

far has only revealed the names of the persons I have given and the places that I have mentioned. The investigations, as I stated, are still in progress and before the investigations are completed, further facts may come to light.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

*493 DR SALIG RAM

SHRI KRISHAN KANT †

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state what progress has been made regarding the proposal for greater student participation in the university affairs?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (PROF V K R V RAO) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha

STATEMENT

According to the available information, in many Universities/Institutions students are associated with such matters as welfare activities, management of libraries and hostels, maintenance of discipline, promotion of sports, etc. Some of the Universities have also set up joint student teacher committees as recommended by the Education Commission (1964-66).

The question of student participation in the various University bodies was also considered by the Conference of Vice-Chancellors held in April 1969. The Conference recommended that it may be referred to the Committee to be set up by the University Grants Commission to consider the governance of Universities and Colleges and allied matters. The Commission has since constituted Committees on the governance of Universities and Colleges and this question is under their consideration. The Committees are likely to submit their reports by the end of July 1970.

Shri Madhu Limaye's bill on students participation in the Central Universities Administration is pending consideration in the Lok Sabha.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT May I know if it is not a fact that a conference of students' representatives was called by the Minister and it came to some conclusions? May I know what further steps have been taken regarding the participation of students in University affairs?

PROF V K R V RAO The conference of Students was held in May and the conclusions of that conference have been sent to the UGC and all the Universities for their comments. I think we have received replies from some Universities but I think the Member is aware that the conclusions of the conference related not only to participation but also to general reconstruction of society and so on.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT May I know whether in view of the increasing incidents like tampering with examination papers, clashes with invigilators, etc. is the Government thinking of taking the students into confidence so that the whole examination system and invigilation are properly reorganised? Do the Government propose to take into confidence the students so that the malady is remedied and brought under control?

PROF V K R V RAO I think the Member has made a very useful suggestion and we will take that into account.

SHRI R T PARTHASARATHY May I know whether the hon. Minister means by participation that the students will have some hand in the governance of the universities and it is a dangerous thing if he is going to say that they will?

PROF V K R V RAO In spite of the threat contained in the last portion of his question I have to say that this matter is now under the active consideration of a Committee set up by the University Grants Commission under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Gajendragadkar. That Committee is dealing with the whole subject of governance of universities including the question of student participation in the governance of universities and the Report of that Committee is expected some time by the end of July.

DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA Sir, this answer is very strange. If you kindly go through the

Reports of the University Grants Commission for 1967-68 and 1968-69 you will find the identical thing in an identical language as if one is copied from the other, for the last three or four years. I would take the trouble of just reading out from one of them. It has been stated in 197-68 that the University Grants Commission has emphasized the necessity of careful and sympathetic consideration to the genuine needs and difficulties of the students and of devising a consultative machinery so that the authorities in the universities and colleges could discuss them periodically with the students and suggest remedial action. You see the same thing has been repeated in all these years. I will not bore you by repeating what has appeared next year and the

MR CHAIRMAN What is your question please?

DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA The question is why the same answer is being given. I do not know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the same thing is being repeated in the Annual Reports, in the replies to questions, and nothing concrete has been done about such a serious thing, almost an explosive thing. The answer of the Government is extremely mechanical, repetitious and tedious and leading to no result. In view of this very dismal background I would ask the hon. Minister whether his Ministry does mean some serious business because the problem of education is taking a very explosive dimension and I want to know whether the Government is actually, or theoretically, thinking of setting up a consultative machinery to enable the students to have active participation in the governance of the universities so that they have a sense of participation in the governance of the universities and so that they may feel responsible for the activities of the universities.

MR CHAIRMAN Your question is long.

DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA My question is whether the Government is actually going to set up a consultative machinery.

MR CHAIRMAN You are repeating yourself.

DR DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA ... and involve the students in.

MR CHAIRMAN There are other Members who want to put questions. Will you take the whole of the time yourself?

PROF V K R V RAO Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the research that he has done in regard to this question but I must respectfully, through you, draw his attention to the fact that the quotation that he has given I do not find repeated in the statement that I have laid on the Table of the House. What I have said in the statement is that this question was specially considered by the Vice-Chancellors' Conference in 1969 because there was a Bill which had been introduced in the other House by Shri Madhu Limaye asking for student participation in the governance of the Central Universities and the Vice-Chancellors' Conference decided that as far as libraries, welfare activities and so on are concerned there should be full student participation. In fact, it is already there in many places and it is being extended. They also agreed that in matters relating to discipline which is always one of the main points of contention between the students and the authorities student participation is required so that the students may know that if any disciplinary action is taken it has been taken in a proper kind of way. The recommendation was that student-teacher councils should be set up and a number of universities have already set up such councils but it is not quite clear whether these councils are really serving the purpose for which they are established.

Regarding student participation in the university authorities like the Court, Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, etc. which are really concerned with the governance of the universities, this, the Vice-Chancellors' Conference felt was a very complicated question. They could not take a snap decision on it and they suggested that a Committee should go into this matter. That Committee was set up by the University Grants Commission and the Report of the Committee is expected in July this year after which we shall see what action we can take.

Regarding the specific question that he asked as to whether the Central Government is going to set up a council for the purpose of governance of universities, I have to inform him, through you, Sir, that the universities are autonomous.

bodies and it is the universities themselves that have got to set up these councils. The Government of India cannot set up a council and dictate to the universities under the existing law of the land.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS

May I know from the Minister when he is getting some resistance from the educationists of this country will he draw the attention of these educationists to the fact that about two or three years back even in France, England and America there was great resistance to student participation but within one year the movement was so strong that they had to change their views and the universities there have started taking student representatives in the management of the universities. So in view of this may I know whether the Minister will take the initiative for having student representatives in the universities which are being managed by the Government of India. If they take the initiative in the Central universities I think others will immediately follow suit. What is the idea of the Minister about the Central universities?

PROF V K R V RAO Sir, as far as the prefatory remarks in the first part of the question are concerned, he will be glad to know that I have been trying to create something like a little lobby in the country emphasizing the importance of student participation in the governance of the universities from the point of view of their more active and stable functioning.

Regarding the question of Central universities, it is not for the Minister of Education to take this decision. The Central universities are autonomous bodies which have been established by Acts of this sovereign legislature. They have got to be persuaded in this matter unless parliament itself passes legislation on the subject. As I said before, there is a Bill of Mr. Madhu Limaye before the Lok Sabha which is under consideration. This Committee's recommendations, I am sure, will be taken up by the Central universities also. In the meanwhile it will not be proper for me to say what I think the Central universities should do.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI I would like to know from the Government whether the Minister would not think it advisable to recommend the induction of elected student representatives to the various University Courts

and also to the various Governing Bodies of universities and colleges because as everybody knows it is not an Indian problem alone, it has been a world problem. During the last few years the student community all over the world has been demanding the right to shape their own policies and I would like to know whether the Government would consider it advisable to associate students in the framing of syllabus and teaching methods because it is in these two spheres where the students are most agitated since they do not approve of the present teaching methods. Therefore I would like to have the Government's ideas on this and also what the Minister has in view. He had called a meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition yesterday but I was not able to attend it. I would like to know what progress was made at that meeting.

PROF V K R V RAO I hope the hon. Member will attend the meeting which is being continued tomorrow and I look forward to seeing him there and hearing him on this at this meeting tomorrow. As for his question, I do not think it is possible for me to make a recommendation to the universities on my own. Of course I have my own ideas on the subject which are not very different from the ideas which the hon. Member has given expression to just now, namely, the need for students' involvement in matters that concern them which include also things like syllabus, teaching methods etc. and I have no doubt in my mind that if we can devise a machinery by which responsible student opinion could be generated on these matters it will be helpful to the universities in the conduct of their affairs but obviously it would be very improper on my part to recommend any programme to the universities when a Committee has already been set up by the University Grants Commission. Let us await the Report of the Committee and when it is being considered I shall certainly put forward my own views in the direction in which the hon. Member has pointed out.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA Sir, on a point of order

MR. CHAIRMAN No no

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA This is a very serious point of order, Sir. The rule which is being followed by the hon. Minister

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can point out this thing later to him.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : ... The Government has decided in consultation with Parliament that the recommendation of the Education Commission will be implemented and. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is no point of order please

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : I have not yet explained the point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are unnecessarily wasting the time of the House.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, it has been pointed out by the University Grants Commission that the Central Government will take the initiative. It has been specifically stated. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is no point of order. Please sit down.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS : Going one step further than my friend, Mr. Gorey Murahari, I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to consider students' participation in the setting of question papers and the examination of answer books also.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO : I am glad to hear of the very accelerated progress which the hon. Member has made, but after listening to him I am afraid I am not in a position to follow him so fast.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DISREGARD SHOWN BY U. K. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES TO BONAFIDE INDIAN TRAVELLERS

*489. SHRI J. S. TILAK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Immigration Authorities in the U. K. disregard the permit issued by the British

High Commissioner in India to the bona fide travellers to England ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b) No instance has so far come to the notice of the Government of India where the Immigration Authorities in U. K. have disregarded the permit issued by the British High Commission in India to bona fide travellers to England. Government, however, are making further enquiries in the matter, the result of which will be laid on the table of the House.

AGITATION ABOUT SUCCESSION TO KOLHAPUR GADDI

*490. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of an agitation in the Kolhapur District of the State of Maharashtra in connection with the permission granted by the Government of India to the present ruler of Kolhapur to adopt his own son in the context of succession to the gaddi ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the rightful claimant to the gaddi of Kolhapur will have to be chosen from the sons and daughters of the late H. H. Chatterpati of Kolhapur and if so, what is the Government's proposal in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of the opposition to the adoption by the Ruler of Kolhapur of his daughter's son and the agitation that had taken place over this issue.

(c) If an occasion arises for recognising a successor to the present ruler of Kolhapur, the claims of all eligible persons will be considered.