

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 15th May, 1985/the
25th Vaisakha, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up today's business, I wish to refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Pramatha Nath Bisi, a former Nominated Member of this House and an outstanding figure in Bengali literature.

Shri Pramatha Nath Bisi was born in June, 1901, at Rajashahi, now in Bangladesh, and got his education in the Visva-Bharati and in the Calcutta Universities. Shri Bisi was closely associated with Jurudev Rabindranath Tagore and spent seventeen years at the Visva-Bharati, first as a student and then as a teacher.

Shri Bisi was one of the few Bengali writers, critics and novelists who became a legend in their own life-time after Tagore. An authority on Tagore and an essayist of great eminence. Shri Bisi's literary genius found superb manifestation in novels and in the domain of poetry. He had the distinction of serving as Tagore Professor of Bengali Language and Literature in the Calcutta University and as the President of the Tagore Research Institute, Calcutta. He had more than a hundred publications to his credit and was awarded the Rabindra Prize for Literature by the West Bengal Government in 1960 and later on, "Padma Shri" was conferred on him.

Earlier, he had served as a Nominated Member of the West Bengal Legislative Council. He was no-

minated to the Rajya Sabha in April, 1972.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Pramatha Nath Bisi. I would request the Members to rise in their seats and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

[Honourable Members then stood in silence for one minute].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and our deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 220-A. Dr. Silvera. Not here Yes, Mrs. Usha Malhotra.

Army purchase organisation

†*220-A. DR. C. SILVERA:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:†

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for Government's decision to switch over the procurement of processed food stuff like fish and vanaspati etc. from the Army Purchase Organisation which was established on the analogy of Director General Supplies to the Canteen Stores Department, Bombay, which is primarily concerned with the purchase of items for local defence canteen.

(b) when the notification regarding the switch over was issued by Government and under whose authority;

†Previously Starred Question No. 261 transferred from the 17th May, 1985.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Usha Malhotra.

(c) what are the circumstances which led to this decision; and

(d) whether the Army Purchase Organisation is being wound up, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) The Canteen Stores Department under the Ministry of Defence was considered better suited to handle processed/tinned food items.

(b) The order was issued on 30th June, 1982 by the competent authority.

(c) The decision was taken after considering the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in its 48th Report and 106th Report (Sixth Lok Sabha). The Canteen Stores Department was considered better suited to handle these products as it had adequate experience in the field.

(d) The question of shifting the Army Purchase Organisation from the Department of Food is under consideration of the Government but till date no final decision has been taken.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister to the fact that I was led to put this question because I found that the accepted concept that an indenter cannot be a purchaser and should not be a purchaser has completely been ignored. I would also like the honourable Minister to throw light on some points. For the last forty years, the Food and Supplies Department was actually looking after these procurements under, of course, the Army Purchase Organisation. Were there any complaints against that organisation? So far as my knowledge goes, this organisation was handling it very efficiently all along and during the last forty years I don't think there was any complaint. If there had been any complaint, we would like to know about it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, here I could not say if there

were any complaints. But there have been two categorical reports of the Public Accounts Committee. In fact, in their Second Report they have criticised the Government for having reversed the decision after having taken it once. I do not think there was any other alternative but to comply with the suggestions or the Recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. It is a healthy practice that we have no duplication of the same work being done by two agencies. We found that for the Canteen Store Department which is handling the same work on a much larger scale it was easier to handle this work also. So, it was a matter of convenience and not so much a matter of complaint or enquiry or any reflection on anybody.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

I would start with the left-over of the first question. Can the indenter be the purchaser? It is not accepted, of course, by the right thinking people and according to the norms set earlier. It has not been answered.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I do not think there is any hard and fast rule like this. This is a matter of convenience, we shall try it. After all, there is nothing final in it. We have found that this is more convenient. The Public Accounts committee has said it. We have examined it. In fact, even earlier there was an attempt to draw a distinction between the work of the A.P.O. and the work of the C.S.D. On that, the Public Accounts Committee has come out with the statement that this distinction need not be made. This is too fine a distinction to be valid and they will have to be clubbed into one. This is a matter which we can go on reviewing from time to time. We have just started doing it and this is where it is resting.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: According to Article 77(iii) of the Constitution of India, any change in the allocation of business between

the two Ministries has to be done through the orders of the President. Was it done or was it just allowed to the Joint Secretaries or some other competent authorities? I would like the hon. Minister to kindly clarify who that competent authority was.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We have gone into the question and I am told quite confidently that it was done by competent authority. I may also inform the hon. Members that right now even the Food Department is asking for some other items to be taken over by the C.S.D. It has been asked in the question whether we are going to wind up the A.P.O., it is not a question of winding up. We are shifting those functions to the Defence Ministry. How that will be reorganised is a matter which is under consideration.

*221. [The questioner (Shrimati Monika Das) was absent. For answer, vide col. 32 infra]

*222. [The questioner (Shri Jagdish Jani) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 32-33 infra].

संस्कृत आशुलिपि का विकास

* 223. श्री राम चन्द्र भारद्वाज : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देववाणी परिषद्, दिल्ली के तत्वावधान में संस्कृत आशुलिपि का प्रदर्शन शिक्षा मंत्रालय में किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में व्यापार क्या है ;

(ग) संस्कृत आशुलिपि का विकास करने के लिये और इसे व्यावहारिक रूप के लिये मंत्रालय क्या कार्रवाई कर रहा है ; और

(घ) क्या सरकार संस्कृत आशुलिपि तैयार करने वाले विशेषज्ञ को राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पुरस्कृत करने का विचार रखती है ?

शिक्षा मंत्री (श्री के० सी० पन्त) :
(क) जी, हां ।

(ख) देववाणी परिषद् में राज्य सभा के वरिष्ठ रिपोर्टर श्री गोपाल दत्त विष्ट को प्रायोजित किया था, जिन्होंने संस्कृत में ध्वनिलेख संबंधी रूपरेखाएं सफलता पूर्वक तैयार की थीं । संस्कृत आशुलिपि में श्री विष्ट की परीक्षा मंत्रालय के दो अधिकारियों और राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय के संस्कृत विभागाध्यक्ष द्वारा ली गई थी । श्री विष्ट द्वारा तैयार की गई विधि को संस्कृत आशुलिपि के प्रयोजनों के लिये संतोषजनक पाया गया था ।

(ग) संस्कृत शिक्षा के व्यावसायीकरण की योजना के अन्तर्गत संस्कृत आशुलिपि और टंकण भी शामिल है ।

(घ) राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार देने का कोई प्रस्ताव भारत सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है । तथापि मंत्रालय द्वारा 5,000/- रुपये का अनुदान उस व्यक्ति को पुरस्कार देने के लिये 29 फरवरी, 1984 को मुक्त किया गया था, जिसने प्रथम संस्कृत ध्वनिलेख संबंधी रूप रेखा सुझायी थी ।

श्री राम चन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर, पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह देववाणी परिषद् क्या है। यह मिनिस्ट्री का कोई विभाग है या कोई स्वैच्छिक संस्था है या ऐच्छिक संस्था है और क्या यह एक मात्र संस्था संस्कृत की ऐसी है कि जिस के सुझाव को माना जा रहा है ?

श्री के० सी० पन्त : देववाणी परिषद् एक गैर-सरकारी संस्था है...

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : लोग सिर्फ सरकारों हैं ।