

the Ministers are on tour their entire expenditure is met by the embassy of the country where they visit. If a Minister goes to Paris or Rotterdam, the embassy there books a hotel and it is charged to the embassy, not the Minister. *(Interruptions)* I know it. The car which is booked is paid for by the embassy. I know for certain. Let him deny it. Therefore the entire amount of foreign exchange given to the Minister, whatever figure is given, will only be spent by him personally, not for his tour. The tour expenses abroad are met by the embassy. Therefore while you give the information, please include the entire amount that is spent by him while on tour and also that spent by the embassy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, next question.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, it is not correct to say that the expenses of Ministers in foreign countries are met by the embassies.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : I challenge it. I know it for certain that their hotel bookings are done by the embassies. How do you deny it? Let Mr. Chavan reply.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : There is a set procedure as far as visits of Ministers abroad are concerned. As has been pointed out by the Finance Minister, first the consent of the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister has got to be taken. Then there is a scale to which Ministers are entitled. A sanction is issued...*(Interruption)*

श्री ना० कृ० शेखवलकर : यह जवाब नहीं है। उन्हें इस के बारे में पूरा जवाब देना चाहिये।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जवाब नहीं दिया गया है। *(Interruptions)*

श्री सभापति : जवाब तो खत्म नहीं हुआ और आप कहते हैं कि जवाब नहीं आया।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : आप उन्हें डिफेन्ड क्यों कर रहे हैं। *(Interruptions)*

श्री सभापति : आप जवाब तो सुन लें।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : यह कोई जवाब नहीं है।

SHRI K. R. GANESH : A sanction and authorisation is issued by the Finance Ministry. Within the framework of that sanction certain arrangements are made by the embassy there. This is the actual position. In relation to accommodation also for each Minister a scale is fixed.

SHRI A. D. MANI : What is that scale?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : According to that scale arrangements for accommodation, arrangements for transport and other arrangements are made by the embassy. This is the position.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जो असली प्रश्न है, उसका जवाब नहीं दिया गया है। आप उन्हें बचाना चाहते हैं। जो उन्होंने जवाब दिया है उसमें उन्होंने यह नहीं बतलाया कि कौन पेमेंट करता है। एम्बेसी करती है या नहीं? इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बतलाया गया है।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I think the entire matter has been unnecessarily put in a very wrong context. Actually when a Minister is abroad certainly some official functions have to be attended to and some expenditure has to be made, and it is done by the embassy there. It is ultimately adjusted, it is not something done by the embassy without the authorisation of the Central Government. It is adjusted for that tour. Really speaking, the embassy there is helping the Minister abroad in his official work. Suppose he has to give an official dinner. Naturally the embassy looks after that and the expenses are ultimately adjusted in the budget of the concerned Ministry. So it is wrong to say that the Minister is just getting away at the cost of the embassy.

Setting up of an "Open University"

*34. SHRI CHITTA BASU : f
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL WELFARE/

fThe question was actually asked on the J floor pf the House by Shri Chitta Basu,

be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 344 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1970, and state by when a final decision is likely to be taken for setting up of an "Open University" ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL WELFARE/

(PROF. D. P. YADAV) : The recommendation of the Seminar on "Open University" held in December 1970 to appoint a Committee to go into the details of the problem has been accepted. The terms of reference of this committee are being worked out in consultation with the Suchana aur Prasara Mantralaya (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) and University Grants Commission. It is too early to indicate as to when a final decision would be taken in the matter.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : It is clear from the reply of the honourable Minister that in pursuance of the recommendation of the seminar a committee has been constituted and that the feasibility of the entire project is being examined by that committee. If it is so, may I know what the exact terms of reference of that committee are and the personnel constituting that committee ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : The exact terms of reference are location of the university, administrative and academic set up, co-ordination with the concerned agencies, nature of courses and their duration, admission requirements for the courses, methods of teaching, and media of instruction and examination and financial implications.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Who are the members of the Committee ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : I am giving more details. The seminar was attended by Dr. D. S. Kothari as its Chairman, Prof. D. Murray from the United Kingdom and Mr. Christodoulou from the United States...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know the constitution of the committee.

PROF. D. P. YADAV : I am coming to that. The seminar felt that a small committee should be appointed consisting of Dr. S. M. Chad, Dr. J. M. Kaul, Shri R. Balakrishnan and Shri K. P. Rangachari.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am at a loss to understand which has been the governing principle in the matter of selection of the personnel of the committee. I would like to know whether any attempt has been made to associate educationists of our country, Vice Chancellors of the different universities and the representatives of the State Governments. Unless the State Governments or the universities are associated with this committee, any study in depth cannot be fully done. Has this principle been borne in the mind of the Ministry ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : All these things will be taken into consideration before finalising the scheme on open university.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHER-JEE : May I know from the Minister whether any attempt has been made to assess the actual performance of the open universities where they exist, namely, in U. K., U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. ? If so, will the committee be directed to compare the experiences gained in those countries and implement them here ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : Open university is successful, in two places namely United Kingdom and U. K...

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the difference between the two ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : I am sorry. U. K. and U.S.A. Actually speaking, their mode of teaching is modern because they have television sets everywhere and broadcast is also probably very intensive. Therefore, they have made it successful. So far as television is concerned, we have it only in Delhi. Unless we use more and more television, I am very much doubtful whether the open university will be successful here. Otherwise we have to limit it to higher education.

SHRI A. P. JAIN : I have not been able to understand what is an open university as opposed to the closed university. What are its attributes ? How does it differ from any ordinary university ?

PROF. D. P. YADAV : So far as the question of open university is concerned, some suggestions came to the Government that many people are not in a position to educate their children because they do not get admission in the universities. The idea of open university is that teaching should be propagated to them through All India Radio and through television medium. The curricula will be finalised later on. A big seminar was also conducted on this subject, by the Ministry of Education.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I want...
(Interruptions):

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I want the full information. Sir, I have got a copy...

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, he is contradicting what he has said earlier...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. Mr. Niranjan Verma.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि टेलीविजन के जरिए शिक्षा दी जाती है, बहुत से देशों में यह प्रयोग सफल हुआ है तो आप यह बताने का कष्ट कीजिए कि क्या भारत सरकार के शिक्षा मन्त्रालय ने इस बात का भली भांति अध्ययन कर लिया है क्या आपने कुछ एक्सपर्ट्स बाहर के देशों में भेजे थे अध्ययन करने के लिए और उनके उसी अध्ययन के परिणामस्वरूप आप इस परिणाम पर पहुंचे हैं कि भारतवर्ष में इस प्रकार के ओपिन शिखालयों की आवश्यकता है और अगर आप इस प्रकार के परिणाम पर पहुंचे तो उस सम्बन्ध में अब आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं।

प्रो० डी० पी० यादव : जहां तक विदेश भेजने का सवाल है हम लोगों ने विदेश में कोई एक्सपर्ट कमेटी नहीं भेजी है। विदेश से जो कमेटी आई थी उसके सेशन पर यहां के बड़े बड़े विद्वान थे, बड़े बड़े युनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर थे उन लोगों का एक सेमिनार हुआ

या और उसी के आधार पर हमारे भूतपूर्व शिक्षा मंत्री श्री बी० के० आर० बी० राव ने इसको इनिशिएट किया था।

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has spent any amount on this seminar and, if so, how much and what was the proportion of the money spent by foreign governments, if any, and the Ford Foundation and other such agencies ? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will ensure, in view of the past experience of various committees and seminars making recommendations, but none of them being implemented properly, that adequate Indian experts who are nearer to the Indian educational problems will be associated with this discussion at the final stage of decision rather than relying on foreign experts.

PROF. D. P. YADAV : So far as the expenditure is concerned, since this needs notice, I will request the hon. Member to give notice of it and I will answer.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : What about the second question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that the Government instead of consulting the foreign experts should rely on the experts in the country.

PROF. D. P. YADAV : Definitely. We rely on our experts more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : AH right. Now the last question.

SHRI UMASHANKER JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that in Japan they have evolved a programme for "Open University" during the last summer in a big way ?

Secondly, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that during the last summer, Lord Crowther, the Chancellor of the Open University in the U. K., told the House of Lords that the open university programme could not be a substitute for higher education. At least it could be described as, to quote his words, "Something is better than nothing." May I

know from the hon. Minister whether this is one more toy that we, a new Republic, are trying to play with ? I was one of the participants in the seminar, though I could not attend the whole session. I want to make another point, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please put the question.

SHRI UMASHANKER JOSHI : Sir, I have put two questions. Now, this is the third question : Sir, it may be clarified what the concept of Open University is...

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, he should be given mere time because he seems to be more informed than the Minister.

SHRI UMASHANKER JOSHI : Sir, some months ago the then Minister had said "the concept of Open University is now under examination which covers not only higher education, but also continuation of education." I think it should be "continuing education", on which also we had a seminar and which I would not describe as one more toy. Rather it is a very important activity. The Seminar was held for all Asian countries in Madras, some time ago. As was pointed out by an hon. Member, the Minister is not right in saying that this Open University programme should concentrate only on higher education. In a developing country like ours should it not also concentrate on continuing education ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you.

SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY : Sir, with regard to Japan and the U. K., the Government is aware of what the hon. Minister has just stated.

With regard to this being a 'toy', the answer is an emphatic 'no'.

With regard to the third point raised, an Open University could be viewed :

(a) as an institution of higher education, providing education for independent, mature learners ;

(b) as a method of providing education to a mass audience at reduced per pupil cost ;

(c) as an attempt at exploiting all the scarce resources to better advantage and

achieving character effectiveness in higher education ; and

(d) as a means of employing new and unconventional methods of instruction and exploiting new technologies.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

अलीगढ़ विश्वविद्यालय के एम० एम० हाल के विद्यार्थियों द्वारा रामनवमी उत्सव का आयोजन

***35. डा० भाई महावीर :**

श्री देवदत्त कुमार कीकाभाई पटेल :

क्या शिक्षा और समाज कल्याण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 18 अप्रैल, 1971 को अलीगढ़ विश्वविद्यालय के एम० एम० हाल के विद्यार्थियों को रामनवमी उत्सव मनाने की अनुमति दे दी गई थी किन्तु उसे ठीक समय पर वापिस ले लिया गया ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अनुमति वापस लिए जाने के क्या कारण थे ; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में केंद्रीय सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

Celebration of 'Ram Naumi' by the Students of M. M. Hall of Aligarh University

***35. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : f SHRI DEVDUTT KUMAR KIKABHAI PATEL:**

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE/

be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 18th April, 1971, students of the M. M. Hall of the Aligarh University were granted permission to celebrate 'Ram Naumi' but the permission was withdrawn at the last moment ;

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir. f] English translation.