

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 24th March, 1976/4th
Chaitra, 1898 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Stock of Books with the National Book Trust of India

- *331. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G.
KULKARNI :†
SHRI S. W. DHABE :
SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA
MAHANTI :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be
pleased to refer to the answer to Starred
Question 350 given in the Rajya Sabha on
the 5th March, 1975; and state :

(a) the details of the stock of books
which are at present lying with the National
Book Trust of India;

(b) whether the Trust has formulated any
scheme for giving books as free gift;

(c) if so, the names of institutions to
which these books have so far been given
together with the value of these books; and

(d) what is the value of the remaining
stock of books lying with the Trust ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL
WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the
Table of the House.

Statement

The position as on 31st December, 1974
of the stock and value of unsold copies of
1142 titles published by the National Book
Trust, as mentioned in the reply to the
Starred Question referred to by the Hon'ble
Members answered on 5th March, 1975, and

†The Question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shrimati Sumitra
G. Kulkarni.

1—14RSS/76

the position as on 30th September, 1975
in respect of the same titles is given below :

Total No. of titles published	Total No. of copies unsold	Total value (as per list price) of unsold stock (Rs. in lakhs)	As on
1142	. 25,51,066	65.61	31-12-74
1142	. 21,75,056	54.87	30-9-75

Besides the stock and value mentioned
above, 121 titles published subsequently
with 7,37,772 copies valued at Rs. 24.25
lakhs were added to the existing stock out
of which 1,89,468 copies worth Rs. 5.45
lakhs were sold by 30-9-75.

While the Trust has not formulated a
specific scheme for giving away books as
free gift, it gifted, with the approval of
Government, books published before 1st
January, 1970, of the value as mentioned
below during the period 1-1-1975 to
30-9-1975:—

S. No.	Name of the Institution	No. of copies	Value
1.	Raja Rammohun Roy Library Fo- undation for dis- tribution to 341 District Libraries 300 Block level libraries and 73 Nehru Yuvak Kendras	17,758	65,978.50
2.	Kendriya Vidya- laya Sangathan for distribution to 185 Kendriya Vidyalayas	58,861	2,02,531.80
3.	Indian Council for Cultural Re- lations, New Delhi, or Indian Libraries abroad	1,888	7,392.75
4.	Eleven Schools, libraries etc.	238	856.15
TOTAL		78,745	2,76,759.20

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Sir, we find from the statement that nearly Rs. 1 crore worth of books are lying with the National Book Trust. Here is a figure of Rs. 65.61 lakhs and another Rs. 25 lakhs worth which has accumulated subsequently. The total comes to about Rs. 90 lakhs. Now, Sir, the question is, with these 1142 publications which have been brought out by the National Book Trust, what is the reason why there is such a big accumulation of books which have not been sold? Nearly Rs. 1 crore worth of books are lying in stock. What is the publication policy of the Government? It is a very serious situation because when we see the books we find that the printing standard is very poor. The material and the subject-matter are also very poor.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want to reply to it yourself?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : I want to know why such sub-standard books are printed by the National Book Trust. What is their publication policy? It is quite clear that the author-friends of the management are just getting away with sub-standard books. Will the hon. Minister please state what is the publication policy of the National Book Trust?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : I should like to say that it is not Rs. 1 crore, but about Rs. 73 lakhs worth of books are in stock. There has been an appreciable increase in the sale of the National Book Trust's books. So far as the publication policy is concerned, the purpose of the National Book Trust is something different from the other publishing concerns. Actually this body is more concerned with the production of good general reading material at a reasonable price and to supplement the knowledge of readers who do not have the advantage of higher education. The Trust publishes such books as may not be attractive to commercial publishers in various series. This is the theme. It may take some time, but in the last two or three years definitely there has been an appreciable increase in the sale of books. We are also trying to streamline the sale produce. As for sub-standard books, I do not subscribe to the views expressed by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why not straightway put a supplementary and get the reply? Why do you go on explaining?

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : Unless I explain it, he will not even understand what is the issue involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are presuming too much.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : I also derive solace from his reply that it is not Rs. 1 crore, but it is Rs. 73 lakhs. My submission is that the National Book Trust books are neither good nor reasonably priced. There is no such thing. Then, why is this illusion being maintained? In the last two or three years no improvement has taken place because in the year 1975 on the floor of this very House it was submitted that stocks of 1142 publications worth Rs. 66.5 lakhs were lying unsold. Now, the figure has gone up to Rs. 73 lakhs. Does he think there has been improvement after streamlining it? It is only in the files and not in fact. Will he please specify and spell out what is the exact improvement that has taken place? Here we find that books worth Rs. 2 lakhs have been given as a gift. This is the position about the books.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Formerly, some two or three years back, the average sale was between three and four lakhs of rupees annually. Now, the figure has gone up to thirteen lakhs of rupees approximately annually.

So far as weeding out is concerned, I have already answered this question. Our general policy is that books which are more than five years old and which are in stock—not only NBT publications but other Government publications also—are weeded out; they sell them at subsidised prices or they gift them to the libraries.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : It is stated by the hon. Minister that 1142 titles were published by the Trust. I would like to know how many copies of each title were published and whether there is any particular title, not even a single copy of which was sold. He has given books to eleven schools, libraries, etc. Will he give books to all the Central Schools run by the Government?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, we gift these books generally to the Raja Rammohun Library Foundation, to almost all the Central Schools, to the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and to good libraries of the districts through the Nehru Yuvak Kendras. If

he has got any suggestion about any particular Library, I shall be happy to consider it.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : I wanted to know whether there is any title not even a single copy of which has been sold.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : I would like to have notice.

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्य श्रीमती कुलकर्णी जी ने कहा कि यह पुस्तकें स्तर से बहुत नीचे की हैं, इस विषय में मैं एक पुस्तक से एक उद्धरण पढ़ना चाहता हूँ। यह पुस्तक विदेशों में बहुत विक्रि रही है और इस का शीर्षक है 'फ्रीडम स्ट्रगल'। इस के अंदर बहुत सी बातें हैं जो हमारी राष्ट्रीय नीति के विपरीत हैं और उस की विरोधी हैं। जैसे पेज 151 पर इसमें लिखा है :—

"The Nehru Report reflects the conservative views of the older generation of Congress leadership in 1928. While accepting the younger generation's demand for *Purna Swaraj*, they interpreted it to mean Dominion Status within the Empire. They were also not prepared to accept democratic and secular principles in their totality. They did not try to solve the question of communalism in an uncompromising, forthright manner."

इस पुस्तक में इस प्रकार के कोई 40 या 50 स्थान हैं जहाँ कि हमारे देश के विपरीत लिखा गया है। मैं विदेशों में घूमता हूँ और जैसा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी अपने उत्तर में बताया, विदेशों में यह पुस्तक बहुत बांटी गई है। विदेशों के मित्रों ने इस की ओर मेरा ध्यान आकर्षित किया है कि इस में अनेक स्थल ऐसे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह पुस्तक किस की अनुमति से प्रकाशित हुई? क्या इस के कोई संपादक थे जिन्होंने इस को पढ़ा और देखा कि जब हम लोग सरकार की ओर से एक पुस्तक छाप रहे हैं तो वह सरकार की नीतियों के विरुद्ध न हो। हमारा जो स्वतंत्रता संग्राम है (*Inter-ruption*) उसके बारे में जो दृष्टिकोण है, मैं

समझता हूँ कि वह भी सत्य नहीं है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस पर प्रकाश डालने का प्रयत्न करें कि किस ने इस को छापने की अनुमति दी? क्या किसी संपादक ने या इस संस्था के अध्यक्ष ने इस पुस्तक को छपने के पहले पढ़ कर देखा या नहीं?

श्री डी० पी० यादव : अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो उद्धरण हमारे सामने पेश किया है उस के संबंध में निवेदन है कि उस के लिए एक संपादक मंडली है और उस में अनेक प्रतिष्ठित विद्वान हैं। फिर भी एक ऐसी चीज जो आप के ध्यान में है उस की सूचना बीच-बीच में यदि आप हमें देते रहें तो अच्छा है। हम इस का पुनरीक्षण करा लेंगे।

डा० लोकेश चन्द्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि जिस ने इस पुस्तक को लिखा है या जिस ने इस के प्रकाशन की अनुमति दी है उस के लिए कोई अनुशासनात्मक कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। सारी की सारी पुस्तक में इस प्रकार के कोई 50 या 60 स्थल हैं और इस को मैं कोई प्रश्न नहीं बनाना चाहता, परन्तु एक पुस्तक निकली है प्राग में। उस में से भी इस में उद्धरण दिये गये हैं और वे ऐसे हैं कि जो हमारे नेतृत्व पर कोई बहुत उज्ज्वल प्रकाश नहीं डालते हैं। उस पर धुंधलापन डालते हैं। तो मेरा निवेदन मंत्री महोदय से है कि भविष्य में जो ऐसी पुस्तकें छपें उन के अंदर सारी की सारी सरकार की नीति का ध्यान रखा जाय और जैसा कि सुमित्रा जी ने कहा, इस के लिए कोई सुनिश्चित नीति सरकार निर्धारित करे।

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND : Sir, in view of the very alarming revelation made by my hon. colleague, Shri Lokesh Chandra, will the hon. Minister agree to appoint a committee to go into the books that have been published at least to expunge those portions which are bad, which go against the very history of our country? Apart from that, I find that they have used Raja Ram-mohun Roy Libraries and Kendriya Vidyalayas to distribute these books. Will the hon. Minister look into the question of organis-

ing sales, through the language departments of the various States, of the books pertaining to that State, and through all Government-aided libraries whether in the panchayat samitis or in the co-operative sector or in block-level samitis or through Government-aided schools? All the books purchased by such Government-aided institutions should be given a 50 per cent discount and the Government should see that they are properly distributed to the entire country. The books are in all languages and language-wise they can send them to all the States at a 50 per cent discount. The statement made by the hon. Minister shows that no good effort has been made to increase the off-take of these books and it appears that these books will be destroyed just in stock.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that no books will be destroyed. As I have said, the sale of these language books has increased and the number is increasing every day. Particularly in Punjabi, the sale figure has gone up by 60 per cent and about 70 per cent or something like that of the books in our stock have been sold. The sale of regional language books is gaining momentum. I can only assure the hon. Member that no destruction will be there. Whatever agency is to receive it, we shall send it to them.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND : Sir, the first part of my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. Mr. Buragohain.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : What I find from the statement of the hon. Minister is that the problem is not a problem of publication, but the main problem is one of distribution. So, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister what method of distribution is adopted by the National Book Trust for distribution of these publications throughout the whole country? Also I would like to know whether it is a fact that the availability of these books in Assam has come to almost nil for want of appointment of a distributor there for over a period of two years. If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to expedite it and also to enlarge the area of distribution of books published by the National Book Trust?

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, formerly we had about 12 agencies for distribution and sale of these books. Now we have entrusted this work to the Publications Division also. Further we are strengthening our sales machinery and it is due to this only that there has been an increase in the sales.

SHRI M. ANANDAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, taking into consideration the fact that most of the books are unsold, my fear is that the choice of books is not properly made. a matter of fact, this question came up in the Public Accounts Committee. We find that in respect of some States, there has been very good sale. Especially in Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Akademi has been printing and publishing books and books worth crores of rupees have been sold. So far as the National Book Trust is concerned, I am afraid that they have been translating obsolete books which are out of date, and that is exactly the reason why they have all been unsold. Will he consider appointing a committee to go into the entire question and see that at least in future they publish only books which may be needed by students and the public in general?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion.

SHRI D. P. YADAV : Sir, only last year I myself invited the different agencies, the Publications Division and others, just for thinking over how to streamline the sales and it is due to that that we are taking certain steps. There has already been improvement and we are taking further action.

Basic Education system in the country

*332. **SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA**

SHRI KASIM ALI ABID :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :†

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the basic education system in the country has completely failed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.