

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 6th April, 1977/the
16 Chaitra, 1899 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock

Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Kerala

*19. SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of setting up a Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Kerala is pending with the Central Government for a long time; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in taking a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b) A decision on the question of establishment of new Sanskrit Vidyapeethas during the Fifth Five Year Plan has not yet been taken. The decision, therefore, on the establishment of a Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Kerala has also not been possible.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: In view of the fact that a sum of Rs. 5 crores has been set apart for the improvement of Sanskrit institutions and for the promotion of the study of Sanskrit, would the Government consider turning some of the important Sanskrit institutions in some States into Vidyapeethas?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, a Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan including a Vidyapeetha has been set up, and Rs. 1.50 crores were provided, as far as my information goes, and not Rs. 5 crores, as the hon.

Member suggested. The matter was held up at the Finance Secretary's level, and the Finance Ministry wanted to consider the impact of the existing Sanskrit Vidyapeethas as there are already some which have been taken up by the Government and financed by them. Now, so far as this particular Vidyapeetha is concerned, it may be possible to move the Finance Ministry to allow us to grant recognition to that and to take appropriate measures in that behalf. Sir, I myself was a student of Sanskrit, and I have deep regard for that language, and I shall see to it that the utmost is done for Sanskrit.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: In the meanwhile, considering the hardship that the teachers at present are suffering in the particular institution in Kerala, would the Government take some steps to sanction some *ad hoc* grant to that institution?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: We will look into this matter.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: Do the Government not consider that the Studies in Sanskrit in the South is important.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: It is very gratifying to note that the hon. Minister has accepted the importance of Sanskrit language for the country. In the light of this, I would like to know how many Sanskrit Vidyapeethas we have in the country. And will he consider establishing at least one such Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in each State so that Sanskrit being the base language for a number of other languages in the country, this can help the other languages as well as help in the learning of Sanskrit philosophy.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: There are already some Vidyapeethas functioning, and this being a laudable suggestion . . .

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: How many institutions are there?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: There are five Vidyapeethas, and five more are to be started during the Fifth Plan period. But, as I have already said, Sir, the approval of the Finance Ministry has not yet been obtained, and we will look into the matter.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ जैसा कि शिक्षा मंत्री ने बताया कि 5 विद्यापीठ इस समय हैं और 5 विद्यापीठ पंचवर्षीय योजना में और प्रस्तावित हैं परन्तु जो संस्कृत की पाठशालायें हैं, गुरुकुल हैं या और दूसरी संस्कृत का शिक्षण देने वाली संस्थायें या स्थान हैं उन सब की संख्या मिला कर लगभग 3000—3500 बैठती है। लेकिन संस्कृत का जो बजट आपका है, इन 5 विद्यापीठों पर लगभग साठ प्रतिशत बजट की राशि खर्च हो जाती है और वे छोटे-छोटे संस्थान जो काम कर रहे हैं वे सहयोग से वंचित रहते हैं। जब कि मेरी अपनी जानकारी यह है कि विद्यापीठों में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों को छात्रवृत्ति दे कर संस्कृत पढ़ाई जाती है और वहाँ स्वयं अपनी इच्छा से छात्र संस्कृत पढ़ने जाते हैं। तो क्या इसको व्यावहारिक बनाने की दिशा में शिक्षा मंत्रालय कुछ सोच रहा है ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, these Vidyapeethas were set up to co-ordinate the study of Sanskrit and to hold examinations in Sanskrit and to raise the standard of teaching of the Sanskrit language. So, it may be necessary to pay more money to these institutions. If there is an imbalance between these institutions and other institutions, they will be considered in proper time.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURGOHAIN: Will the hon. Minister throw some light on the presumption of the people that his Ministry is not giving the expected patronage to imparting Sanskrit education in the

country, as a result of which a good number of institutions in Assam and West Bengal giving education in Sanskrit have been closed? May I know from the hon. Minister as to how much responsibility his Ministry shares for the closure of such institutions?

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I would require notice for this question, Sir.

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा कि केरल के अन्दर संस्कृत विद्यापीठ की स्थापना में वित्त मंत्रालय ने अड़चने डाली है। जहाँ तक मुझे पता है, वित्त मंत्रालय के सचिव ने उस फाइल के ऊपर संस्कृत के लिये बड़े अपमानजनक शब्द लिखे हैं। मुझे आशा है कि कोई भी शासन का सचिव संविधान में स्वीकृत भाषा के लिये ऐसे शब्द नहीं लिखेगा। दूसरी बात यह है कि हम लोग यदि संस्कृत शिक्षा का देश में प्रसार करना चाहते हैं तो मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि राष्ट्रीय संस्कृत संस्थान के ऊपर और रुपया न लगा कर —7 हजार रुपया तो उस मकान का किराया दिया जाता है—उसकी जो वृद्धि की जा रही है उस को रोक कर रुपया किसी रचनात्मक कार्य में लगायें जिसमें और संस्कृत विद्यापीठ स्थापित हो सकें। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या वे राष्ट्रीय संस्कृत संस्थान की वृद्धि को रोक कर वह रुपया रचनात्मक कार्यों में लगायेंगे अर्थात् संस्कृत विद्यापीठों की स्थापना में लगायेंगे ? दूसरी बात यह कि जो वित्त मंत्रालय के सचिव ने संस्कृत के लिये अपमानजनक शब्द फाइल पर लिखे हैं क्या मंत्री महोदय वह पढ़ कर सुनाने के लिये उद्यत हैं ?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, I could get only two questions. As regards adverse comments,

I have not so far come across any such adverse comments on the file. I have already stated that I have the highest regard for this language. I was a student of this language. So, I think due regard will be paid to the spreading of this language and also encouragement given. As regards the other suggestion of the hon. Member, I should certainly consider what can be done in this behalf.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Minister seems to be evading the main question. The question was whether adverse comments, insulting comments regarding Sanskrit were made by the Secretary of the Finance Ministry and, if so, what were those remarks. He has completely evaded the issue. He did not reply to it at all.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I said I do not know anything about it.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply, has said that the object of this institution is to improve the standard of the Sanskrit language. I could not really understand what he meant by it. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to clarify what exactly he meant by it?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Will the hon. Member kindly repeat the question at the end?

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA: Sir, the honourable Minister, in the course of his reply, stated that the object of this institute is to improve the standard of Sanskrit language. I could not exactly understand what he meant by it. Will he kindly clarify what he exactly meant by it?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, I have stated in general terms that the object of this institute is to improve the teaching of Sanskrit and hold the examination in Sanskrit at a proper level. More than this, I am not in a position to comment upon.

DR. V. B. SINGH: Sir, the teaching of Sanskrit language in free India has a two-fold purpose. One is to provide a medium for research in social sciences in the ancient part of our history. The other is, of course, the study of language and literature. Now, whether it is through these Vidya-peeths or other institutions, schools or universities, or through the medium of All India Radio, the method of instruction is classical, which has no relevance to the instruction to be given in a modern age. Therefore in case the promotion of Sanskrit language is to be taken up seriously, the method of instruction has to be modernised. I would like to know what the Ministry is doing for modernising the method of instruction so that within six months or so, as it happens in Europe, a student becomes proficient in Sanskrit language.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, as I have stated, the object of these institutions is to raise the standard of teaching of Sanskrit and also to achieve uniformity in the standard. Of course, the question of modernisation is a debatable one and is also somewhat subjective in character. So I do not know what could be the proper attitude which the honourable Member is expecting of this Ministry. There are experts who are dealing with this matter and they are devoting their greatest attention to this subject.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने विद्यापीठ और गुरुकुलों में संस्कृत शिक्षा का स्तर सुधरे, इस प्रश्न पर बड़ा ध्यान दिया है, लेकिन यह संस्कृत की शिक्षा अधिक लोक प्रिय बने और अधिक से अधिक विद्यार्थी संस्कृत की शिक्षा के लिये प्रयत्नशील और प्रोत्साहित हों इस के लिये क्या वह दस प्लस दो की स्कीम में संस्कृत के लिये जो इस समय कम स्थान है उस के बारे

बारे में और उस स्कीम में संस्कृत को पुनः प्रतिष्ठित करा कर प्रत्येक विद्यार्थी को संस्कृत में रुचि लेने के लिये प्रोत्साहित करेंगे।

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, this supplementary question is linked up with the basic problem, the problem of the language formula. Whether there will be two languages or three languages. All these questions are there. Now, already, in any case, we have the three-language formula and the students are burdened with the study of three languages. If, in addition, they have to study a fourth language, Sanskrit, they might be over-burdened. Therefore, I find that in many States the study of Sanskrit which was compulsory in our days is now made optional. This is the practical problem regarding Sanskrit that we are facing throughout the country. We have to study the mother-tongue, then Hindi as the Rashtra Bhasha, and then some other language, and, in addition to that, if we are to study Sanskrit, that might put a great burden on the student. That is one of the difficulties which the people who love Sanskrit are facing in different States.

सम्मानार्थ उपाधियों का दिया जाना

*20. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण तथा संस्कृति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों द्वारा सम्मानार्थ उपाधियों प्रदान करने की विधि पर सरकार द्वारा पुनर्विचार किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस विषय पर परामर्श देने के लिये शिक्षा विदों की एक समिति गठित करने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) तथा (ख) का उत्तर हां, हो तो इस संबंध में कब तक अंतिम निर्णय लिय जाने की संभावना है ?

†[Awarding of degrees *Honoris Causa*

*20. SHRI PRAKASH VEER SHASTRI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mode of awarding degrees *Honoris Causa* by the Central universities is being reconsidered by Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to form a committee of educationists for advise on this subject; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?]

शिक्षा, समाज कल्याण तथा संस्कृति

मंत्री (डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चुन्द्र) : (क) सम्मानार्थ उपाधि प्रदान करने की प्रक्रिया केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों की अपनी-अपनी संविधियों में निर्धारित की गई है। इन संविधियों से संबंधित किसी भी संशोधन को निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार स्वयं विश्वविद्यालयों द्वारा किया जा सकता है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

†[THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) The procedure for award of degrees *Honoris Causa* is prescribed in the Statutes of the respective

† [] English translation.