

RAJYA SABHA Friday, the 2nd
December; 1983/11

Agmhayana, 1905 (*Saka*) The House
met at eleven of the clock, Mr. Chairman in the
Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Social institutions in Assam

◆141. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will
the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the
social and constructive centres/institutions in
Assam have not so far received their annual
Central grant for the year 1982-83 and if so,
what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the names of the social
welfare institutions in Assam which have
received their annual Central grant for the
year 1982-83 up to the end of October, 1983?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND
CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE
(SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) There are no
eligible institutions who have not received
grants for 1982-83.

(b) A list of the Social Welfare Institutions
in Assam to whom the grants were released
for the year 1982-83 is laid on the Table of
the House.

List of Social Institutions

1. Supriti Nursing Home, Station Road
Karimganj, Cachar.
2. Lions Club of Gauhati, Gauhati.
3. Sreemanta Sankar Mission, Nowgong,
4. Bajali Pragati Sangha.
5. Subansiri Seva Samiti, North Lakliim-
pur.
6. Garmera Model Satra Hills Plains
Cultural Institution, Lakhimpur.
7. Dayanand Sevashram Sangh, Behajan.
8. Sadou Assam Maina Parijat, Gauhati.
9. Indian Council for Child Welfare (H.Q.
at New Delhi).
10. SOS Children's Village of India,
(H.Q. at New Delhi).

SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Sir, may I know
what the expression "eligible" used 1317
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by the Minister in his reply means and
whether "eligible" means political clearance
from the Assam State Home Ministry?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, the eligibility
which we have meant here is that when a
voluntary organisation applies for grant-in-
aid, the organisation has to be a registered
organisation. Secondly, it has to be
recommended by the respective State
Government. Thirdly, the organisation should
have proper accounts, audited accounts. That
is what we meant by "eligibility."

SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: May I know, Sir,
whether the Central Government have any
information regarding a directive issued from
the State Home Ministry to all departments not
to release any grant either from the Central
Government or State Government to any
voluntary social and constructive work centres
and educational institutions before they
received political clearance from the Home
Ministry? Under this procedure, before any
grant is given, it has to be cleared by the local
organisation of the ruling party, then by the
local ruling party MLA, then the district
organisation, after that, by the Minister from
that area and, finally, by the Home Minister.
May I know, Sir, whether this shameful
political clearance procedure has been
adopted by the Assam Government at the
directive from the Central Government to
humiliate the social workers who did not co-
operate with the ruling party in the last
General Elections and, may I also ask the
Minister to withdraw this shameful procedure
of political clearance?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, with due
respect to the hon. Member, I feel that his
question is entirely politically motivated. So
far as social welfare is concerned, I think we
should not be in such a way where we can use
politics. So far as social welfare work is
concerned, it is meant for all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But do you deny it? All
that is necessary is to deny it; that is all. Do
you get them cleared in this way or not?

{Interruptions}

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Sir, the way in which the hon. Member has asked the question needed a certain clarification and that is why I was going to give some more clarification. What in short I want to say is that whatever he has said, that on political grounds certain organisations are not given grant-in-aid, is not a fact. This we deny. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: May I request the hon. Minister to clarify the main issue, whether there has been a circular from the Home Ministry for these organisations to obtain political clearance? This is the first thing. Secondly, I would like to know whether...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This was the last thing.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: He has not answered it. Let him answer whether a certificate from an MLA for a District Congress President is a must for any organization to get grants from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no answer to that.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: There is no circular so far as our knowledge goes.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, what is this "so far as our knowledge goes"?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: And also I may state that we do not insist on the individual recommendations, but we do insist on the recommendation of the State Government concerned. That is the fact.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: He says, "so far as our knowledge goes". What is this? Let him say that he will ascertain the facts and withdraw the circular if there is any. Or, let him say that there is no circular.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I asked him, Mr. Goswami, to deny it and finish.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: He has not denied it. Let him say that if there is a circular, he will withdraw it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, this is an important thing because these hon.

Members from our side have alleged it. You are to ask the Minister to categorically state things and not "as far as our knowledge goes". The grants are being given by the Social Welfare Department. They must make enquiries; it is not our job to do that. You please direct him to state categorically 'Yes' or 'No'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You did not hear his reply. He said that there is no such circular.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: I have said it.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, does the Government of India know that the central aid is given to the destitute children's institutes in all parts of India? It is heard that some persons have started taking voluntary organizations in business form and they get allotted destitute children's institutes and then earn Government grants by giving false reports, and thus they are exploiting the society and deceiving the Government as well. Is it true? If so, what steps does the Government intend to take in this regard? Are we going to stop this malpractice by making proper enquiries and taking the required steps to check it?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Though the question relates to Assam; I would simply like to state for the information of the hon. Member that we insist on the FC*[^] commendation of the State Governments; and the purpose behind that is to see that the organisations are genuine and whatever work they are carrying out is for the welfare of the downtrodden.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know whether he is aware that the Government is releasing grants to the States? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot ask ten persons to ask questions at the same time.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know whether the Government is aware that the Central Government has been releasing grants to the States and some of the States are misusing these grants given by the Central Government and they are

not paying it to the voluntary organizations? Especially in Andhra Pradesh they have received the Central grants _____

MR. CHAIRMAN; This question concerns Assam.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO; It is a general question. Grants are being released by the Central Government, but the State Governments are misusing it and they are not paying it to the voluntary organizations. I want to know whether it came to the notice of the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But is it about Assam or some other place? Are you asking about Assam or some other State?

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO; General. I am asking about Andhra Pradesh...

MR. CHAIRMAN; No, it does not arise. आप कहाँ का पूछ रहे हैं ? बिहार का ?

श्री रामानन्द यादव : नहीं आसाम का। मैं बिल्कुल नजदीक का रहने वाला हूँ। कुलकर्णी साहब बीच में खड़े होकर बोल लेते हैं। मैं आपकी परमीशन लेकर बोलता हूँ।

श्री समापति : कुलकर्णी साहब को कौन रोक सकता है।

श्री रामानन्द यादव : पुराने सदस्य होते हुए भी कायदे-कानूनों का उल्लंघन करके बोलते हैं।

मान्यवर, मैं सरकार से दो बातें जानना चाहता हूँ। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या यह बात सही है कि जिन दस वालेंटरी आर्गनाइजेशन्स के बारे में अभी सरकार ने बताया है वे वालेंटरी आर्गनाइजेशन फारेन वेस्ड लोगों से भी या गवर्नमेंट से भी ग्राण्ट पाती हैं और वे इस ग्रांट को सेशंसनिस्ट

मूवमेंट में खर्च करती हैं क्या यह बात सही है ? (व्यवधान) सारा पैसा आसाम का खर्च हो रहा है। बाहर के देशों से वालेंटरी आर्गनाइजेशन और पोलिटिकल आर्गनाइजेशन्स पैसा लेती हैं (व्यवधान)।

SHRI P. K. THUNGON; We have no such information.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : क्या सरकार इस पर जांच कराएगी कि यह जो वालेंटरी आर्गनाइजेशन्स फारेन कंट्रीज से ग्रांट पाती हैं और उन पैसों का मिसयूज करती हैं। यहां तक कि रजिस्टर्ड नहीं हैं और सबर्बसिव एक्टिविटीज में सेशंसनिस्ट मूवमेंट में उन पैसों को खर्च करती हैं। क्या सरकार इस बात की जांच कराएगी ?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON; We will look into it.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI; Sir, I want to ask a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you a chance. Please sit down. Not that you are advancing the matter very much. However, please yourself.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH; Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question relates to the Assam Sahitya Sabha. In the last three years on many occasions has the grant to the Assam Sahitya Sabha been stopped or delayed? What was the reason for the delay or the stoppage? And how old is the Assam Sahitya Sabha? Does the Government consider the Assam Sahitya Sabha to be a political organisation or a cultural organisation?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON; Sir, about the Assam Sahitya Sabha, I do not have the details at the moment. If the hon. Member desires, I can send. But that is not in our list here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The list which has been given here, it is something new. In any case you can satisfy the hon. Member.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: For the bene-fit of the hon. Minister, the Assam Sahitya

Sabha is a very old institution. For the Minister to say that he has no information about the stoppage of the grant to the Assam Sahitya Sabha in the last three years and for them to come on the floor of the House when it is time for supplementaries and for the hon. Minister to say that he does not have the information.. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not got it. He has been honest enough to say that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is also something which follows from that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is willing to satisfy you later.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We must have a categorical assurance on when he will let the House have this information.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: This is a literary institution. That is why I am saying that if the hon. Member desires to know about the details, I will give the details.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: To say that he does not have the details is highly simplistic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not have the details here, you cannot just manufacture them.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR BASUMATARI: I want to know whether it is a fact that the Social Welfare Centre has deteriorated since the time of the Janata Government and due to that fact whether it is a fact or not that the Assam Sabha Samiti has been locked up due to quarrel among the office bearers.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: A Delhi based organisation, it is, Sir.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: We know there is some problem in the Assam Sabha Samiti located in Assam. The detailed report, we do not have. We are looking into that. When their own feuds amongst themselves are over, we will consider their grants also.

Lease of Jinnah House in Bombay for Pakistan Mission

*142. SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Pakistan Government had been assured that the Jinnah House in Bombay would be leased to them for the residence of their Consul-General; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) A request had been received from the Government of Pakistan for the lease of Jinnah House. However, it has not been found possible to accede to this request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Almost the whole House wants to ask questions. Mr. Khushwant Singh.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will agree that this makes a most strange preamble to the treaty of friendship that the Foreign Minister and the Government have been telling us that they are prepared to have Pakistan. Let me briefly give a slight background to the Jinnah House. It was leased to the British Government for their Consulate. The lease was due to expire in 1981 and our Government gave a solemn assurance to the Pakistanis that the Jinnah House will be made over to the Government of Pakistan as soon as the lease expired. And when the British wanted an extension of the lease, our Government went out of the way to tell the British Government to make the request to the Pakistanis. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Ramanand Yadav, I am quoting the most impeccable source, that is, my own column.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With or without malice?

SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: With malice, of course!

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir on the 30th April, 1982,