

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 26th March, 1982/5
Chaitra, 904 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Functioning of Sahitya Akademi

*461. SHRI AJAY KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and titles of original books/translations in different Indian languages (indicating languages separately) and in English published by the Sahitya Akademi in 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981;

(b) the number of Regional offices of the Akademi, the languages served by each and their actual functions;

(c) whether the Calcutta Regional office of the Akademi has failed to function effectively for the last several years and if so, what steps have been taken to enquire into its working and improve the same;

(d) the number of books/translations brought out by the Calcutta office during the period from 1976—1981 in each of the languages served by it; and

(e) whether the Calcutta office is serving the interest of all the regional languages besides Bengali, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Sahitya Akademi published 82 books in 1978, 80 books in 1979, 65 books in 1980 and 76 books in 1981. Of these, original publications are 66 in number and translations are

217. The language-wise breakup and the names of titles are given in Appendix I. [See Appendix CXXI, Annexure No. 87].

(b) There are three regional offices, one each in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The Akademi and its regional offices look after the programme in the following languages:

(i) Head Office at New Delhi.

1. Dogri, 2. Hindi, 3. Indian English, 4. Kashmiri, 5. Maithili, 6. Nepali, 7. Punjabi, 8. Rajasthani, 9. Sanskrit and 10. Urdu.

(ii) Regional Office at Calcutta

1. Assamese, 2. Bengali, 3. Manipuri and 4. Oriya.

(iii) Regional Office at Madras

1. Kannada, 2. Malayalam, 3. Tamil and 4. Telugu.

(iv) Regional Office at Bombay

1. Gujarati, 2. Konkani, 3. Marathi and 4. Sindhi.

The functions of the Regional Offices of the Sahitya Akademi are:

1. To carry out all the Sahitya Akademi programmes in the languages being handled by them including the printing and publication of books in those languages.

2. To convene the meetings of the Advisory Boards of the languages being handled by them and to execute their recommendations after the approval of the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi.

3. To organise regional or local seminars, symposia, writers' workshops, literary forum meetings and lectures.

4. Storing and selling of Sahitya Akademi publications and taking part in book-exhibitions.

5. Assisting the head office in all matters relating to the languages being handled by them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) 1976	6 books
1977	17 books
1978	12 books
1979	10 books
1980	5 books
1981	7 books

The break up in each language is at Appendix II. [See Appendix CXXI, Annexure No. 88].

(e) Yes, Sir.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, from the statement of the hon. Minister we find that the publications are divided into translations and originals. In respect of the original books, the number of English originals is 39 and in all the Indian languages the number of original books is only 29. I would like to know the reasons behind so poor a number of original books in the Indian languages because the Sahitya Akademi's main function is to encourage and develop the Indian languages and literature. But here we find that the stress is given more on English than on Indian languages. The Sahitya Akademi's main functions have been laid down in its constitution and they are—

(1) To promote co-operation among men of letters for the development of literature in Indian languages;

(2) To encourage or to arrange translation of literary works from one Indian language into others and also from non-Indian into Indian languages and *vice versa*;

(3) To publish or to assist associations and individuals in publishing literary works, including bibliographies, dictionaries, etc. in the various Indian languages;

(4) To sponsor or to hold literary conferences, seminars and exhibitions on an all-India or a regional basis; and

(5) to promote research in Indian languages and literature.

Now, Sir, from the activities of the Sahitya Akademi it appears that it has confined its activities only to publishing some books translated into other Indian languages or into English; and according to the report of the Review Committee of 1972 headed by Justice Mr. Khosla, the translations are very poor.

I would like to know what steps have been taken to improve the functions of the Sahitya Akademi and also to publish improved translations and also to publish more original works in the various Indian languages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: And together with that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many literary classics in each Indian language have been translated into other Indian languages and made available to readers in various Indian languages to achieve the objective of the Sahitya Akademi.

Then, Sir, I would like to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sharma, will you take the answers one by one or will you ask twenty questions at a time. There are now two questions which you have asked.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: These are all related.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I know, but you have moved to the nth degree.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: In respect of the objectives, now there are two points here: translation of literary classics and also translation of all the books which have been awarded prizes by the Sahitya Akademi. I want to know whether these books will be made available in the Indian languages.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, the Sahitya Akademi turns out a fixed number of publications. It stands out for literary excellence and

quality. And even so, during its existence of 23 years it has brought out 1,087 publications in 23 languages. 217 are original works and the rest are translations. It comes to an average of about 60 publications per year. And, I think, the Akademi has to maintain its standards. And we cannot treat this Akademi like a factory or an ordinary press which publishes books. Here, it caters to the excellence and the literary excellence of the thinkers, writers and others. And the hon. Member has asked so many questions. If he had put the supplementaries one by one, I would have replied. I would be grateful if he repeats his questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will summarise them. First was the question that Mr. Khosla has said that the translations are not up to the mark. First is that question.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: There is a Review Committee of the works that is done. There is an advisory Board that goes into...

MR. CHAIRMAN: For each language?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question was put in the last session also.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Then this Advisory Board suggests the titles and then it goes to the Executive Board. Then they pass it and then it is done. And there the people who do this work are experts in their own field. And they give out their decisions on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next question was whether there has been translation *inter se* between these languages. There are a number of questions asked in a very long breath.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, it happens like this that those publications or those books that are of

classical nature or of a very high order and those books that have won Akademi awards are translated into different languages. There are four regional centres of the Akademi in Calcutta, in Madras, in Bombay and one here. So, all these different centres take up different regional languages. And these different Centres do the translations or these specialised works.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khushwant Singh.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, I have my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already had three.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, I want to know specifically whether the Government have taken into consideration the Khosla Committee's recommendations and what steps the Government have taken in pursuance of those recommendations to improve the functioning of the Sahitya Akademi. One of their suggestions was that there should be State Academies instituted in different States. They have also suggested a lot of things about the improvement of the Sahitya Akademi's functions as well as other National Academies. That is the first point. Secondly, I would like to ask the Education Minister whether the books that were selected by the Sahitya Akademi to be the best books and for which they awarded prizes, have been made available in all the Indian languages, because it is not necessary if we want to achieve the purpose of the Sahitya Akademi. And, there is another point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How many are you going to ask? If you have got three questions rolled into one, they become six. You are only entitled to two. I think that is about all. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, as I have mentioned before, all those works that are of a classical nature, all those books, are awarded the prizes, the Sahitya Akademi prizes. They are translated into different languages. I have mentioned it just now, a minute ago. And, the recommendations of the Khosla Committee are there and we are doing it

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Has the Government taken into consideration...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you better go and talk to her. Yes, Mr. Khushwant Singh.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: Sir, I crave your indulgence for a few preparatory remarks before I frame my questions. The Sahitya Akademi was formed in 1954 with two specific objectives. First, to set high literary standards, and second, to foster cultural unity by co-ordinating them in 23 languages of this country. In this process we have blown up large sums of money, maintaining large staff and a large number of publications. I would like to draw your attention as regards high literary standards are concerned, so far over 350 books have been awarded prizes. Mr. Chairman, you can take it from me that not one of these 350 books will be read by the turn of the century, and this is very simple, because the whole functioning has become a complete racket. Justice Khosla, in his own report, has mentioned some examples of this racketeering that goes on by authors approaching the members of the panel. In this connection he has mentioned particularly one, namely, that in the 10 awards given to the Punjabi language, seven were given to the members of the advisory committee themselves. In one case the casting vote was put by the author in his own favour to win the award. Now, these awards are not made for this kind of a thing. You have awards in other countries like the Prix Goncourt, Prix Femina awards. They are given when a book is recognised and the

figures are very nominal, particularly in the Prix Goncourt and Booker awards. And, then the books go into innumerable editions. Here we have a system of racketeering where awards are given to friends, to people, who approach them and not one of these books ever goes into a second edition. Now, the assumption on which the Sahitya Akademi is formed is basically wrong. Creative writing is not a State enterprise. It is not a public sector enterprise. Creating writing, you do not have to encourage writers. I think this is the false assumption behind the Sahitya Akademi that writers have to be encouraged. It is a question of the survival of the fittest. They are the ones who should survive. And, any step taken to extend patronage is like putting fertiliser on a patch of weeds. It only brings up second rate and third rate authors. What I would like to ask the Education Minister is, whether the Government is considering or reconsidering the whole basis on which the Sahitya Akademi was formed, to patronise literature and culture in various languages? I may give you one example of what bad effects the patronage does. The classical example is of Mr. Faiz Ahmad Faiz, the poet. When he was in jail, he produced the best writing, his best poetry. When he was taken out of jail and made the President of the Arts Council of Pakistan, he stopped writing altogether. The moral is simple that... (Interruptions). Now, I am giving an example that the moral is simple...

SHRI PILOO MODY: Do not make out a case for putting people in jail.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: The moral simply is this. Good writing like making love is best done on an empty stomach.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an advice which, perhaps, some people will take to heart.

SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH: My suggestion to Madam hon. Minister

is, it is time you appoint another committee like the Khosla Committee to re-examine the entire basis of State patronage to creative writers and my recommendation is—this I put to the hon. Minister and I hope she will consider this—to scrap this entire organisation.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Hear, hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN. This is a very drastic step. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir,... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yesterday, Mr. Shahabuddin walked out. I hope, he will not walk out today. I will call you next.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Do you mean that those who walk out would be given a chance?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The next day.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I wish to explain... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why does she not have a walk out? Why does Usha not have a walk out?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because you are sitting here.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Both of them should walk out.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I wish to explain how the awards are given. There is a procedure that is followed. The procedure is that when you select a book for award, a number of distinguished writers, scholars and critics in each language are invited confidentially, to recommend five titles suitable for award. Then, this list of five books is referred back to the advisers who are requested to select one title each which they consider suitable for an award. Then, the books so recommended are sub-

mitted to a committee of three readers in each language for their considered opinion of each book. These recommendations are then placed before the executive board which is the final authority. As you will see, there are about four processes before an award is announced.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Very cumbersome.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: It is. But even then...

SHRI PILOO MODY: Larger the number of processes, greater is the fiddling.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I do not know.

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is a fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What Mr. Khushwant Singh has said is very necessary to be looked into.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I would like to explain to the hon. Members. Sir, he has mentioned about Punjabi...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not put our writers in jail to make them write better.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: He has suggested that we should scrap all these. Then, we will be left without anything else. This is not possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not know how Mr. Khushwant Singh did such a good translation of Iqbal's 'Shikwah' without being in jail.

SHRI PILOO MODY: But he did it on an empty stomach. (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: But Mr. Piloo Mody produced nothing. He was in jail for more than a year and a half; on an empty stomach. Having

been in jail for one and a half years, he did not produce anything. He produced books when he was out of jail.

SHRI PILOO MODY: It is always advisable to have an empty stomach rather than an empty head. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA. You do not have anything else, Mr. Piloo Mody. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PILOO MODY: In which case I am tempted to say something else. But I will refrain myself, and apologise ahead of time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will have to expunge many things then. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, first, I would like to correct a typing mistake. The number of original publications has been mentioned here as 66. I think, the number is really 36. I have done some arithmetic. This is just to help Madam hon. Minister. Last year, the Sahitya Akademi did not make an award for Urdu. And I asked a question and I was told by the Minister that they cannot reveal the names of the books considered, in public interest. I do not know; what do they mean by public interest? Perhaps, the books had something to do with the defence of India or the security of India. I was told privately that no award was given because the members of the jury were considering their own books and they did not agree whom to award. This is just to supplement the point about racketeering, which has been mentioned by my colleagues.

Sir, I find, in Appendix I of the statement, there is a mention of a language which has been described as Indian English. I wonder, how Madam hon. Minister would define Indian English. And it has been defined as simple 'English' in the Appendix I.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What page?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: On the first page of the statement, under the head "Head Office at New Delhi", item No. 3 is 'Indian English', but when you look at Appendix I, it is the same language, I suppose, but it is described as "English". I would like to know what the difference is. But that is not my real question. I find that English has 44 books to its credit. The only Indian language which rivals it is Hindi with 59 in four years. All other languages have been treated very shabbily. If you take out the average, the number of books per language per year brought out by the Sahitya Akademi is 4.5, while the number of books per year in English is 11. And if I may plead the case of Urdu, Urdu's average is 3. I would like to know whether the Sahitya Akademi caters to the needs of the Indian people or just to the elite elements among them. Does the Minister propose to do something to avoid and eliminate this lopsidedness?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the Indian English. There are different types of English ways, as we say American English. In the American English the spellings are different. Instead of giving this spelling 'programme' of programme, they write as 'program'. In the same way...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: May I clarify? My objection is not to the Indian English. My objection is, how you describe the same language in two places in two different ways.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Indian English was described by Sir Arthus Quiller-Couch in these words: That the hand that rocks the cradle has kicked the bucket. Therefore, I can't keep the wolf from the door.

SHRI PILOO MODY: In his art of writing.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: And the reference that has been made by the hon. Member that the members

of the jury were discussing their own books, it has not been brought to our notice.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: You ask the jury.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Is not there a clause that any member of the jury, if he is directly or indirectly interested in any publication or work, cannot sit... Is there not this clause?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: He is not supposed to be there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the question of 'supposed to be there'. Is there any clause or not?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: He is not to be there.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: My main question was, why is there this lopsided treatment in favour of English at the expense of the Indian languages?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Well, it depends on the taste the people have. If they want to cater to English, how can you stop that?

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : सभापति महोदय, साहित्य अकादमी ने अपने पिछले बीस वर्षों के काल में भारतीय साहित्य में एक नये युग का प्रवर्तन किया है। इससे पहले भारतीय भाषाओं को कोई प्रोत्साहन नहीं था और किसी भी भाषा में यदि कोई ग्रन्थ लिखा जाता है तो आवश्यक नहीं कि वह क्लासिक बन जाए। यदि एक हजार ग्रन्थ निकलें, हो सकता है कि उनमें से एक क्लासिक हो। खुशवंत सिंह जी की बात से मेरा मन तो बहुत मिलता है। गर्वनमेंट को लेखक को बलात्कार से नहीं लिखवाना चाहिये। परन्तु भारतीय भाषाओं के लेखक ऐसे हैं जिन्हें पास रोटी भी खाने की नहीं है, सब तो खुशवंत सिंह जी नहीं हैं।

श्री सभापति : जेल में रोटी मिल जाएगी।

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : जेल में रोटी मिल जायेगी इसलिये जेल में जा कर लिखते भी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि भारतीय भाषाओं के विकास में साहित्य अकादमी ने बहुत योगदान दिया है। साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी समझता हूँ एक भारतीय भाषा का दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओं के साथ नाता जोड़ने में साहित्य अकादमी का योगदान अनुपम है। इससे पहले यह कभी नहीं हुआ कि एक भारतीय भाषा के ग्रन्थ का दूसरी भाषा में अनुवाद हुआ हो। रवीन्द्र नाथ टैगोर के ग्रन्थ भारतीय भाषाओं में नहीं थे तो साहित्य अकादमी ने पहली बार उन्हें अनुदित करवाया। देश की साहित्यिक और सांस्कृतिक एकता को बनाने के लिए जो काम किया है उसे हमें भूलना नहीं चाहिये। हर एक काम में कुछ न कुछ गड़बड़ी रह जाती है। मैं भी कहूँ, कोई भी करे, आप भी करें तो उसमें कोई न कोई नकारात्मक बात होगी। जो अनुवाद हो रहे हैं एक भाषा से दूसरी भाषा में या अंग्रेजी से भारतीय भाषाओं में उनके लिए जो सब से अच्छे लेखक मिल सकते थे उनको ढूँढा गया। परन्तु लेखक को जो अनुवाद का पैसा दिया जाता है वह बहुत कम दिया जाता है। मुझे आशा है मंत्रालय आगामी वर्षों में अनुवादकों का उनका जो भत्ता है, अनुवाद करने का, भत्ता बढ़ा देंगे। इससे और अच्छे अनुवादक मिल सकेंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आगे जो एक भाषा से दूसरी भाषा में अनुवाद होंगे, उनका दर बढ़ाने में कोई काम किया जायेगा? दूसरी बात (व्यवधान)

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : रेट दुगुना कर दीजिए।

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : यह तो अनुवादक की स्थिति पर निर्भर है। यदि मुझे आप कहेंगे मैं दो पैसे में किसी शब्द का अनुवाद करूँ तो मैं नहीं करूँगा। प्रत्येक अनुवादक के साथ आपको नया भाव करना पड़ेगा। परन्तु अभी

के अनुवाद की दर है बहुत कम है, मैं समझता हूँ कि उसको बढ़ाना चाहिए इसलिए मंत्री महोदया से यह आश्वासन चाहता हूँ। दूसरी बात, उनसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यद्यपि एक भारतीय भाषा से दूसरी भारतीय भाषा में अनुवाद हो रहा है उसमें कुछ अच्छे होंगे, कुछ बुरे होंगे तो उनकी संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए क्या काम किया जा रहा है।

श्रीमती शीला कौल : मान्यवर, पहले तो मैं थोड़ी सी इत्तिला देना चाहती हूँ कि उर्दू में भी किताबें छपी गयी हैं, साहित्य अकादमी में 12 छपी है अभी तक और जो माननीय सदस्य ने अभी कहा है कि जो फीस है, जो कि ट्रांसलेटर को दी जाती है, वह बढ़ानी चाहिए। तो अभी जो फीस है, थोड़ी सी बढ़ा दी गयी है। इनका जो सजेशन है वह हम लोगों ने महसूस किया था कि ऐसा होना चाहिए और फीस जो है ट्रांसलेटर की बढ़ा दी गयी है।

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Sir, my simple question is that the hon. Minister has said that 66 books are translated every year. I want to know whether there is any fixed quota for different languages or not—i.e. how many in English, how many in Bengali and how many in other languages.

Secondly, after the racket about the selection of the books, as revealed by my colleagues on this side and that side, will the Government take into consideration the need for changing the process of selection of books by the Sahitya Akademi?

And, thirdly, is there any proposal for having State-level Sahitya Akademis to do justice to the regional writers and to encourage the development of regional languages?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I have already explained how the

awards are given. If there is some suggestion, or if a change is required, how it should be done, if it is sent to me, then it can be considered, because, according to us what we have is a good procedure of seeing how books should be given awards, how books should be translated and how books should be written. If there are any suggestions, these can be sent to us.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: What about State Sahitya Akademis?

(No reply)

SHRI PILOO MODY: To begin with, I do not think the Minister replied to the question asked by my colleague, Shri Shahabuddin, as to what was against the public interest in not revealing the titles of the books that were under consideration. I do not know how public interest is involved in this matter.

Secondly, I would like to say that the procedure that has been explained by the hon. Minister certainly does not inspire any confidence with me and I am sure, considering what Shri Khushwant Singh has said, there is a great deal wrong in it. People go on proliferating on procedures and if we find a way of by passing the procedures in order to get wrong things done, no number of checks is going to work. Therefore, some novel device has to be found in order to replace these procedures so that if this is to be recognised and awarded—and I think it should be—it should be after the event. If you start considering that, in the process what happens is that a lot of jostling for positions goes on and I have no doubt that it has resulted in gross malpractice. Even the list that has been submitted, you can see, Sir, is not so impressive. The quality is, as described by Shri Khushwant Singh, deplorable, the quantity is totally and thoroughly inadequate, particularly in a country which is trying to develop

its regional languages, and, therefore, something far more drastic than merely doing something about the procedures, that we have foolproof procedures, is going to satisfy us, or the writers or the country. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether she would be good enough to consider a total revamping of the procedure in which case she might also ask Mr. Khushwant Singh and others to give their considered opinion in the matter.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, the procedures are evolved through this autonomous body. As I said, the Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous body and if all the suggestions that have been given by the hon. Members are forwarded—what my friend has just now said and my sister also has said the same thing—they have to go through the Akademi because we do not do it, because the Akademi is an autonomous body and it has its own rules, regulations and procedures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You wanted to ask a question?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Public interest... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think we will hang on to this question.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Otherwise another mad book might be written in the meanwhile.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Sir, you called upon me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. The gentleman behind you. You did not want to ask a question. You raised your hand.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Sir, since the national Sahitya Akademi is a semi-autonomous institution and most of the prominent literary persons of the country are there, it is better that the Government does not interfere much except giving guidelines and new suggestions on the

broad perspective so as to improve the cultural integration of the country is within the purview of the Government. Will the Minister, in that view, consider, as suggested by hon. Members, to call for a meeting and suggest how the broad perspective for national integration and regional language development can be taken up by the Sahitya Akademi? Specially from the figure supplied by the hon. Minister, Sir, we understand that the Akademi had published very few books in the regional languages. I am speaking of Orissa. In Oriya, only one book has been published in four years. This is very pathetic.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, in this connection, as I said before the Sahitya Akademi brings out books of excellence, and if people do not come forth with their books of excellence, how can you blame the Sahitya Akademi? It is the people who have to be involved in all these artistic and literary pursuits.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: When a person writes a book of excellence, he does not go to the Sahitya Akademi, he goes to a publisher for the widest audition.

SHRI PILOO MODY: It goes to the market.

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: It gets the widest possible audience.

SHRI PILOO MODY: And Sahitya Akademi must pick it up from the market and award it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why not?

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, the question relates to the functioning of the Sahitya Akademi. I will not be harsh, like Mr. Khushwant Singh, on the Sahitya Akademi, but there is much to be done in respect of this Akademi. In fact, the Khosla Committee recommendations have been shelved and nothing has been done to implement those recommendations, and a sugges-

tion has been made to appoint another committee to make fresh recommendations. While those recommendations are shelved by the Ministry, the main question is how to improve the functioning of the Sahitya Akademi. We would have been enlightened if the hon. Minister had given us some assurance that a fresh look will be given to the functioning of the Sahitya Akademi. The share of my State is one in sixty-four in a period of four years and she says only books of excellence will be considered. Mr. Khushwant Singh has already said what kind of racketeering is there in the functioning of this Sahitya Akademi and she is talking of books of excellence. I can name any number of books of excellence published in my State which can compete with any number of books in other regional languages. Secondly, because this was a comprehensive question, I would like to know from the Minister, Sir, how many regional and local seminars, symposia, writers' workshops and literary forum meetings have been organised, particularly by the Calcutta regional Sahitya Akademi towards which the question is directed by Mr. Ajit Kumar Sharma.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I am very happy that this question has been asked. There has been a lot of work going on in Calcutta and one I would like to explain just now. There has been a writers' workshop at Calcutta about short stories, from 22nd to 25th of February, which was inaugurated by one of the writers, Mr. Surendra Kumar Bhattacharya, and papers on short stories were read by Shri Mohan Bohra, Shri Ashim Roy, Shri Singh and Shri Chandrasekhar and the different languages in which the papers were read were Manipuri, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: You kindly listen. Don't disturb.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Writers in four languages participated and 12

different short stories in different languages were read out. During this period, 1980-81, books published in different languages have been in Assamese and Bengali.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we will have to . . . (Interruptions) Mr. Madhavan, you have come too late on the scene. There is the Judge there and then last you.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: The Khosla Committee's Report was published in 1972, nearly ten years ago. Mr. Nanda says that even that Committee's recommendations have not been given effect to. Now would the hon. Minister kindly consider the formation of another Review Committee to go into the activities of the Sahitya Akademi?

MR. CHAIRMAN: A fresh look.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, that is a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be brief. We have already taken half an hour.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, does the hon. Minister accept the very healthy convention, and will she advise the Board to follow it, that whenever an individual is sitting on the Board and his own book is being considered or his own interest is involved in it, he may . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said from the Chair that is there a rule and the hon. Minister said 'Yes'.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Would she ensure that at least now onwards this would be done and in any case the Chairman would not use his casting vote in his own favour, as Mr. Khushwant Singh has alleged? And the second thing I am surprised at is that the original titles published are less than half of translations, if you exclude English. Of all the original writings being published by the Sahitya Akademi, more than half are in English only compared to the

other languages of India combined. Is the Ministry or is the Akademi going into the question to find out why original works in these different languages are not considered up to the mark and only translations are being favoured?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Well, Sir, the hon. Member has enquired why there are more works in English than in other languages. I have replied to this question previously also. When people come forward with works in English only, how can you say that these will not be entertained? English is also one of the languages that are used in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is original *versus* translation. He says that the original books are fewer than the translations in the list. That is what the question is. (Interruptions) That will depend upon the number of books submitted. You do not give awards to rubbish.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: The members of the Board should not scratch each other's back or give awards to themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That, I must say, is very reprehensible, that they give the award to themselves.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: At least that is the very minimum which the honourable Minister can assure us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the honourable Minister may assure the House that the jury men will not take the award themselves or for their sons and daughters. They should be thrown out of the jury if that is so.

*462. [The questioner (Shri Robin Kakati) was absent. For answer vide cols. 35 infra].

*463. [The questioner (Shrimati Sushila Shankar Adivarekar) was absent. For answer vide cols. 35-36 infra].

Merger of Cancer Research Centre with Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital

*464. SHRI SUDHAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI PRASENJIT
BARMAN:†

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to merge two Calcutta Institutes, viz. the Cancer Research Centre with Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital;

(b) whether any such proposal has been received from the West Bengal Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what decision the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal regarding the integration of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre and Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, Calcutta, emanated from the recommendations of a Committee constituted in 1971 to review the functioning of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre, Calcutta. The issues relating to the absorption of staff in the integrated institution have been generally sorted out with the State Government and the question of sharing of expenditure between the Central and the State Governments and the taking over by the State Government of the Rup Lal Nundy Memorial Cancer Research Centre, Chandernagore are to be examined by a Working Group constituted by the Central Government in February, 1982, at the request of the State Government.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Am I to understand that till the question of taking over of Rup Lal Nandy

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prasenjit Barman.