

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 21st August, 1990/30th
Shravana, 1912 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock
Mr. Chairman in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of a School Grants Commission

*161. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a School Grants Commission as demanded by All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association (AIKVTa) and recommended by the Chattopadhyaya Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha,

Statement

The National Commission on Teachers-I, also known as Chattopadhyaya Commission has recommended setting up of a national organisation for improvement of standards in school education, among others, with the following functions:—

(a) to set goals and standards for school education;

(b) to lay down norms for minimum facilities in elementary and secondary schools;

(c) to undertake periodically, assessment of students' attainments as well as of the state school systems to identify deficiencies and suggest remedies;

(d) to organise a National Testing service;

(e) to appoint and maintain a national panel of academic supervisors;

(f) to conduct sample inspections of schools to provide guidance to state governments and individual institutions; and

(g) to perform all other functions incidental to the maintenance and coordination of standards in school education.

Keeping in view the recommendation of the Commission regarding consultation with State Governments, a communication dated 31-5-1988 was addressed to all State Govts. seeking their views in this regard.

So far the following State Governments have sent their views to the Government:—

1. Goa
2. Maharashtra
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Mizoram
5. Tamil Nadu
6. Tripura
7. Uttar Pradesh
8. West Bengal

Out of these eight State Governments, the States of Maharashtra and West Bengal have not supported the proposal for setting up such national organisation, while the remaining six have favoured the proposal. Efforts are being made to obtain the views of the remaining States. Pending receipt of the views of most of the States, the Government has not yet finalised its views in the matter.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Sir, two of the many valuable recommendations made by the Chattopadhyaya Commission relate to (1) setting up of a national organisation for improvement of standards in school education, also called the School Grants Commission, and (2) revival of Indian Education Service by School Grants

Commission, which would ensure fixation of uniform educational standards all over the country at the school level, piloting and monitoring the efforts at achieving these standards, and act as grants distributing agency. My first supplementary is: Will the hon. Minister state as to what is the hitch of the Government in accepting the suggestion to set up a School Grants Commission, particularly when the initial expenditure is Rs. 50 lakhs only which may be taken to mean Rs. 1 crore in view of the price rise?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, the question of Commission regarding schools also relates to the States because primary and secondary education is largely covered by the States. It is a Concurrent Subject. And, therefore, we have consulted all the States. Sir, we have written letters, DOs, and sent telex messages and telegrams. Only nine States have responded—Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab. Out of these, three major States; i.e. Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra have asserted that there is no such need of a Commission because some States have objection fundamentally and some States are having the views that they are already having their own Secondary Boards of Education and other sort of Councils at the State level and therefore there is no necessity of School Grants Commission to be set up at the Central level. Now, in spite of so many reminders—at least, 14 reminders have been sent—if there is no response from almost 23 States, it is difficult to proceed in such a matter unilaterally. And, therefore, we thought that probably in the next month or so they are calling a meeting of the Central Advisory Boards on Education where all the State units are also represented and there this

issue will be taken up again and then we see what can be done in this matter.

SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Sir, I come to my second supplementary. There are very glaring disparities between the State schools on the one hand and the Central schools on the other. Also many State schools lack physical facilities like teaching equipment, laboratories, libraries, etc. The "Operation Blackboard" is an accepted failure now. Therefore, it is felt that the School Grants Commission is an excellent remedy to bridge this gulf and stem the tide of falling standards and to improve them as also to allocate funds to the different schools in the country. Will the honourable Minister take a positive stand on this important suggestion and also on the other recommendations of the Chattopadhyaya Commission including revision of pay scales?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, it is true that there is lack of uniformity and various categories of scales are there in various States because most of the States have their own Pay Commissions and they decide the scales on that basis. As far as we are concerned, as far as the Central Government is concerned, about 750 Central Schools are being managed and there are schools under the Delhi Administration and there are Union Territory schools. The scales in these schools are almost on par with the scales recommended by the Fourth Pay Commission although the Fourth Pay Commission did not touch upon this whereas the Chattopadhyaya Commission did touch on this aspect. Although they made recommendations for the Central Government employees, non-teaching employees, they took those scales. For example, what is revised for an Upper Division Clerk by the Government is also applicable to the teachers under the revision and in this way it goes with regard to running scales, promotion, selection grade promotion, efficiency bar, etc. and therefore, financially teachers have been benefited by the revision made by the Central Government. But, as far as the States are concerned, it is largely for them to look after these people and we

have told them that this is what we have implemented and they should consider all these things and then they have to decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Sir, as has been rightly suggested by the honourable Minister, education is in the Concurrent List and only two States have forwarded their recommendations as regards the suggestion to form School Grants Commission. In fact Maharashtra and West Bengal have taken objection to the idea of having a School Grants Commission. I feel that a proper thrust has not been given to primary education either for promoting or for strengthening primary education in the country. Actually, Sir, in the rural areas, the number of drop-outs is very high, illiteracy is prevalent there, and certain villages in certain States including the State of Maharashtra which is a progressive State are devoid of schools and even where there are schools, they lack basic facilities like classrooms, teaching materials etc., which are not available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Sir, my question is this: The previous Government had come out with a very innovative approach and evolved and formulated a scheme known as the "Operation Blackboard". Through you, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is serious about it, serious about continuing with this "Operation Blackboard" under which two rooms and two teachers and some reading materials are to be provided in the villages.

Secondly, it is stated under the Directive Principles of State Policy that primary education is to be made compulsory. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether there is any thinking on this particular aspect of the Directive Principle of State Policy.

Thirdly, Sir, this year is the Year of the Girl Child. But, so far, no concrete

steps have been taken by the Government. In Maharashtra we have a scheme called Savitri Phule Datta Palak Yojana where girls are being adopted for education purposes. Is the hon. Minister aware of the scheme? Is the Central Government serious about implementing this scheme?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I agree with the hon. Member that education in the rural area, particularly primary education, is lagging behind. Although the enrolment is around 98 per cent...

MR. CHAIRMAN: She wants to know about the Operation Blackboard.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We are very serious, we want to continue it and will do it. Therefore, our emphasis being on primary education, I think before having such a Commission one has to take into consideration that 30 per cent of the villages do not have pucca school buildings, 20 per cent of the villages do not have...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said that you are serious about the Operation Blackboard and you are going to follow it up. The next is about compulsory education.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Where would they put up the blackboard?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Of course, in our manifesto we are committed to compulsory education and we are moving in that direction. The enrolment is around 98 per cent or more than that at the primary level but the drop-out ratio is very high, which comes to almost 50 per cent when you reach the higher level, fifth standard. So, something has to be done about that.

KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: What about the girl child?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, what about girls?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We are taking special efforts for the girls education and the education of women, backward classes SC/STs

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The hon. Minister in his reply has set out some of the recommendations of the Chattopadhyaya Commission. Is the hon. Minister aware whether the Chattopadhyaya Commission has made any recommendation about making knowledge of Hindi compulsory for recruitment of teachers to the Kendriya Vidyalayas? Yesterday the hon. colleagues from the other side pointed out that nobody from Tamil Nadu was being recruited because the knowledge of Hindi was made compulsory for recruitment to the Kendriya Vidyalayas. I think this is something very serious. This needs to be looked into. However much you want to promote Hindi you must remember that South of the country also exists.

Secondly, the hon. Minister has said and I have read it in the press also that regional language will be the medium of instruction in all the schools. Has the Minister taken this into consideration seriously? How does he expect communication all the over the country? That means, those of us who come from the south part of the country have no relevance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The second part of the question is, is he serious about implementing the scheme that only regional language should be the medium of instructions in schools?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: About having the knowledge of Hindi for recruitment of teachers, the Chattopadhyaya Commission has made almost 38 recommendations, but English and Hindi, both are being. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: She wants to know has the Chattopadhyaya Commission insisted that the knowledge of Hindi is compulsory for recruitment of teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalayas?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: As far as I understand, Chattopadhyaya Commission did not refer to this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, there is no restriction for recruitment of a person who does not have the knowledge of Hindi?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: This pertains to the recruitment rules of the Kendriya Vidyalayas. I will find out...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will find out.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: About the regional language to be the medium, that I have said, up to 8th standard, not beyond that.

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Would the Minister State whether he agrees with the view that the state of primary education is a national shame. That is my first question.

My second question is, in view of this, would the Government consider providing that those who graduate out of prestigious institutions, such as the IITs, the RITs and similar institutions, would be given their degrees unless they put in six months or a year's primary education teaching in order to improve the quality of educations?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, I understand that spirit behind the word 'shame' or the sentiment. But, it is in a poor state of affairs, I would agree with hon. Shri Raj Mohan Gandhi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You agree that Indian Institute Technology graduates will not get degrees...

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: That is another point, Sir.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, that is about the "shame" part.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I am dealing with the "shame" part. That is his opinion. It is all right,

MR. CHAIRMAN: That means, you share it, you are trying to remove that "shame".

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: In a different way. The second point is this. About IITs and other prestigious institutions, we are now enrolling teachers from colleges, students—the thinking has started, the process has started—that they should, during the vacation period, devote upto three months for adult education in the villages and the a certivcate should be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question was about the Indian Institute of Technology graduates.

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI: Graduates from IITs, RITs and other prestigious institutions should teach in villages for a year before they are given degrees. Would his Department consider that?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: That is suggestion for action.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: There are two parts of my questions. The first part is, whether the Government is serious about increasing the allocation for education in the budget because without money nothing can be done. The previous Government put forth the National Education Policy. It committed itself that it should allocate a minimum of 6 per cent of the budget for education. But actually they did not rise about 1.3 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can tell you on behalf of Mr. Chimaubhai that the agrees with you, but you get the money from the Finance Minister.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: The Department comes under the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister should try to get the money from the Finance Minister. It may be a bit easier.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Unless the Government increases the allocation

for education, nothing can be improved. So I would like to know whether Government is serious about it. This is the first part of my question.

The second part is, most people feel, including the previous Government and some in the present Government also, that by centralising things will improve, which is not correct. The National Front manifesto itself says far as possible, should be decentralised. Now I can give you an example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question? About decentralisation, they agree.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: I am coming to my question. During emergency, education was shifted from the State List to the concurrent List.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want an amendment to that?

SHRI M. A. BABY: That atrocity committed during emergency should be done away with.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: No, Sir, I am giving you an example. By putting something in the Concurrent List, the Government is committed that it should at least bear 50 per cent share of the total commitment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because it is in the Concurrent List, so they must bear 50 per cent of the cost.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: I am giving you an example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No need to give an example. Your question is clear.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: It will be made clearer by my example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a supplementary, baba. It is not a speech.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, let him give two more examples.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, this is a supplementary. I have to cover some

more questions. Twenty minutes have already gone by.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, you have understood, but the Minister has not understood.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has understood.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Has the Minister understood the phenomenon....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a very understanding Minister.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: That of about Rs. 724 crores for education budget per year of West Bengal the Central assistance is less than Rs. 10 crores. Unless the Government increases its share of the allocation, what is the utility of keeping education in the Concurrent List? So will the Government consider bringing it back to the State List?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, let him give one more example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, are you willing to defray 50 per cent of the expenditure? If you are not in a position to do so, are you willing to have it back in the State List? Am I putting your question correctly?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, even without conditionality, they are demanding it back to the State List.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says, either you give 50 per cent, or you put it back in the State List.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Such conditions are not acceptable under the question. Therefore, it does not arise.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि राज्य सरकारों को बहुत से खत लिख गये, टेलीग्राम किये गये लेकिन कोई जवाब नहीं आया तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर्ज की मीटिंग में, कांफ्रेंस

में इस सवाल को क्यों नहीं रखा जाता है और स्टेट एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर्ज की कांफ्रेंस बुला कर के इसको तय क्यों नहीं किया जाता है? इसी से संबंधित प्रश्न यह है कि जहां तक कमीशन को सेट-अप करने का मामला है, मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि फर्स्ट तीन प्वाइंट्स जिसमें हैं,

(a) to set goals and standards for school education;

(b) to lay down norms for minimum facilities in elementary and secondary schools;

(c) to undertake periodically an assessment of the student attachment as well as of State school systems to identify deficiencies and suggest remedies.

इन बिन्दुओं पर महाराष्ट्र और वैंस्ट बंगाल की सरकारों का क्या कहना है? उन्होंने कहा कि वह नहीं मानते हैं लेकिन इन बिन्दुओं पर उन्होंने कुछ कहा है या नहीं? तीसरा यह है कि...

श्री सभापति : वह तो ग्रांट्स कमीशन नहीं मानते।

That is all. They have said it.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : देखिये, कमीशन का रिक्मेंडेशन है जिसमें इन बिन्दुओं के लिये वह कहते हैं कि यह तीन प्वाइंट हम चाहते हैं। ऐसा भी हो सकता है पूरा अधिकार कमीशन को न दिया जाये, सीमित अधिकार दिया जाये और तीसरा बिन्दु यह है कि अगर मेजोरिटी आफ दी स्टेट्स एग्री कर जायें कि ऐसा कमीशन बने और एक स्टेट एग्री नहीं करे तो कांस्टीट्यूशनल पोजीशन क्या होगी, क्या मंत्री महोदय ने इसकी जांच की है? इन तीन बिन्दुओं पर जवाब दीजिये।

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, about the State Ministers Conference, I have said in answer to the first supplementary that we are going to call it probably within a month or so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So you are calling it.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Yes, Secondly....

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: You are calling it for this purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, this will be one of them. When they call it, they will discuss other things also.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Secondly, about the three points out of the seven point of the Chattopadhyaya Commission, the hon. Member wants to know the opinion of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not of your Government.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Of those Governments. I can say in brief what Maharashtra says here. It is dated 13th February, 1989. The State Government is of the view that various functions to be performed by the proposed National organisation can be performed through the existing agencies such as...

श्री सभापति : आप तो पूरी चिट्ठी पढ़ रहे हैं।

SERI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: No, no, only one para. The State Government feels that the objectives for which the proposed National organisation is to be set up can be achieved by strengthening the existing set-up of the educational administration and planning in Maharashtra.

Now West Bengal has another view. This is West Bengal Government's view dated 7-8-1990. The declared policy of the State Government demands that education should be brought back to the State List from the Concurrent List in Schedule Seven of the Constitution.

श्री सभापति : तीन बिन्दुओं पर खास तौर से उन्होंने कोई बात नहीं

की है। कुमारी सईदा खातून ... (व्यवधान)

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : वह इन्होंने नहीं कहा (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : वह तो कांस्टीट्यूशनल प्वाइंट था। वह एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री का थोड़ा ही है, वह ला मिनिस्ट्री का है.. (व्यवधान)

श्री चरतानन मिश्र : (व्यवधान) अगर एक स्टेट राजी हो गयी श्री एक स्टे नहीं हुई तो

What will be the date of Concurrent list?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: This List? This is a hypothetical question. Let the majority agree and let only one disagree.

श्री सभापति : वह कहते हैं कि ज. सामने आयेगा मामला तब देखेंगे. (व्यवधान)

कुमारी सईदा खातून माननीय सभापति महोदय, राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा आयोग जो बनाया गया है जिसमें स्कूली शिक्षा के लिये लक्ष्य और मानक निर्धारित किये गये हैं, मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि ये कौन कौन से लक्ष्य और मानक हैं... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : यह बनाया कहाँ गया है।

कुमारी सईदा खातून : इसके अलावा मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट में जो ए०डी आई० एस. और हैडमास्टर्स का रैंक है वह एक ही समान माना जाता था...

श्री सभापति : आप सप्लीमेंटरी पूछ रही हैं क्या आपने प्रश्न पढ़ा है?

कुमारी सईदा खातून : प्रश्न तो पढ़ लिया है।

श्री सभापति : वह बना ही नहीं है।

कुमारी सईदा खातून : बना नहीं है, बनाने जा रहे हैं। तो उसमें जो ये रैंक्स हैं उनमें यह चेंज करने जा रहे हैं। दूसरा सैनिक स्कूलों में हिन्दी मीडियम के स्कूल आप बनाने का उसमें प्रावधान रखेंगे या नहीं? ए. डी. आई. एस. और हैडमास्टर्स के रैंक को तोड़ने जा रहे हैं यह सुनाई दिया है। इन रैंकों को न तोड़कर आप अलग से कोई प्रावधान करें। जो ए. डी. आई. एस. और हैडमास्टर्स का रैंक है इनको मध्य प्रदेश में खास तौर से आप समाप्त करने जा रहे हैं तथा इन रैंक्स को एक बना देना चाहते हैं, इसके लिये मैं आपसे जवाब चाहूंगी।

श्री विमन भाई मेहता : मध्य प्रदेश सरकार तो हमारे ज्योरिसडिक्शन के नीचे नहीं आती है। वहां वे क्या करते हैं उसके बारे में हम नहीं कह सकते हैं। हिन्दी मीडियम के बारे में जो बात आपने कही तो हमारे सेंट्रल स्कूलों में हिन्दी भी सिखाई जाती है, इंगलिश भी सिखाई जाती है और रीजनल लैंग्वेज वाले अगर 20 स्टूडेंट्स हों तो वह भी सिखायी जाती है। हम सभी लैंग्वेज पर जोर देते हैं। और राष्ट्रभाषा से भी प्रेम करते हैं।

SHRI SURESH KALMADI Half an hour is gone on one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question 162.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-CHARJEE: Sir, this is very unfair. You do not look to Members on this side. I cannot continue sitting here in the Question Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given 28 minutes to this question.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-CHARJEE: But why did you overlook me?

(At this stage the hon. Member left the Chamber)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot help it. It is very difficult. I have overlooked

so many others. Let us proceed. Twenty-eight minutes have been spent on one question alone. I have overlooked Smt. Kamla Sinha also, Mr. Patel also.

Threat of Radioactivity from Narora Atomic Power Plant in Uttar Pradesh

*162. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA.†

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the campaign of a voluntary organisation, contending that the Narora Atomic Power Plant poses a direct threat to millions of people living in the adjoining areas in spite of the safeguards against radioactive pollution taken by Government;

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that for every hundred megawatt of generation of power, 130 MW is lost as heat, which causes thermal pollution; if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) A brochure entitled "The Untold Story" on the Narora Atomic Power Plant circulated by "Network to oust Nuclear Energy" has come to the attention of the Government. Government is of the view that there is no perceivable danger to people living in the adjoining areas around Narora Atomic Power

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.