

(21 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

not relevant. Only the fact that he has given a written submission that he is subscribing to the Official Secrets Act was enough...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Special Mentions. Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Advertisement by UGC regarding teachers for spoken Sanskrit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Sir, the University Grants Commission has issued an advertisement in the Employment News dated 11-17 August, 2001 inviting applications for teachers for Spoken Sanskrit Courses. Most of the Indian universities and many affiliated colleges have already Sanskrit Departments and teachers. There appears to be no need to introduce another parallel set of teachers especially in the present situation of resource crunch. What is even more alarming is UGC's attempt, through a process that lacks transparency, to invite applications directly bypassing the university and college authorities that have been functioning as recruitment bodies. This is unprecedented and is beyond the purview of a body that is primarily meant to act as a Grants Commission for universities rather than as a recruiting agency. These actions of the UGC have long-term implications and, therefore, the Government should immediately direct the UGC to withdraw the aforesaid advertisement.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

Mental Asylums

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the recent fire In Erwadi has thrown open the debate on who will care for people with psychiatric disability. There are nearly 25 million people in India who are in need of mental health services. The sad reality is that this may not be true in the case of most of the people with psychiatric disability. It is a contemporary international psychiatric practice that through good rehabilitation services a large number of people who thus suffer can be reintegrated into the mainstream. However, in India there are only 20 centres which provide rehabilitation services. The conditions in majority of

these Centres are far from therapeutic. Lice on the walls and open drain toilets are common images that one carries back from most of these hospitals. They are able to address to the needs of only a few hundred people every year. The need of suffering millions and the pain of their families has never really been voiced. In a recent report of the NHRC on the state of mental hospitals, it was stated, "Rehabilitation activity is in its rudimentary stages". The barriers to improve the facility include lack of awareness, infrastructure, manpower and lack of community participation. The Persons with Disability Act, 1995 clearly includes 'mental illness' as a disability under the definition of 'disability'. The Ministry of Social Justice should wake up from its slumber and come out with projects and programmes for the welfare of the people who are suffering from mental illness and should nominate a member on the Central Coordination Committee which is the highest policy making body in the mental illness sector and render justice.

Failure of the Government to achieve Couple Protection Rate

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention is regarding the failure of the Government to achieve the Couple Protection Rate. Though the money spent on the family welfare programmes such as sterilisation, pills, IUDs, condoms, etc., has increased from Rs.1,090 crores in 1992-93 to Rs.4,200 crores this year, yet, there has not been a corresponding increase in the percentage of couples covered by various contraception, or, the Couple Protection Rate. The number of IUD users was 4.51 million in 1992 and, after ten years, the figure remains static at 4.51 million; the number of condom users slumped from 17.28 million in 1993 to 13.67 million in 2000-2001 and the number of pills' users remains static since 1996. In 1992, the CPR was 44.1 per cent and it dipped to 43 per cent in 2000-2001. It is not that we do not have finances for these programmes. But this is the position despite an increase in the Budget for the family welfare programmes and also after getting aids from UNFPA, US-AID, World Bank assistance, DANIDA, DFID of UK, etc. Though the CPR is 43 per cent, according to the second survey of the National Family Health Centre, out of 43 per cent women, who are using one or the other spacing methods, 15 per cent are not using contraceptives at all. This is totally unjustified. Hence I request the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to look into the matter seriously because if things go on at the same pace, then, it will hamper our development process and it will stand as a hurdle in the way of achievement of our goals. I also request the Government to