

by a certain date these deputationists have to exercise an option and say whether they want to remain in the service of the public enterprises or they want to come back to their respective cadres and after this, we expect that those people who remain in the public enterprises will be able to give their best to the public enterprises and the working of the enterprises will improve to a certain extent as a result of this measure. This is one of the important decisions that have been taken. There are series of other decisions which have been taken which I have listed in the statement that I have laid before the House.

REFORM IN EXAMINATION SYSTEM

*694 SHRI ARJUN ARORA †
DR. SALIG RAM
SHRI HITA BASU
SHRI KRISHAN KANT
SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP
SINHA
SHRI HILLAI VILLALAN

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state

- (a) whether Government propose to reform the existing examination system, and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF V K R V RAO) (a) and (b) The matter is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and University authorities. The Central Advisory Board of Education has, however, appointed a Committee to look into this matter. The report of the Committee is awaited. The recommendations of the Committee, when available, will be placed before the next meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education and the approved recommendations will be communicated to all State Governments, Boards of Education and Universities in the country for being adopted or adapted in the manner best suited to the conditions obtaining in each State.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA May I know if the State Governments were consulted before the appointment of his committee and whether they are represented on it so that the recommendations of the committee may be acceptable to the State governments which are primarily responsible for this?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora

PROF V K R V RAO Yes, sir. As a matter of fact the Central Advisory Board of Education includes all the State Education Ministers and this particular committee, which has been appointed to go into the subject of examination reform, while headed by the Union Education Minister has an Education Minister from one of the States as its Vice-Chairman and it includes three more Education Ministers—Two Education Ministers of the States and the Chief Executive Councillor of the Union Territory of Delhi.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA When was this committee appointed and can the Minister give us an idea as to the time it will take in submitting the report?

PROF V K R V RAO This committee was appointed following the resolution of the Central Advisory Board of Education at its 35th meeting held on the 2nd and 3rd of May, 1970. The committee also held four meetings and I believe that their draft report is ready and we hope to hold our meeting sometime towards some part of January and I think by the end of January, or before the end of February certainly the report should be ready. I am anxious that the report of this committee should be considered by the Central Advisory Board of Education before the next academic year starts so that their results can be communicated to all the State Governments.

SHRI CHITTA BASU May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University suggested decentralisation of examination and, if so, what steps have been taken in that regard?

PROF V K R V RAO I could not quite follow the question. Is the hon. Member referring to the Education Commission's proposal for what are called autonomous colleges? I am sorry I could not hear him properly. Will he kindly repeat his question?

SHRI CHITTA BASU Is it a fact that the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University suggested that there should be decentralisation in conducting examinations, particularly examinations to be taken by the affiliated colleges of the university?

PROF V K R V RAO I am not aware that the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University made such a specific proposal. But the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University brought before the government a number of problems relating to the university and these were referred to

the University Grants Commission. They have appointed a committee to go into the problems of the Calcutta University mainly in terms of development including the problem of restructuring the University and giving what is called autonomous status some of the colleges affiliated to the university.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT May I know whether the recommendations of the Education Commission were considered at least on educational reform in the Central universities which are directly under the Government of India and whether the University Grants Commission has studied this aspect? What are the recommendations that have been received and were the proposals for collective evaluation of day-to-day work plus annual examination considered?

PROF V K R V RAO The recommendations of the Education Commission, of course, have been considered because the University Grants Commission's Chairman was also the Chairman of the Education Commission. Regarding Central universities, I think Delhi University has recently taken a step in this direction and I think it has started from this year semester examinations. I believe that some other central universities are also going to have semester examinations. The question of periodic tests throughout the year by way of examination in the schools is also under consideration. There are many vexed problems that arise when you come to the question of examination reform. That was why I thought that the best thing would be to bring these problems—many of them have political overtone or undertone and involve State governments—before the Central Advisory Board of Education committee for their examination.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any guidelines have been given to the Committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education, and whether the guidelines include the following suggestion: 'The present examination system is only for testing the memory of the student population, but not the inherent talent of the student population. In the light of this fact, the analysis by the Committee may be done.' I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this guideline has been given to the Committee or not.

PROF V K R V RAO That has not been given as a specific guideline. The most important problem relates to the examinations—how far examinations can

be a test of memory and how far can examinations be tests of the capacity of the student to think and work out the problems. I believe the Committee have gone into some depth and in making their recommendation they would take into account the need both for memory testing as well as for testing all the creative talents of the students concerned. The Committee also has been asked, Mr. Chairman, Sir, to look into the question of malpractices in examinations and also recommend what we should do to protect the invigilators and so on.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह मडारी मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि जहाँ इस कमेटी को नियुक्त करने का विचार किया ता राज्य के शिक्षा मंत्री भी इसमें शामिल थे। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बैठक में इस बात पर भी विचार हुआ कि इस कमेटी के किसी नियम पर पहुँचने के पहले जो प्रचलित व्यवस्था परीक्षा पद्धति की है उसमें जगह-जगह नई-नई बात शुरू करके इस कमेटी के सुझावों का कार्यान्वित करने के लिए कोई नई उलझन पैदा नहीं की जाएगी। या तो पुराना सिस्टम लागू रहे या इस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट शीघ्रातिशीघ्र आए ताकि परीक्षा की दृष्टि से उसका पालन किया जा सक। क्या यह कमेटी इस सम्बन्ध में भी सिफारिश करने वाली है कि मीडियम आफ एक्जामिनेशन के बारे में एक जनरल लाइन या पालिसी रहनी चाहिए।

PROF V K R V RAO Sir obviously, the existing system of examination will continue till it is changed. The changes cannot take place merely because a committee or an advisory board recommends certain changes. This Committee's report will be placed before the Central Advisory Board. We cannot interfere with what is already taking place. It is a State subject. But having appointed this committee, we are hoping that the State Governments and the Union Territories concerned will on their own make changes. We are not in a position to do anything about it. But this particular committee's report will be considered by the Central Advisory Board where there are all the State Education Ministers, Union Territories, as well as very eminent educationists. And when they make their recommendations, these will be sent to all the State Governments. These recommendations will be recommendatory in character. We are not in a position to tell the State Governments that this is the way in which you should conduct your examinations. But since the State Governments are represented there, we hope that the recommendations will not remain only on paper but will also be implemented by the States.

On the question of medium, to the best of my recollection no specific reference has been made

SHRI PRAN B KUMAR MUKHERJEE Sir, it appears from the reports of the University Grants Commission that certain Universities, including some Central Universities, studied this problem and made a number of observations. In view of that, would not the work done by the committee appointed by the Advisory Board be a duplication of work? Secondly, may I know whether the observations made by various Universities on this subject and by the University Grants Commission itself have been sent to the commission appointed, for their consideration?

PROF V K I V RAO Regarding the first question, Sir, I don't think there will be any duplication involved, because this body does not deal with any specific examination, it deals with all examinations. Regarding the second part of the question, all the reforms which have already been made—for example, in some Universities they have already started having not numerical marking, but the grading, some Universities are toying with the idea of having periodical tests which can be included in the final examination—the experiments that have been conducted as well as the suggestions which have been made, are all before this committee, and will be taken into consideration before they come to their conclusion.

†DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE FLOODS IN THE COUNTRY

*473 **SHRI M K MOHTA** ††
SHRI S S MARISWAMY
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR
SHRI J P YADAV
SHRI R P KHAITAN
SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANJAL
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHFA
SHRI A P CHATTERJEE
SHRI K S MALLE GOWDA

†Transferred from the 3rd December, 1970

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M K Mohta

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA

SHRI DAHYABHAI V PATEL
DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY

SHRI NIREN GHOSH

SHRI INDER SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central team that visited different States during the months of September and October last for making an assessment of the recent flood damage and the assistance that is necessary for relief operations, has since submitted its report,

(b) if so, what are its assessments, and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y B CHAVAN) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

In response to requests received from the State Governments concerned, Central teams have so far visited Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for an assessment, for purposes of Central assistance, of the requirement of funds for various relief, repair and rehabilitation measures necessitated on account of floods this year. While reports in respect of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala are awaited, those in respect of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been received. The Central teams have recommended the following ceilings of expenditure in these States, for purposes of Central assistance

(Rs in crores)

Ceilings of expenditure		
1 Assam	.	6 14
2 Bihar	.	6 29 (includes drought relief measures)
3 Uttar Pradesh		14 35
4 West Bengal		19 85

The ceilings recommended by the Central teams have been accepted by the Government of India and communicated to the State Governments