

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER : Sir, I would respectfully submit that this question does not arise out of the question I am replying to.

SHRI V. B. RAJU : Is the Government prepared to consider in view of the magnitude and the size of the problem that the universities, colleges and high schools are involved in this with a stipulation that a matriculate will not get the certificate and a graduate will not get the degree until he gives literacy to a certain number of actually illiterate persons ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER : As far as I am aware, there is no compulsion in this behalf. It is taken to be a part of social work, and if there is any compulsion in this matter then there may be great resentment, and in the matter of teaching unless there is some urge in the mind of the teacher also, the real effect cannot be achieved.

NATIONALISATION OF TEXT BOOKS

*71. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Akhil Bhartiya Hindi Prakashak Sangh to the effect that Government should refrain from nationalising text books;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether these publishers have also urged upon the Government to provide certain incentives for making the publications cheaper and also to reduce the postal rates ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री श्रीकान्त वर्मा : उपसभापति महोदय, पिछले कई साल से, बल्कि कहना चाहिए कि स्वाधीनता के बाद से ही टैक्स्ट बुक्स प्रकाशन का व्यवसाय भ्रष्टाचार का बहुत बड़ा जरिया

हो गया है और प्रकाशकों और यूनिवर्सिटियों और शिक्षा विभाग के अधिकारियों के बीच जो कुछ होता है वह किसी से छिपा हुआ नहीं है और बड़े आश्चर्य की बात है कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने दोनों ही प्रश्नों का उत्तर 'नहीं' में कह दिया है और थोड़ा भी यह स्पष्ट करने की कोशिश नहीं कि इस सम्बंध में सरकार की क्या नीति होगी क्योंकि यह समाचार पत्रों में छपा है और आज सबरे कई प्रकाशकों ने इस संबन्ध में मुझे फोन भी किया था कि उन्होंने यह प्रस्ताव किया था। लेकिन व्यक्तिगत रूप से मैं उन से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को साफ साफ कोई निर्णय लेना चाहिए कि टैक्स्ट बुक प्रकाशन का व्यवसाय सरकारी क्षेत्र में रहेगा या वह निजी क्षेत्र में रहेगा। आज जब सरकार तमाम मामूली सवालों पर निर्णय ले रही है तो ऐसा सवाल कि जिसका संबन्ध बच्चों के भविष्य से है उस पर उस की बड़ी सफाई से कोई निर्णय लेना चाहिए। इसलिये मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह इस संबन्ध में आगे चल कर प्रकाशकों से और लेखकों से कोई बातचीत करेंगे या करने को तैयार हैं कि टैक्स्ट बुक्स प्रकाशन का व्यवसाय सरकारी क्षेत्र में रहे या न रहे ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, this is a highly controversial question. In fact, there are two schools of thought. According to one, text-book publication should remain in the private sector, but the Government should keep a close watch over the text-books so that the ideas of national integration, communal harmony and similar ideas may not be affected. And, according to the other, the Government should take upon itself the publication of text-books. The Government has not yet, decided on this point. At present the NCERT is publishing certain text-books, but we find that that is also subject to public criticism. So, we are examining this matter and will come up with a proper attitude or policy of the Government at a later date.

श्री श्रीकांत वर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी एन० सी० ई० आर० टी० का जो उदाहरण दिया है, यह सही है कि जब भी जुलाई का महीना होता है तब स्कूलों के विद्यार्थियों के माता-पिताओं की यह शिकायत होती है कि बाजार में सुनने को मिलता है कि एन० सी० ई० आर० टी० की किताबें नहीं मिल रही हैं और अगर नहीं मिल रही हैं, तो इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि पुस्तक प्रकाशन का उद्योग सरकार द्वारा अपने आप में गलत है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इन कारणों की जांच करेंगे कि किन कारणों से ये पुस्तकें बाजार में नहीं आती हैं और कैसे उनके उचित वितरण की व्यवस्था हो ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: In many cases, Sir, the manuscripts were received at a late stage, and these have been sent to the press for printing. And, as you know, sometimes because of load-shedding, the presses cannot work in full strength. So it is taking some time. But I believe the books which are not available in the market will soon be available.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question.

*72. [The questioner (Shri Shyam Lal Yadav) was absent. For answer, vide col. 41-42 infra.]

♦73. [The questioner (Dr. Lokesh Chandra) was absent. For answer vide col. 42-43 infra.]

VISIT TO INDIA BY THE CHIEF OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

*74. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD : SHRI BIR
CHANDRA DEB BURMAN : Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE AND
IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief of the Food and Agriculture Organisation

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Chandra Deb Burman.

I visited India recently and held discussions with the representatives of the Government of India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to make available food stocks to F.A.O. for export; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The representatives of the Government of India discussed with the Director-General of the FAO, the global food and agricultural situation in general and the role of the FAO with particular reference to India. The following main topics were discussed in particular :—

(i) The role of the FAO in stimulating further multilateral and bilateral assistance for increasing food production in the developing countries and for ensuring that production level is stepped up atleast to an average annual growth rate of 4% as recommended by the World Food Conference.

(ii) Enlarging the scope of food aid under the World Food Programme to cover improvement of nutritional standards, livestock development programmes and coverage of new commodities like edible oils, dairy products, etc. in addition to aid in the shape of foodgrains.

(iii) Utilisation of the special fund of \$ 20.00 million proposed to be created by the FAO in order to reduce post-harvest losses, by the developing countries, including India.

(iv) Utilisation of \$ 18.5 million Technical Cooperation Programme Fund created by the FAO, by the developing countries, including India.

(v) Upgrading of the country Office of the FAO in India in order to provide for high level experts in keeping with India's requirements, for technical advice.