

have to be covered and that is exactly our exercise at the moment. We would like to cover as much as possible and as early as possible.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: What proportion has gone to small industries?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is not possible to give the exact number.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

EDUCATION FOR DEAF, DUMB AND BLINDS

*33. SHRI SANSANKASEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind in India Statewise, and their age groups;

(b) how many of them have received education or training for earning livelihood and how many are still having education or training; and

(c) how many of such are still without employment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No dependable data are available. On the basis of some sample surveys, it is estimated that India may have 5 million blind and 1-1)2-3 million deaf persons. Approximately 2 per cent of blind and deaf children are receiving education and training.

(c) The 11 special employment exchanges for the physically handicapped had 1703 blind and deaf employment seekers on their live registers at the end of December, 1972.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: Unfortunately, my friend the hon. Minister has given a wrong reply. It will come to about 10 millions. Anyway, have the Government of India considered the possibility of ensuring that by and large, all educational institutions, training

institutes and fine arts centres will be equipped with at least one annexe, with a specialized trainer for giving education to these helpless fellow creatures of ours?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Sir, that is the object which we have. We cannot possibly cater to the needs of the handicapped in specialized institutions and, therefore, our objective is, as far as possible, to train teachers who would be teaching and imparting training in the general institutions, so that the special needs of the deaf and other handicapped persons can be looked after.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: There are many such creatures who, after some good education, either in painting or in general crafts or in general education, are being kept unemployed. So when there are adequate openings and when these people answer adequate requirements, other things being equal, is it not possible for the Government to issue a circular that priority should be given to these people in the matter of appointments?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Sir, the Government is deeply conscious of the fact that other things being equal, preference should be given to these people in jobs which they can suitably perform because they cannot fend for themselves. It was with this object in view that special employment exchanges were created in the Third Five Year Plan because this requires a special effort to get jobs for them in the present social climate. In the Fourth Plan, it was felt that this scheme should be transferred to the State sector and two specialised employment exchanges were introduced. But according to the information that I have received— I could not check all the details because of the short notice—it seems to me that these two employment exchanges have not so far been able to provide employment to many people. Sir, as the Prime Minister has stated in the other House, the Government are considering whether

it would be possible to bring in a ' legislation which would fulfil the objectives to which my hon. friend has made a reference. This matter is under consideration and since it requires extensive consultation with various parties, Ministries and agencies, it is naturally taking its time. But I hope that we would be able to do something in the matter.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : | At Bhubaneswar in Orissa, there is a school for the blind which is always in a state of chronic financial distress. Is the Minister taking action to see that at least the education of the blind does not suffer simply because of shortage of finances?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I would respectfully submit that this is really a matter for the State Government. The Union Government can set up national institutions. There is a national centre for the training of the blind at Dehradun which is a fairly high-powered centre and which is financed by the Central Government. A national centre for the deaf is in the process of being established at Hyderabad. A school for partially deaf children is also receiving consideration. However, it is obvious that the Central Government cannot look into the needs of each and every school because it is really a matter for the State Government.

डा० भाई महावीर : श्रीमन्, क्या मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि इनमें से कई लोग कार्यक्षमता या होशियारी में आंखें न होते हुए भी दूसरों से ज्यादा कुशल और ज्यादा अच्छे साबित हुए हैं और मैंने ऐसा एक आंखों से रहित स्टैनोग्राफर को देखा है जिस ने बड़ी एक्यूरेटली डिक्टेगन ले कर दो मिनट में ही चिट्ठी टाइप कर दी। तो इस बात को देखते हुए क्या आप उन की योग्यता का उपयोग करने के लिए उन को औद्योगिक संस्थानों में पहुंचाने का यत्न करेंगे और यदि ऐसा यत्न करेंगे तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस के लिये अभी तक यदि कोई प्रयास किया गया हो तो उस का ब्योरा क्या है ?

प्रो० एस० नूरुल हसन : मैं माननीय सदस्य से बिल्कुल सहमत हूं कि बहुत से अंधे लोग ऐसे हैं जो बहुत अच्छा काम कर सकते हैं। मेरा अपना जाती सम्बन्ध भी एक अंधे बच्चों के स्कूल से बहुत दिन रहा है . . .

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : उसके उदाहरण हैं।

प्रो० एस० नूरुल सहन : और वे लोग अच्छा काम कर सकते हैं। मैंने अभी अर्ज किया कि स्पेशलाइज्ड इम्प्लायमेंट एक्सचेंज बायम करने की नीयत यही थी कि जो लोगों में एक प्रुजिडिस होती है कि यह लोग अच्छा काम नहीं कर सकेंगे या उन के द्वारा प्रोडक्टिविटी अच्छी नहीं होगी तो यह जो स्पेशल प्राफिजस है यह जाकर उन को समझाये कि आप का यह प्रुजिडिस गलत है।

एक और चीज जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेन्ट ने शुरू की है वह यह है कि उन इम्प्लायोज को जो हैन्डिकैप्ड हैं और उन इम्प्लायर्स को जो हैन्डिकैप्ड को इम्प्लाय करते हैं, उनको खुद प्रेसीडेन्ट सालाना अवार्ड करते हैं, इस विना के ऊपर कि जिन लोगों ने काम उनके यहां किया है उनके काम की प्रोडक्टिविटी बाकी वर्कर्स से किसी तरह कम नहीं है बल्कि बहुत है और इस चीज को हम पब्लिसाइज करते हैं। प्रेसीडेन्ट को इतना दिलचस्पी है हैन्डिकैप्ड लोगों के वेलफेयर में कि वे बार-बार अपनी तक्रारों में इस बात को कह चुके हैं, बल्कि प्रेसीडेन्ट की तो यह स्वाहिण थी कि सन् 1971 की मर्दुमशुमारी में उनकी तफसीलात और फिगर्स जमा को जाएं लेकिन बदकिस्मती से यह संभव नहीं हुआ और हमें ये डिटेल्ड फिगर्स नहीं मिल सकीं। लेकिन इस बात से गवर्नमेन्ट बिल्कुल सहमत है कि बहुतों से वे बेहतर काम कर सकते हैं और अगर यह स्क्रीम सेंट्रल सेक्टर में रखी होती तो मेरे खयाल से हम इसको ज्यादा बड़ा सकते थे जितनी बड़ी है उससे, लेकिन हम यही उम्मीद करते हैं कि राज्य सरकारें इसमें

पूरी दिलचस्पी लेगी और मैं राज्य सरकारों से निवेदन करूँगा कि वे इसमें ख़ास तदज्जद देवें।

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, I might disclose my personal interest in asking this supplementary, because I am running a deaf and dumb school and I have got some experience of what these gentlemen are doing. Now, firstly, the responsibility which the hon. Minister is trying to disown is, perhaps, not correct because this matter falls under Social Welfare and the Government of India has been assisting individual institutions from the funds of Social Welfare. In fact, they have assisted us also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not say all that; you please put your question.

(Inter nipt ions)

SHRI A. P. JAIN: After all, this is a very important thing, that he should be disowning his responsibility to the House. Now, therefore, I want some categorical answers from him, Firstly, what provision, if any, has the Government of India made for the training of teachers for deaf, dumb and blind persons because there is a great paucity? For years I have been trying but I have not been able to get teachers. Now, the second question is, what assistance.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly put one question only.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The second part of the question is, what assistance is the Government of India giving to the institutions for the teaching of deaf, dumb and blind persons? Six months ago I sent a request to the Ministry of Health—which has got a discretionary fund for helping these institutions—but up till now I have not received a reply to that. I do not mind even if that is rejected, h"#

; this kind of apathy that they do not I care to answer an application for six I months is deplorable.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: My first and most respectful submission is that unfortunately social welfare like education is not directly within the purview of the Central Government. Secondly, Sir, the second part of it is that with regard to the training of teachers, the National Centre of the Blind at Dehra Dun is offering many facilities.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I have asked about the education of the dumb.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: For the deaf and dumb a centre is being established at Hyderabad; of that I have already said. It has not yet come into existence; it is being established. I hope that when it is established it will be able to fulfil the requirements of the hon. Member. The third is a question which refers to the Health Ministry and I cannot reply to that; I do not remember the hon. Member writing to me about it.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, I would like to know whether there is really any reliable census about the handicapped people in India.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: No, Sir. MR.

CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, on this Question you should allow a full discussion. This is not such a light matter that should be disposed of in a Question Hour like this. You should allow some time ' for a full-fledged discussion.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Entire one hour is required for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next Question.