

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Som Palji, I think there is some misunderstanding. What is the price in the market at which the consumer purchases them? That is not less. I can tell you. *...(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI SOM PAL: It is the price received by the farmer and not the price paid by the consumer. उसकी बात कह रहा हूँ।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That is the point which I am telling you time and again. There is a problem of middlemen. The crux of the problem is the middleman's profit. *(Interruptions)...* It is not that you raised a point at what price the consumer gets them. I am of the opinion that we have to help the farmers and, therefore, these schemes have been taken up.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान: इस बारे में प्रधान मंत्री से भी कोई चर्चा चल रही है?

SHRIMATI KENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I want to put a question which has larger ramifications. As regards the increase in the area of cultivation, keeping in view the GATT proposals, I want to know whether there is any way by which we can monitor the change in the crop pattern from food crop to cash crop *vis-a-vis* floriculture and horticulture. I would like to know whether we have been monitoring this and, if so, how many farmers have adopted variation in the crop pattern. What are the recommendations that the Government is going to make to the Planning Commission so that the Planning Commission can apply its mind along with the Agriculture Ministry? We have been proud of our buffer stock. How are we going to counter these alterations?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, it is a fact that some alterations and deviations are taking place. As a result of that, so far as fruits and vegetables are concerned, the acreage has sufficiently increased. But the farmers will go to that area which gives them more income. It is a simple law that they must do it. What I am protecting is this. So far as foodgrains

are concerned, enough precaution should be taken so that again the country doesn't fall into a food deficit.

That is the first priority. So far as horticulture is concerned, it has a very big potential. Very soon I am going to have a meeting of all the Agriculture Ministers of the north-eastern States. We would chalk out a plan and see how we can have more fruits and vegetables from that area. If necessary, transport or cargo would be arranged so that it could be exported. Export potential is very high. I think nature has given us various types of climates in our country. There is a very good prospect and I am going to utilise that and exploit all the natural resources that we have at our command.

*583. *[The Questions (Dr. Mohan Babu) was absent. For answer vide Co.....infra]*

Need for Alternate Funding of Higher Education

*584. **SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:**
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that public support for higher education is essential, but higher educational institutions themselves also need to explore alternate funding sources;

(b) whether all stakeholders, students, parents, the public and private sector, local and national communities and authorities must join in this search; and

(c) the steps being taken to achieve this?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While Government continues to bear the major responsibility for funding higher education, universities are being encouraged to raise their own resources. In November, 1992, UGC had appointed a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of Justice K. Punnayya to, inter-alia, suggest specific measures for mobilisation of additional resources by the universities as well as to recommend ways of improving the overall cost efficiency of these institutions. The report of this Committee, alongwith the views of UGC thereon, have been sent to the Central/State/Deemed Universities as well as to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for implementation of the recommendations relevant to them. Government has introduced. The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995 in the Rajya Sabha to provide for establishment of self-financing private universities in the country and to regulate their functioning by enacting an enabling legislation on the subject. Government has given 100% tax exemption in respect of the contributions made to the approved universities and institutes of national importance.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: The Government has admitted that funding education is still the major responsibility of the Government. My first supplementary is this. What is the percentage of the Central budget and the State budget for primary, higher and university education? This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is this. The Minister has mentioned about the Punnayya Committee report. What are the Salient features of this report which the hon. Minister has not mentioned in his reply? I would like to know whether there is any difference between the Punnayya Committee report and the UGC's point of view. What is the position of the Government of India in it? I would like to know whether the

State Governments have differed from the report of this Committee.

SHRI S. R. BOMMALI: Sir, the Government is spending Rs. 30,000 crores in total on education. Out of this, Rs. 3,600 crores are for higher education and Rs. 1,300 crores are for technical education. I am sorry to say that private funding of higher education is very less in this country. Sir, 90 per cent funding is borne by the Government and 10 per cent funding comes from the private sector. Therefore, it is very difficult to liberally grant funds for higher education and vocational institutions.

It is a lengthy report. The recommendations are First, any additional resources generated by universities and institutions may be kept in a separate fund to be utilised for the furtherance of the objectives of the university or the institution. Second, the UGC may provide a matching grant as an incentive to universities generating additional resources. Another suggestion is: Exemption from income-tax. Third, universities should be encouraged to augment resources for covering larger proportions of cost of education. This is what prevails now. The increased burden must be borne mainly by those who can afford. A suggestion is that laboratory fees and tuition fees should be increased as the price index goes up. But the students always agitate against this. Similarly, they have also suggested that self-financing institutions should be encouraged more and more. They have made a number of recommendations I am only referring to the important ones.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: My question is whether the UGC or the State Governments and the Central Government have actually accepted these recommendations. What is their view on this report?

SHRI S. R. BOMMALI: Sir, I have no details of the opinions of the State Governments.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: But what about the Central Government and the UGC?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You can include this part in your second supplementary.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Let him reply to this. What is the position of the UGC on this report? Do they differ from the Punnayya Committee report? Does the Central Government differ?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: They have not differed. They have made further suggestions. In addition to the recommendations made by the Punnayya Committee, they have made certain other suggestions.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Has the Central Government accepted them?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Please put your supplementary.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: The question has not been answered.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: So far as the Central Government is concerned, it has accepted the recommendations.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: In the second part, the hon. Minister has talked of establishing a private university. He has said that the Bill that was brought in 1995 is the only solution that is left with him. My point is whether Government can depend on this. Second, is there any other alternative scheme for funding the existing universities? For example, we can seek the cooperation of the corporate sector and other charitable institutions. Third, the Punnayya Committee report has suggested cost effectiveness and cost efficiency. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the teaching cost and non-teaching cost involved in the whole thing. If the non-teaching expenditure is around 80 per cent and the teaching

expenditure is 20 per cent, is there any point in it? You may have built and excellent building and brought in a lot of material. But the teaching staff is not there. What do you really suggest for reducing the cost and raising the cost efficiency by increasing the expenditure on teaching rather than on non-teaching?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: A number of questions have been asked. To encourage voluntary organisations and industrialists to contribute liberally, we have given some income-tax exemption. The only way of running an institution efficiently is by creating an awareness among industrialists and philanthropists to come forward and donate liberally.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: You have said, "100 per cent tax exemption to institutes of national importance." I do not know how you would really define whether a particular university is going to be an institute of national importance or not. In the process of establishing a university, you need funds...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Allow the Minister to reply. You have put your question.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: by this, I mean institutes engaged in research—research may be in agriculture or in other industries, research done for improving the standards of the institution—will be given exemption...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Not teaching, only research, is it?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Without teaching, how can it be so? There should be teachers. So far as teaching and non-teaching staff are concerned, I do not have the figures relating to percentage of expenditure with me now.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, higher education in our country for the last 5,000 years of known history was always decentralised. No one expected that Nalanda must act like

Thakshashila and Kalindyar must act like Sandipani. But ever since the UGC has come into being, higher education in this country has become highly centralised. UGC is a body which is comprised of teachers. So, the policies of the UGC have become teacher-centred and not education-centred. Ultimately, in the ultimate analysis, it has become *Sukhodaraha*, happiness; in the ultimate analysis, it has become *Sukhodaraha*, home of teachers. Therefore, education is suffering. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps will be taken to decentralise education. Sir, as a student, I cannot offer a combination like economics, music and physics. Even if I want to offer economics, music and physics, I cannot offer because teachers say that physics, chemistry and mathematics, and botany, zoology and chemistry are sacred combinations. So, I cannot offer economics, music and physics in any university. Sir, this is my problem. So, what steps will be taken to decentralise education? We cannot expect autonomy with State funding. If there is State funding, then there will be control. We cannot expect that States should pay everything and still there should be autonomy. And higher education will not grow...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You complete your question.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: I have already put my question. I am coming to part (b) of my supplementary. When and how will you decentralise education? Secondly, when and how will you create conditions for self-financing, self-funding, of various things? This is a vast country. If there are separate things everywhere, we cannot expect one district to behave like the other. Things are different. When will you create conditions where all these things can flourish?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: I know that the hon. Member is a gold medallist in many subjects. He has multiple degrees. He himself is an expert. So far as

decentralisation is concerned, I would say...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: A Committee can be appointed under his chairmanship.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Already we have the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development under the Chairmanship of another great man, Shri S. B. Chavan, and I am working on it. There is no need for another Committee...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Allow the Minister to reply.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATA-RAJAN: Pleasing him is not a substitute for answering.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, already the Standing Committee has made certain recommendations. The Government is looking into these recommendations. Every five years the Education Policy is reviewed. It was reviewed in 1986. And it was then reviewed in 1991-92. Now the time has come to review it again. So far as decentralisation is concerned, primary education is mostly with the State Government. Secondary education is also almost with the State Governments. What we have done in Karnataka is this. We have...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Everytime they say about Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: We have enough of Karnataka now.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Renukaji, please hear me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: I don't know why there is so much of allergy whenever Karnataka's name is mentioned here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: The first reservation for women was done in Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*... What we have done is this ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We have accepted the Prime Minister from Karnataka. You also belong to Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Minister, the question is whether you are going to decentralise UGC or not.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, what I am saying is this. We have transferred the powers to Zila Parishads. Further, we have transferred certain powers to village panchayats. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have transferred higher education to Zila Parishads and primary education to village Panchayats. That is why I am quoting Karnataka's experiment. It is not that...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): What about the UGC? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: West Bengal has also done it.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: West Bengal has also done it. So far as combination of subjects is concerned, if the hon. Member wants to have physics and chemistry with music, he should have the liberty. Sir, as per the pattern, if one goes to an engineering college or a medical college, then one will have to study the basic subjects which are necessary for that course. If one wants to go in for music, then a separate subject can be introduced for studying Arts. Dance and music can go together, but physics and chemistry cannot go together with music.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Who said it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Minister, he wants to know whether you will allow the students to go out of the set pattern or not ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: We will have to study that. We would study the suggestion of the hon. Member regarding

combination of subjects when we discuss the new policy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री ओ. पी. कोहली: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उच्च शिक्षा पर होने वाले कुल खर्च में निजी क्षेत्र का खर्च कितने प्रतिशत है और पिछली आठ पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं में क्या निजी क्षेत्र का खर्च कुल उच्च शिक्षा के खर्च प्रतिशत के रूप में लगातार कम होता जा रहा है? अगर यह प्रतिशत कम होता जा रहा है तो निजी क्षेत्र का योगदान उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है?

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, it is being increased in every Five Year Plan, but it is not sufficient. Therefore, I am making a special effort to get additional funds in the Ninth Five Year Plan, so far as education is concerned.

SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Sir, my question is entirely different. The Minister has not replied to my question. My question is this. What is the percentage of contribution of private sector to the total expenditure on higher education? What steps are being taken...

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: I have already answered it. It is only 10 per cent. Ninety per cent is borne by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH A. KESWANI: Sir, in this country, education has been mismanaged totally and higher education has been mismanaged in a much worse manner. The funding of higher education in most of the countries takes place through endowments, grants, public contributions, donations, sponsors and corporate contributions. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government has taken or proposes to take to channel private funds into the area of education by methods other than providing just tax deductions. Would the Government consider other steps like setting an example by contributing from public sector undertakings, giving recognition and public honour to the donors for higher education? Does the Government recognise the forces that

encourage philanthropy and charity? It is desirable to take several other courses which are open to the Government. Thank You.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I entirely agree with the hon. Member to encourage private donations and contributions. They not only get tax exemptions, but they get other benefits also. Some of the industries are coming in a big way to help IITs where they fund and send their officers or students for training and in turn get the benefit. I may be permitted to say, in Maharashtra and in Karnataka, most of the important engineering, medical and arts and science colleges are run by private institutions. Philanthropic people donate their entire properties. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: No. They demand a huge amount of donation. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Please hear me. Medical and engineering colleges are recent features. I am talking of century old colleges in Pune. People served institutions in those days by not going in to Government service in order to build institutions. Likewise, in Karnataka also there are century-old institutions. (*Interruptions*) Even in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In the entire south India, most of the institutions... (*Interruptions*)... In Andhra certain institutions are there. Private people contribute and build institutions as a part of societal service.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: There is no doubt about it. While collecting donations they loot us like anything. (*Interruptions*) They are squeezing the society. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Let me complete. You are talking about medical colleges only. I am talking of high schools.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: I am prepared to talk about K.G. also. They are collecting Rs. 50,000 while giving admissions. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Let me complete. There are some religious heads who are running hostels and educational institutions. They are free hostels. A number of them are there. They collect foodgrains from the farmers of the village. Such philanthropic institutions are there in the country. I agree with the hon. Member. Such people should be honoured publicly and recognised. I have also introduced a Bill for financing universities. That is the purpose of it. Let them run universities. When the Bill comes for discussion all the suggestions will be there.

Construction of overbridge at Eluru

*585. **SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to build an overbridge in Eluru town in South Central Railways near the old bus station;

(b) whether the South Central Railways have completed a survey in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps the Railways propose to take to grant relief to the people of Eluru by facilitating Smooth traffic flow in the said town?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) राज्य सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) सड़क यातायात का प्रबंधन तथा उनकी समस्याओं का निराकरण राज्य सरकार के अधिकार क्षेत्र में है। रेलें उन्हीं व्यस्त समपारों को ऊपरी/निचले सड़क पुलों में बदलने पर विचार करती है जिनके लिए प्रस्ताव राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रयोजित किए जाते हैं और साथ ही अपने हिस्से की लागत वहन करने की सहमति दी जाती है।

SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there were many representations from the people of Eluru which is the headquarters of