

RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 1st August,
1997/10th Sravana, 1919 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the Clock,
the Deputy Chairman *in the Chair*.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steps to Enable Children to Enjoy Childhood

*141. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to enable children—belonging to poor Dalits, tribal and minority Sections—to enjoy childhood and develop full blossomed personality, educationally, intellectually and culturally, keeping in view Article 24 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details- thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In keeping with Article 24 and other relevant Articles (39 and 45) of the Constitution of India and the Directive Principles of State Policy concerning Welfare and Development of Children, the Government of India formulated the National Policy for Children through a Resolution in 1974. The Policy enunciates that children's programmes should find a prominent part in the National Plans for the development of human resources so that children who are viewed as the nation's "supremely important asset" grow up to become robust citizens, physically fit, mentally alert and morally healthy, endowed with the skills and motivation needed by society.

Equal opportunities for development of all children during the period of growth to serve the larger purpose of reducing inequality and ensuring social justice is the aim of the National Policy Resolution.

As a follow-up to National Policy for Children, a number of programmes are being implemented for the welfare and overall development of children including children belonging to the weaker sections of the society and SC & ST (statement-I). (See below) Further, the National Plan of Action for Children drawn up in 1992 provides for priority in action for working children for which various programmes and schemes are to be undertaken by the concerned line Ministries/Departments for rehabilitation of working children.

In addition, the National Policy on Health 1993 provides for special measures for the improvement of maternal and child health, the National Policy on Education 1986 perceives education as fundamental to all-round development of children and stipulates free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality to all children up to 14 years of age before the turn of the century and emphasises universal enrolment of children. The National Child Labour Policy announced in 1987 comprises a legislative action plan, focusses on general, development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible and project based action plans in areas of high concentration of child labour.

To provide equal opportunity for the children belonging to poor dalits, tribal and minority sections, the Government is implementing the following programmes and schemes, Setting up of Ashram Schools for extending educational facilities like establishing residential schools for ST students in an environment conducive to learning; Aid to voluntary organisations for SC/STs under which grant-in-aid is given for setting up of residential/non-residential schools, hostels and creches for education and development of SC/ST children;

Centrally sponsored scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations etc.; Educational complex for Scheduled Tribes, Girls in low literacy pockets; Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of scheduled tribes; With a view to spreading technical education in appropriate technologies and skills relevant to the minorities, extension centres of community polytechnics are being run in minority concentration districts; Promotion of Madrasa education on voluntary basis; Area intensive programme for educationally backward minorities to provide basic education infrastructure and facilities in educationally backward areas etc.

With specific reference to Article 24, the Government has taken a series of steps for rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. A major programme was announced in August 1994 for the withdrawal and rehabilitation of around 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. Under the project, children withdrawn from work are enrolled in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend etc. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special schools set up under the projects.

The Supreme Court of India has also in their judgement dated 10.12.1996 given

certain directions regarding the manner in which children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn and rehabilitated as also the manner in which the working conditions of children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. The important directions given in the judgement include survey of working children, payment of compensation amounting to Rs. 20,000/- by the offending employer for every child employed in hazardous occupations in contravention of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, giving alternative employment to an adult member of the family in place of child withdrawn from such hazardous occupations, provision of education in a suitable institution for the children so withdrawn, creation of Child Labour Welfare-cum-Rehabilitation Fund etc. The various directions of the Supreme Court are to be implemented in a time bound manner. A number of steps have been taken by the government as a follow up of the directions of the Supreme Court.

Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced by the Government seeks complete abolition of child labour. A beginning has been made by the Government for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations. These efforts will continue till the objective of complete elimination of child labour is achieved.

Child Development Programmes and Agencies for their Implementation

MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	SCHEMES
Department of Women & Child Development	1. ICDS - Supplementary Nutrition - Immunization ft Health Check-up - Early Childhood Development - Non-formal Pre-school Education - Referral Services

MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	SCHEMES
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Adolescent Girls Scheme 3. World Bank ICDS I & II 4. World Food Programme 5. Balwadi Nutrition 6. Special Nutrition 7. Early Childhood Education 8. Girl Child 9. National Creche Fund 10. National Children Fund 11. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of women and children 12. Indira Manila Kosh 13. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh 14. Mahila Samridhhi Yojana
Health & Family Welfare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) 2. Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) 3. Mother and Child Health (MCH) 4. School Health Check-up Scheme 5. First Referral Units 6. Reproductive and Child Health Projects
Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary Education 2. Operation Black Board 3. Mid-day Meal Scheme 4. School Health Check-up Scheme 5. District Primary Education Programme 5. Total Literacy Mission 7. Non-formal Education 8. Minimum levels of learning 9. Integrated Education for the Disabled Students It). Scholarships for blind, deaf and orthopaedically handicapped
Rural Areas and Employment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission 2. Rural Sanitation 3. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
Welfare	<p>Grant in aid for:—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance for vocational training add rehabilitation

UNISTRY/DEPARTMENT	SCHEMES
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Assistance for special schools for disabled children 3. Assistance for aids and appliances 4. Scheme for welfare of Street Children 5. Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment 6. Adoption of neglected and destitute children 7. Aid to voluntary organisations for SC/STs for residential/non-residential schools, hostels, and creches for education and development of SC/ST children 8. Centrally sponsored scheme of pre-matric scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations 9. Central Sector Scheme of Special Educational Development Programme for SC/ST girls belonging to very low literacy levels 10. Centrally sponsored scheme of Ashram schools for extending educationally facilities 11. Educational complex for Scheduled Tribe girls in low literacy pockets.
Labour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Child Labour Projects 2. International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: In keeping with Article 24 and other relevant Articles—Article 39 and 45—of the Constitution of India and the Directive Principles of State Policy concerning Welfare and Development of Children, the Government of India formulated the National Policy for Children through a resolution in 1974. The policy enunciates that children's programmes should find a(interruptions).....

PROF. RAM KAPSE: Madam, it is already laid on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very long statement.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, the hon. Minister can underline important points if he wants to do so.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Why I am reading out is, it concerns six Ministries.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: We have read the statement.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Member put his first supplementary.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: If it is so, I would say that a statement is laid on the i Table of the House.

श्री इकबाल सिंह: उपसभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने बड़े विस्तारपूर्वक मेरे सवाल का जवाब दिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम के तहत जो आपने जवाब दिया है लेकिन यह जो ड्रॉपआउट्स स्टूडेंट्स करते हैं, इसमें 4 साल की उम्र तक के जो बच्चे पढाई छोड़कर चले जाते हैं वह बिहार में परसेंट है, उत्तर प्रदेश में 20 से 30 परसेंट है, पंजाब में भी 20 से 39 परसेंट है, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में 55 परसेंट, राजस्थान में 53 परसेंट, मिजोरम में 19 परसेंट और यहां तक कि केरल में भी चार परसेंट है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो आपने आर्टिकल 24 के बारे में और दूसरा आपने कहा कि कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम में हमारा फैसला है कि हम जल्दी लेकिन इतने ड्रॉपआउट्स हो रहे हैं, बच्चे ऐजुकेशन नहीं ले रहे हैं तो उनके बारे में आप क्या सोच रहे हैं? आज चार करोड़ चालीस लाख बच्चे छोटे-छोटे कामों में लगे हुए हैं तथा अपने मां-बाप को पैसा कमाकर दे रहे हैं। मेरे कहने का अर्थ है कि जो बच्चे ऐजुकेशन छोड़ रहे हैं, उनके बारे में आप क्या सोच रहे हैं।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, it is a fact that there are drop-outs at the primary school level, that is, classes I to V. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that in 1960-61, the drop-out rate at the primary level was 54.9 per cent. In 1993-94, it was 36.3 per cent. At the upper-primary level, the drop-out rate in 1960-61 was 78.3 per cent, while at present it is 52.8 per cent. So, the drop-out rate is coming down, but still it is there. I do agree it is because of poverty. Parents try to get an additional income by engaging their children in different occupations. It is happening because of lack of awareness among parents. Therefore, Madam, I have introduced a Bill in this House to make education a Fundamental Right. It is not only obligatory on the Central and the State Governments to give educational facilities, but it is the duty of the parents also to send their children to schools. When the Bill is discussed, Members can suggest ways and means to achieve this goal. We have introduced the Mid-Day

Meal Scheme in schools. If it is properly implemented, it would be another attraction for children. We require more schools, and, more important, awareness among people. Kerala has achieved 90 per cent of literacy because there is awareness. Voluntary organisations also have contributed a lot in this direction. Therefore, I would like that it should be a people's movement. It is not only the duty of the Government, but society should also cooperate in creating an awareness among people to send their children to school. When the Bill is discussed, Members can give their suggestions. The Government would be happy to have their suggestions.

श्री इकबाल सिंह: मैडम, मंत्री जी ने जवाब में बहुत कुछ कह दिया है लेकिन कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम जो सरकार का बनाया हुआ है उसमें इन्होंने यह फैसला किया है कि सन 2000 तक हम भारत के पूरे बच्चों को एजुकेट करेंगे लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी ने इसको तरफ बिल्कुल ध्यान नहीं दिया है और पुरे आर्टिकल के बारे में दुबारा बता दिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप कॉमन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम को किस ढंग से लागू करेंगे? अभी जो ब्लैक बोर्ड और प्राइमरी स्कूल का सिस्टम है, खासकर के नाईथ फाइव ईयर प्लान में प्राइमरी एजुकेशन देने के संबंध में, तो क्या आपने कोई नई अपनी योजना बनाई है? यदि नई योजना आपने अपने प्रोग्राम में योजना बनाई है तो उसके बारे में बताइए ताकि इस देश के गरिब का बच्चा स्कूल में जा सके, उसको एजुकेशन मिल सके और उसके बाद देश के नवनिर्माण में वह अपना अच्छा रोल अदा कर सके? उसके बारे में आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I thank the hon. Member for reminding me about the Common Minimum Programme. We want to implement it. With that end in view, a Conference of Chief Ministers was called. They were also of the view that universalisation of education should be achieved. After their endorsement, a Committee, consisting of Education Ministers of some States, was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Saikiaji. The Committee has submitted its report. It says that education should be made a Fundamental Right. The

Committee also suggested that elementary education should be fully implemented by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan, not by the end of the 20th century. It is estimated that for this purpose about 50,000 crores of rupees would be required.

They have suggested. Not by 2000 AD, but by the end of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. This would be placed before the Cabinet. We intend to find resources to provide education and all other facilities. I assure you that the commitment we have made in the Common Minimum Programme would be fulfilled. As far as the details are concerned, as I said, when the Bill comes, I will give the details.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made a commitment; I agree. But Mr. Minister, are you yourself convinced about it, that by 2000 AD, you would be able to do that?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Therefore, I said, Madam, 'by the end of the Ninth Five-Year Plan.' It would be 2002.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even by 2002....

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: If there is a political will, yes; it is possible.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In fifty years, we could not do it. In five years, can we do it?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Five years also is not a small period, Madam. If everybody co-operates, it is possible.

श्री इकबाल सिंह: मैडम, अभी तक 75 हजार स्कूल ऐसे हैं जिनकी कोई बिल्डिंग नहीं है, इसके बारे में मंत्री जी ने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया। 75 हजार स्कूल ऐसे हैं जिनकी बिल्डिंग नहीं है, जहाँ जाकर एजुकेशन ले सके तथा 40 हजार स्कूल ऐसे हैं जिनको हमने अभी तक पूरे टीचर नहीं दिए हैं। अभी तो कामन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम चल ही रहा है लेकिन अभी तक हम टीचर भी नहीं दे पाए हैं। 75 हजार स्कूल ऐसे हैं जो कच्चे हैं, वहाँ पंखे नहीं हैं, बिल्डिंग नहीं है, उन की छत नहीं है, उनके बारे में आप क्या सोच रहे हैं।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, let me point out. Already, the Government has taken a number of steps. The DPEP is one programme. Where there is one teacher, we are providing a second teacher. Where there is only one room in the school, we are providing a second room. Now, within a radius of one kilometre, there is a school, there has been improvement from the days of Independence till now. The only problem is: population growth. Because of the population growth, we have not been able to provide adequate schools. Therefore, Madam, we have to think about that also.

श्री रामनाथ कोविन्द: उपसभापति महोदया, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के पैरा 7 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजमेंट का जिक्र किया है। हम सब लोग जानते हैं कि उत्तर प्रदेश में फिरोजाबाद एक ऐसा शहर है जो कि प्लास इंडस्ट्री के लिए वर्षों से मशहूर रहा है। आज तो वह पर्यावरण की दृष्टि से भी मशहूर हो गया है। महोदया, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजमेंट का जिक्र किया है, उस सिलसिले में मैं मंत्री जी से केवल फिरोजाबाद ग्लास इंडस्ट्री के संबंध में जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपने वहाँ पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जजमेंट के मुताबिक सवे करा लिया है? यदि करा लिया है तो जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने डाइरेक्शन दी थी कि आफेंडिंग इंडस्ट्री पर आप 20 हजार रुपए प्रति चाइल्ड के रेट में लगायेगे उसका पालन हुआ या नहीं? इस संबंध में मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी कितनी आफेंडिंग इंडस्ट्रीज हैं और वहाँ से जो चिल्ड्रन विद्झा किए गए हैं क्या उनको किसी सुटेबल इंस्टीट्यूशन में या किसी एजुकेशन इंस्टीट्यूशन में भर्ति कराया गया है? इन चीजों को मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, the hon. Supreme Court pronounced its judgement in December, 1996. They have directed that an all-India survey should be conducted. The all-India survey has commenced. It is in the final stages. The survey has not been completed yet. After the survey is completed, we will try to implement the next stage of taking away the children from the hazardous industries and making the employer deposit Rs. 20,000/—. As the survey is incomplete, I am not in a position to give this figure.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Is there no time-limit for the survey? When would it be completed?

श्री रामनाथ कोविन्द: महोदया, सर्वे के लिए टाइम लिमिट दी गई है। मैं मंत्री से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह टाइम लिमिट क्या है और उस टाइम लिमिट में आप सर्वे पूरा कर लेगे या नहीं?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: The Labour Department is doing its best, Madam. As I said, the survey has already started. Shortly it is going to be completed.

SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: There is a time-limit as per the Supreme Court Judgement.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Time is granted. The survey has to be completed within six months.

SHRI RAM NATH GOVIND: Six months are over.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Yes, six months are over. We have not been able to do it. I am admitting it. The whole country will have to be surveyed. Therefore, it will take some time. We will complete it as early as possible and then take the next step.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया: शुक्रिया मैडम। बच्चे हमारे देश का मुस्तकबिल है लेकिन मुस्तकबिल के बारे में मैं हमारे देश में क्या किया जा रहा है, यह चिन्ता का विषय है। हमारे संविधान में सब से पहले इस बात का वायदा किया गया था कि 14 साल के जो बच्चे हैं उनकी तालीम मुफ्त और मुक्कमल तौर पर 10 साल में दी जाएगी उसके बाद 1974 में नेशनल पॉलिसी फार चिल्ड्रन बनाई गई एक रेजोल्यूशन के जरिये। मैं मंत्री साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो हमारे संविधान में प्रावधान था 14 साल के बच्चों को 10 साल के अंदर मुफ्त तालीम देने का और उसके बाद 1974 में नेशनल पॉलिसी फार चिल्ड्रन के तहत वीकर सेक्शन के बच्चों, गरीब लोगों के बच्चों को उनके ओवर-आल डवलपमेंट के लिए, उनके उत्थान के लिए स्कीम बनाई गई थी। 1974 से लेकर 1997 तक 23 साल हो गए हो गए हैं, मंत्री साहब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह स्कीम में जो 1974 में बनाई गई थी, कई सालों के बाद आज उन सारी स्कीमों का क्या हश्र है?

† श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया: شکریہ میڈم۔ بچے ہمارے دیش

کا مستقبل ہیں۔ لیکن اس مستقبل کے بارے میں

ہمارے دیش میں کیا کیا جا رہا ہے۔ یہ جنتا کاوشے

ہے۔ ہمارے سموڈھان میں سب سے پہلے اس بات

کا وعدہ کیا گیا تھا کہ اسال کے جو بچے ہیں انکی تعلیم

مقت اور مکمل طور پر ۱۰ سال میں دی جائیگی اسکے

۱۹۷۴ میں "نیشنل پالیسی فار چلڈرن" بنائی گئی ایک

رزولوشن کے ذریعہ۔ میں منتری صاحب سے کہنا

چاہتا ہوں کہ جو ہمارے سموڈھان میں پراوڈھان تھا کہ

۱۴ سال کے بچوں کو ۱۰ سال کے اندر مفت تعلیم دینے

کا اور اسکے بعد ۱۹۷۴ میں "نیشنل پالیسی فار چلڈرن"

کے تحت "ویکر سیکشن" کے بچوں، غریب لوگوں کے

بچوں کو انکے اوور آل ڈولپمنٹ کے لئے، انکے اتھان

کیلئے اسکیم بنائی گئی تھی۔ ۱۹۷۴ سے لیکر ۱۹۹۷ تک

۲۳ سال ہو گئے ہیں۔ منتری صاحب سے پوچھنا چاہتا

ہوں کہ وہ اسکیمیں جو ۱۹۷۴ میں بنائی گئی تھیں کئی

سالوں کے بعد آج انکا کیا حشر ہے۔

What is the implementation position of these schemes? In addition to that, I want to know why the performance of

the implementation agencies, who are bureaucrats of our country is dismal?

आज हमारे जितने भी कानून बनते हैं, उनमें सब से बड़ी हमारी मुसीबत यह है कि उनका इंप्लीमेंटेशन का बहुत बुरा हाल है। बच्चों के बारे में आप हमें बताएं कि 23 साल से बाद, 1974 में जो पॉलिसी बनाई गई थी, उन स्क्रीमों का हश्र क्या हुआ?

آج ہمارے جتنے بھی قانون بنتے ہیں ان میں سب سے بڑی ہماری مصیبت یہ ہے کہ انکا اپلی منٹیشن کا بہت برا حال ہے۔ بچو کے بارے میں آپ ہمیں بتائیں گے کہ ۲۳ سال کے بعد ۱۹۷۴ میں جو پالیسی بنائی گئی تھی ان اسکیموں کا حشر کیا ہوا۔

what is the implementation position of these policies?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Madam, the hon. Members firstly referred to the provision in the Directive Principles to educate all children within the age group of six and thirteen within ten years. It has been mentioned in the Directive Principles. But we have not been able to do it. But still the progress that has been made I would like to bring to the notice of this august House. In 1950-51 the percentage of literate children was 16.67. Today the percentage is 52.21. That is the increase. In 1950-51 the number of schools was 2.23 lakhs. Today there are 7.44 lakhs of schools. In 1950-51 the number of teachers was 6.24 lakhs. Today there are 28.36 lakhs of teachers. In 1950-51 the number of children attending school was 1.92 crores. Today 14.94 crores of children are attending schools. I am giving these figures to show that we have done something. It is not that we have done nothing. But still more needs to be done. I agree with the hon. Member. If it is left with the officials it cannot be done. Voluntary organisations, village panchayats, local bodies, corporations, municipalities and people should be involved. Then only there will

be good management and attendance also. Therefore, we have to involve the people. Why is it successful in Tamil Nadu and in Kerala? It is because of the missionaries, it is because of the recognised bodies, it is because of the voluntary organisations who look after it. Who supervises it? The panchayat supervises it. Therefore, it is successful. I am sorry to say that in most of the Hindi-speaking areas of the north the panchayats and the voluntary organisations are not taking so much of interest. In the South, voluntary organisations are taking part. Their participation is more, and they are well utilised. The Policy of 1973 has been adopted. There is improvement in giving help to children. All blocks, except 1,200 blocks, have been covered under the ICDS. We are going to strengthen it further.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In Bombay, the municipality is running medical colleges.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Madam, since the question is about enjoyment of childhood and development of a full-blossom personality, without permission, I will ask a slightly different sort of question. We all know this, and social and anthropological researches confirm the importance of sports and games in developing the personality of the child. I want to ask of the hon. Minister whether there is any definite plan, schemes or policy for developing sports and, more importantly, games, for children. And are there books? Libraries are difficult to develop. But children do enjoy stories. Is story-telling as a form of art and as a form of pursuing moral and ethical education being developed, or is it focussed on? Thank you, Madam.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: I completely agree with the hon. Member that story-telling will go a long way to educate children. Grandmothers used to tell stories.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Nowadays Ministers are telling stories.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: There used to be so much agitation for hearing stories at home.

The hon. Member asked about the sports policy. A new sports policy has circulated to the State Governments and also sports organisations. The Consultative Committee of the Department had two meetings. It had detailed discussions on the sports policy. It is again meeting next week. We are finalising the sports policy. We will come before the House.

उपसभापति: श्री दवे... (व्यवधान) एक एक करके बुला सकती हूँ। 23 नाम हैं मेरे पास... (व्यवधान)

श्री राघवजी : सबसे पहले मैंने हाथ उठाया था।

उपसभापति: यह तो मुझे पता नहीं। कैमरे से रिकार्ड कर करोगे... (व्यवधान)

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ हालांकि मेरा सवाल सीधा उनके मंत्रालय से नहीं है तो भी... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति: सीधा उनके मंत्रालय से नहीं है तो फिर कोई लाभ नहीं है।... (व्यवधान) क्योंकि मंत्रालय का जवाब नहीं आएगा यहां पर... (व्यवधान)

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: मैडम उन्होंने बताया है अपने स्टेटमेंट में कि बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य के सुधार के लिए वे प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आजकल समाज में, पूरे देश में जो बच्चे स्कूल जा रहे हैं उन स्कूलों के इर्द-गिर्द जहां गुटका पान मसाला मिलता है उसकी वजह से लाखों बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य दिन प्रतिदिन बिगड़ता जा रहा है, वो हैबी चुएटेड होते रहते हैं। क्या आपके माध्यम से यह प्रश्न हाथ में लेंगे क्योंकि बच्चों का स्वास्थ्य सुधारने के लिए पान मसाला और गुटका पर प्रतिबंध लगाना चाहिये। ये स्कूल के आजू-बाजू कहीं नहीं बिकने चाहिये और ये देश में बंद होने चाहिये।

उपसभापति: आप जरा संक्षेप में पूछें तो मैं बाकी लोगों को भी बुलावा लूँ।

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: It is a very good suggestion. I will pass it on to the Labour Minister for a proper enactment.

श्री नरेश यादव: महोदया, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के दूसरे भाग में कहा है—असमानता को कम करने तथा सामाजिक न्याय सुनिश्चित करने के वृहत प्रयोजनार्थ विकास की अवधि के दौरान बच्चों को विकास के समान अवसर प्रदान करना राष्ट्रीय नीति संकल्प का लक्ष्य है। तो क्या समान अवसर के लिए पब्लिक स्कूल और गवर्नमेंट स्कूल में जो अन्तर है और सामाजिक न्याय का आपने संकल्प लिया है इसलिए इसे कम करने के लिए आप क्या रहे हैं? और “ख”

उपसभापति: बस एक ही पूछ लीजिए।... (व्यवधान)

श्री नरेश यादव: इसी में है।

उपसभापति: बस, क्योंकि अभी 23 लोग क्वच्यन पूछने को बैठे हैं।... (व्यवधान)

श्री नरेश यादव: महोदया, सम्पूर्ण साक्षरता मिशन में आपने बताया है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ सम्पूर्ण साक्षरता मिशन में आपके विभागे ने कितना खर्च किया है और उसके रिजल्ट का परसेंटेज क्या है, और आपने कितना साक्षर किया है?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Madam, I do agree that differences in standards exist between Government and public schools run by the private sector. Public schools charge higher fee; and they have got better standards. It is unfortunate. We have to improve the standard of the Government schools. In that direction a number of steps have been taken by the Government in the form of training of teachers, helping them to improve their qualifications, increasing their salaries and providing medical facilities. We also provide facilities to students belonging to weaker sections. For S.C. and S.T. students we provide hostel facilities, scholarships and also health care. A number of other schemes are being implemented to help students belonging to the weaker sections.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Madam, since the question is directly related to child labour, unless child labour itself is prohibited and the Act in this regard is properly implemented by

the Government, the issue of their going to school for getting education and our providing all these facilities hardly arises. So, my question is whether the Government would prohibit child labour so that they can go to school.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Madam, this question concerns the Labour Ministry. Still, I would like to say that there is already an Act called the Child Labour (Prohibition) Act, under which employment of children below a particular age is prohibited in hazardous industries and also in mines. There is already this Act and it should be properly implemented.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are so many hon. Members, who want to ask questions on this. We have already spent half an hour on this question. There are other questions also. (*Interruptions*) One second, please. It is a very important question and it requires a lot of discussion. It has a bearing on our education policy. I think we can have a full-fledged discussion on it. All those hon. Members, who have given their names, will be participating in that debate. That would be better. Now, we move on to the next question.

Revival Plan for IDPL

*142. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the stage of the revival plan for IDPL; and

(b) by when it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A revival package, formulated by the IDPL Management and vetted by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Mumbai, was approved by the Board for Industrial &

Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) on the 10th February, 1994. The revival operations were for a period of 10 years beginning from 1994-95. The package, inter alia, envisaged higher production, sales, reduction in excess manpower, fresh financial support and capital restructuring from the Government, support and sacrifices from the Bankers, the employees, etc. Capital restructuring, as envisaged in the package, was agreed to by the Government. Fresh financial assistance amounting to Rs. 140.31 crores was provided to IDPL in the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 as against the total financial assistance of Rs. 119.94 crores envisaged in the package.

IDPL, in 1994-95, the first year of the revival operations, could not reach the targeted levels of operations. The Management thereafter proposed modifications in the existing package which, inter alia, envisaged additional fresh financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 98 crores from the Government. The Group of Ministers (GOM) under the chairmanship of the then Finance Minister decided in January, 1996 that no further commitment of financial assistance could be given and the modified plan should be got vetted through an Operating Agency appointed by the BIFR. The BIFR was informed accordingly. The BIFR declared the earlier package as having failed and appointed the IDBI, Mumbai, as the Operating Agency for a techno-economic viability study and for a report in this regard. IDPL management were also directed to submit their long-term revival proposal to the Operating Agency. The BIFR in a subsequent hearing directed the IDBI, Mumbai, to take the help of a reputed consultant for a diagnostic study of IDPL. M/s. A.F. Ferguson & Co., identified by the IDBI, Mumbai, were engaged for this purpose. The reports of M/s. AFF and also the IDBI, the Operating Agency, which were received in January, 1997, indicated that IDPL was not viable on "as is where is" basis. IDBI, Mumbai, further expressed a view