

[6 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: We will definitely go into it and will try to improve the quality of Pushkar roses and we will export it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Do you know about the "Pushkar Project", which was specifically meant for growing these types of flowers?

SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN: Yes, We will consider.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. ...(*Interruptions*)...

**श्री मती सुषमा स्वराज :** सर, माननीय सदस्या पूछ रही है कि क्या आपको पुष्कर प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में जानकारी है ? और, वे कह रहे हैं कि We will consider क्या जानकारी कंसीडर करेंगे ?...(**व्यवधान**) सर, वे केवल इतना पूछ रहीं हैं कि Does the Minister know about the 'Pushkar Project'? He. should say 'Yes' or 'no', but he says, "We will consider", सर, पीठ पर बैठे हुए आप कुछ तो कहिए ।

**श्री सभापति :** मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूँ । ....(**व्यवधान**)...

**श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :** कोई मिनिस्टर आधा-अधूरा जवाब देती हैं, कोई मिनिस्टर जवाब दूसरा देता हूँ । यहां वे कहते हैं – We will consider.

**श्री सभापति :** जो लिखा हुआ है जवाब , उसी में से तो बोलेंगे । चलिए, नैक्स्ट क्वेश्चन।

#### **Disabled students**

\*67. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled people, only 1.2 per cent of the disabled in the country has had any form of education;

(b) whether his Ministry has any statistics as to how many disabled students are studying in 322-odd universities in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### ***Statement***

(a) to (c) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid

from the Government, shall reserve not less than three per cent seats for persons with disabilities. The National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), a Non-Governmental organization, has informed the Central Government about the survey conducted by it among Universities, a sample of colleges and schools; to assess the status of mainstream education of students with disabilities. According to the NCPEDP, the enrolment of students with disabilities in 119 respondent Universities was only about 1635 students, constituting only about 0.1 per cent of the total enrolment of the responding Universities.

Similarly, the NCPEDP has reported that according to its survey only 679 students with disabilities were enrolled in 96 responding colleges, constituting only 0.52 per cent of the total enrolment in these colleges. The NCPEDP survey on enrolment of students with disabilities in schools has concluded that only 382 students with disabilities were enrolled in 89 responding schools, which was only 0.51 per cent of the total students enrolled in those schools. The survey conducted by NCPEDP pertains to the low levels of current enrolment of students with disabilities in mainstream education.

With regard to the enrolment of students in the University system, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is in the process of collecting information from all Universities, Deemed to be Universities and over 15,500 colleges in the country. The UGC has so far received information for 115 universities, according to which the enrolment of students with disabilities in University Teaching Departments is only 2156 constituting 0.33 per cent of the total enrolment in the said Universities. Thus, according to the survey conducted by the NGO, NCPEDP as well as the available information with the UGC, the current enrolment of students with disabilities falls far short of the statutory requirement of 3 per cent.

In respect of access of students with disabilities to the 'secondary and above level' of education, according to the National Sample Survey (58th Round) estimate for the period July to December, 2002, the number of disabled persons in the country was 18.53 million-forming about 1.8 per cent of the total population-of whom about 9 per cent have completed their 'secondary and above level' of education.

In order to encourage greater participation by children with disabilities at various levels of education, the Central Government provides financial assistance under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for elementary schooling, the Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) for integration

of children with disabilities in secondary schools, and under the scheme of the UGC relating to higher Education for Persons with Special Needs.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, In August, 2001 the High Court of Delhi had given a judgement that three per cent reservation was not applicable for the disabled students in educational institutes, stating that section 39 of the Disability Act does not have any express provision. In the light of this, will the hon. Minister think of amending the Disability Act to make section 39 an express provision so that the benefit of three per cent reservation is given to the disabled person?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, if the Act requires any amendment, we will do, that. What I have taken to be the thrust of this question is that there is no adequate provision for education for the disabled. I must, in all fairness, admit in the House that this is a fact that due attention has not been paid to it. It is our effort, now, to first get the full details of the numbers involved because the surveys that have been conducted so far are not very encouraging. I would, therefore, and I would like to say very categorically that we attach great importance to the fact that the disabled should not be discriminated in any way in the field of education. And, that will be an effort that we will make in coordination with the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry. I can assure the House that there will be a marked improvement in this regard. So far as the amendment is concerned, it is not a matter that I can attend to. It is a matter to be considered by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, my second supplementary relates to the last paragraph of the reply. I would like to know from the hon. Minister for how many students has the Government of India given hundred per cent financial assistance under the Integrated Education Scheme for Disabled, Children during the last five years. And, under which scheme is the UGC providing the assistance to the disabled Children at the graduation and professional level?

**डा. नारायण सिंह मानकलाव :** सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में बताया है कि 89 स्कूलों में 382 विकलांग छात्रों का नामांकन हुआ है। यह यहां पैरा दो में है, जो कुल नामांकित बच्चों का 0.51 परसेंट होता है ऐसा स्कूली छात्रों के बारे में बताया गया है। मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं कि इन विकलांग बच्चों में, जो चार तरह की विकलांगता है, इसमें अस्थि-विकलांग बच्चों को, जो जो स्पेशल स्कूल की स्कीम हैं, उसमें अस्थि-विकलांगों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है, जबकि मूक-बधिर, नेत्र-बांधता और मानसिक विकलांगता को इसमें शामिल किया गया है ..(व्यवधान)...

**श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी :** चेयरमैन साहब, यह शब्द जो यहां पर प्रयोग हो रहे हैं, यह जो विकलांग और डिसएबल कहा जा रहा है, इसकी जगह स्पेशल चाइल्ड कहा जाता है..(व्यवधान)... मैं समझता हूं कि इन बच्चों को विकलांग कह कर या इनको डिसएबल कहकर बेइज्जत करना है। इसलिए ये शब्द प्रयोग न किए जाएं पार्लियामेंट में, तो बेहतर होगा।

**डा.नारायण सिंह मानकलाव :** इस संबंध में मैं भी आपसे सहमत हूं। मैं विकलांगता के क्षेत्र में काम करता हूं, इसलिए जानता हूं कि “विशेष” ही कहा जाए, परन्तु जो शब्दावली अब तक उपयोग की गई है और जो प्रश्न पूछा गया है, उसमें भी विकलांग शब्द है और जो जवाब आया है, उसमें भी विकलांग शब्द ही लिखा है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि आप विशेष स्कुली विद्यार्थियों के लिए क्या कर रहे हैं और स्पैस्टिक स्कूल्स में अस्थि-विकलांगता को शामिल करने का आपके मंत्रालय का या सरकार का मन है या नहीं, सरकार इस पर विचार करेगी या नहीं करेगी?

**SHRI S. JAIPALREDDY:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the correct expression for this would be challenged children, that is, physically challenged children.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I have said that I myself am not satisfied that enough has been done; much more needs to be done. And, therefore, I will come to the House again after trying to draw up a comprehensive plan. Since Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry is involved, I have already requested my colleague that we will both sit together and try to see that any disabled child, in whatever manner he is disabled, gets access to education, and we will try to do whatever needs to be done.

**SHRIANAND SHARMA:** Mr Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for giving a comprehensive reply and also for placing on record his own personal sensitivity to the needs of these challenged children.

Sir, a point has been raised and I would like to quickly associate myself with what Shri Shahid Siddiqui has said that the terminology needs to be changed. These are challenged children with special needs.

Secondly, when we talk of their educational needs, we have to arrive at a decision. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider that the HRD Ministry takes over the complete educational requirements of these challenged children with special needs.

Thirdly, Sir, all over the world, progressive measures have now been taken. For children with special educational needs, Education Departments worldover have Integrated special educational needs programmes with

[6 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

vocational education because their requirements differ. I would like to know whether the HRD Ministry would take over that work, and, if required, also pilot an amendment.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I have answered the question as comprehensively as I could. Since another Ministry is involved in this, I have already talked to my colleague and we will sit together and see that a comprehensive view is taken. If some Act is to be amended, that is also part of it.

### **Explosives in imported metal scrap**

\*68. SHRI LALIT SURI:†

SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries from where metal scrap was allowed to be imported during 2004;

(b) whether the imported metal scrap contained explosive war-heads both used and live that caused loss of life and property as live war-heads exploded at various places in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that such dangerous imports are banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **Statement**

(a) to (d) Recently certain cases have come to the notice of the Government wherein metallic scrap containing live shells have been imported thereby causing explosions and consequently loss of life and property. These imports are clearly in violation of the Foreign Trade Policy and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. After a series of Inter-Ministerial consultations the Government has laid down certain new guidelines and procedures for import of metallic scrap and waste. According to these procedures import of all kinds of metallic scrap and waste in unshredded, compressed or loose form will be accompanied by a pre-inspection certificate to the effect that the imported consignment does not

---

†Question was actually asked on floor of the House by Shri Lalit Suri.