not good enough, not healthy enough and that they were going to discontinue it. I will not go into the merits of the case, whether Bisleri was right or whether that Embassy was right, but two things are very clear. This bottled is of doubtful quality. Many of these bottles don't even claim to be mineral water. We know that they are just plain tap water, and by using this plastic bottle, they mislead the people into thinking that it is mineral water like Bisleri etc. etc.—This is the situation. And these plastic bottles are