

RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 11th December, 1974/the 20th
Agrahayana, 1896 (Saka)*

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Co-Ordination and Determination of Standards of Higher Education

*585. SHRI R. K. MISHRA :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

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

(a) whether Government have appointed
a committee to go into the question of coor-
dination and determination of standards of
higher education; and

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : (a) and (b)
No Sir. The Government of India have, how-
ever, appointed a Committee to review the
functioning of the University Grants Commis-
sion, with particular reference to coordination
and determination of standards of higher edu-
cation and make recommendations as to mea-
sures conducive to more effective discharge of
its responsibilities. It will be open to the
Committee to examine any other matter which
has a bearing on the working of the University
Grants Commission.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : May I
know from the Minister whether the proposed
Committee will consider any time-bound pro-
gramme for indianisation of text books in Uni-
versities and if so what are its details?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : No, Sir.

श्री रबी राय : मैं यह मालूम करना चाहता हूँ
कि यू० जी० सी० के सिलसिले में जो कमेटी बैठाई गई
है, इसके अध्यक्ष कौन हैं और कमेटी कब तक अपनी
रपट दे देगी ? इस सिलसिले में मैं यह भी जानना चाहता
हूँ कि फिलहाल यू० जी० सी० के चेयरमैन कौन हैं

क्योंकि मेरी जानकारी यह है कि पहले यू० जी० सी० के
चेयरमैन श्री जेकब थे, लेकिन वे अब उसके चेयरमैन नहीं
हैं। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने अभी
तक यू० जी० सी० का चेयरमैन मुकर्रर क्यों नहीं किया
और चेयरमैन मुकर्रर करने के लिए सरकार अभी और
कितना समय लेगी ?

प्रो० नूरुल हसन : मान्यवर, जहाँ तक सवाल के
पहले हिस्से का प्रश्न है, इस कमेटी के अध्यक्ष डा० बैनी
शंकर झा हैं। जहाँ तक दूसरे भाग का प्रश्न है, यू०
जी० सी० के अध्यक्ष की नियुक्ति करने के लिए गवर्न-
मेंट कोशिश कर रही है।

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA
MENON : Prior to this, there were other
Committees and Commissions like Dr. Radha-
krishnan Committee and Kothari Commission.
Have their recommendations become obsolete
so that we have to go to another Committee to
get further recommendations?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I am afraid
the hon. Members has not. . . I am sorry, I
would rather say that I have not explained
myself to this hon. House and the hon.
Members that this Committee which has been
appointed was to go into the functioning of
the University Grants Commission with refer-
ence to coordination and determination of
Standards of higher education, in particular.
If I may make a submission, this committee
has been appointed principally on the basis of
the 114th report of the Public Accounts
Committee, Fourth Lok Sabha. Radhakrishnan
Commission, as the House would recall, was
appointed to make recommendations regarding
university education in general. So far as
Kothari Commission was concerned, it was to
make recommendations on all sectors of edu-
cation.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
The question of coordination and determina-
tion of standards of higher education is inti-
mately related to the security of service of
teachers. I want to know from the honour-
able Minister whether he is proposing to do
anything with regard to the service condition
of the teachers of the universities, for example
the premier university like the Delhi University
so that the problem of standards of higher
education can be dealt with in a co-ordinate
way.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, I made
the submission during the last Session of the
August House that the Government propose

†The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri N. R. Choudhury.

to bring forward a Bill. I hope, Sir, that this honourable House will be able to spare some time for it and in this Bill statutory security of service for the teachers of the Delhi University including its colleges will be there and I hope it will satisfy the honourable House.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : During this Session?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Yes, during his Session.

SHRI KURSHED ALAM KHAN : Sir, based on the recommendations of the Kothari Commission, the Government formulated a national policy on education which was issued in the form of a Government resolution in 1968. There were quite a few basic points in this resolution. But I would like to know the specific position with regard to two points. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether and to what extent any improvement has been achieved regarding the quality and production of inexpensive textbooks and the target of investment of 6% of the national income in education.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, does this question arise out of the main question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it does not arise.

SHRI KURSHED ALAM KHAN : Sir, this is a very important question and I do not know how it can be said that this does not arise out of the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see, a specific question was asked and he has replied. This does not arise out of the main question. Yes, Mr. Kurian.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, so as the question of co-ordination and determination of standards of higher education is concerned, in the university education in general, you will see, if you really examine the whole thing, that the whole system has lapsed. I would like to know specifically from the honourable Minister whether it is not a fact that the Government's policy, higher education policy, is a policy of supporting elitism in education. Recently, Sir, when they introduced the UGC scales which are meant to help teachers in maintaining better standards, the scales were being implemented only in Central Universities while in the State Universities the teachers are left to the mercies of State Governments and others and the

Government is perpetuating and aggravating this elitism. When such a policy of elitism is there in education and when there is no uniformity in the pay scales for the University teachers, how will he ensure better and uniform standards of education?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, I would like to submit very respectfully for the consideration of the honourable Member that his impression is not correct. The Central Government is not in favour of any lack of uniformity in the scales of pay of the teachers of the Central Universities and the State Universities and it is for this reason, Sir, as I submitted earlier in this House, that the Central Government has offered financial assistance to the State Governments.

Then, Sir, so far as the word "elitism" is concerned, I would like to submit that it is a very unscientific word and, so, it can be used in any sense.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, this Committee was appointed to review and co-ordinate the standards in higher education. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that in the present day context, because of unemployment amongst the educated people, particularly the students, there is so much of tension and social problems have been created in this country. Is the honourable Minister considering the question of curtailing the higher education to the extent that the technical standards of the students are encouraged and they get technical education only to get jobs and for entering the services or industries so that the country does not face the problem of social tension and other difficulties?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a separate question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I do not understand how it can be a separate question. I do not know why he should take such a plea and refuse to answer. This is a basic question and a very simple question. The educated unemployed people are there in large numbers in the country and they are a potential danger. I want to know what your policy is with regard to the educational reforms or review of the whole question in the field of higher education so that they do not get this higher education only to remain unemployed, but get enough technical education.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the Government's policy has been enunciated in the document of the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan which has been discussed in this House and has been discussed by the Committee of the two Houses and this policy is there, Sir, in the various documents of the Central Advisory Board of Education which are available in the Parliament Library.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : My submission is that if the Minister thinks that the draft Five Year Plan is published and the 'approach' is published and these would have really been implemented, honey and milk would have flown in this country. The difficulty is that it is not implemented. Sufficient investment is not made and sufficient care is not taken by the Government in seeing this potential danger in this country which is going to block the entire fabric of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Schamnad.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Sir, it has appeared in the Press that for the better efficiency of education and to judge talents of students there is a proposal to abolish the present system of examinations and some other methods are going to be adopted to judge the talents of students. May I know, Sir....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where is the question of examination ?

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : It has appeared in the Press.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : How to determine the standards ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : So far as the examination reform is concerned, Sir, last week we discussed the matter and I gave information about the recommendations which had been made by the Workshops and the hon. Member may very kindly have a look at the reply that was given.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Are we accepting that recommendation ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I had stated that the recommendations of these Workshops are going to be considered by the University Grants Commission. Their report has not yet been made available to me.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : I would like to know what has led the Government to formulate a new policy in connection with the

evaluation of the examination scripts of students ? Teachers of higher education were formerly paid a separate remuneration. But I fear that Prof. Nurul Hasan has promulgated an order abolishing the old system. I think this is going to affect the standard of higher education. I would like to know what has led the Government to think on this new line and to order for this new approach of removing remuneration to teachers for examination work ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : If the hon. Member had given specific notice, I would have been very glad to explain the reasons for this.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : This comes from the standards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has no information on that. Next question

*586. [Transferred to the 16th December 1974.]

Drought and famine conditions due to deforestations

*587. **SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :**
SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :
SHRI G. C. TOTU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take over the exploitation of forest wealth as the indiscriminate felling of trees is to a large extent responsible for frequent drought and famine conditions;

(b) what are the names of states which have taken over the exploitation of forests; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to issue directions in this regard to such States as have not done so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (c) while not disputing indiscriminate felling of trees and its effects on eco-system, Centre has been making request to the States drawing their attention to the matter and its effect. Forestry, however, is a State subject and the Centre has no Statutory authority to issue directives.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of House by Shri Syed Nizam-ud-din.