

for a substantial increase in the outlay on higher education requires no emphasis.

(b) Efforts are made every year to provide adequate funds to the University Grants Commission within the available resources

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: What was the demand for education made by the UGC for grants to be given to it during the Fourth Plan and how much has been sanctioned?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I do not have with me readily the figures of what demand was made by the UGC but I would tell the Member that the amount allotted to the UGC during the Fourth Plan period is much larger even as a proportion of the total grant for general education than had been the case in the previous periods.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: On what basis? Unless you give the figures how can we know?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I can give the figures. The outlay on university education excluding technical education as a percentage of the total outlay on general education was, during the First Plan 10.5, Second Plan 21.4, Third Plan 18.6 and the Fourth Plan 26.6 and the total amount involved is Rs. 182 crores.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: May I know in view of the fact that 75 per cent of our people are illiterate, whether the Government will consider giving priority to primary education rather than to university education which in the context of the present class relationship in India, would only help the upper classes only?

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I would agree with the Member that primary education deserves the highest priority as far as education is concerned but it is a State subject and our regret is that when the States put forward their plans, they do not attach that importance to primary education which the Member has in mind and with which I am in complete agreement.

*336. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jai-purta) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2835 infra.]

*337. [The questioner (Sardar Narindar Singh Bran) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2836 infra.]

BENGAL BANDH

*338. **SARDAR D. K. JADHAV:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have held any talks with the Government of West Bengal on the issue of "Bengal Bandh"; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The issues arising out of the strike in West Bengal on April 10, 1969 did figure during the meetings which the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal. The West Bengal Ministers stated that it was not the State Government's intention to have any confrontation with the Central Government.

As has been made repeatedly clear, the Government of India, on their part, believe in a policy of cooperation towards all State Governments. We hope that it will be possible to settle any questions which may arise in future by mutual discussion between the Central Government and the State Government.

SARDAR D. K. JADHAV: Madam, this poses a serious problem before the Centre and this "Bengal Bandh" is, as I see it, actually a State Government "Bandh" against the Centre. This sort of mutual cooperation and mutual discussion, I do not think, will really help them to solve the problem. In view of the serious accidents and losses that the Government has suffered because of this "Bandh" they should take it really seriously; also, in the long run, such "Bandhs" may also take place in other areas as well. May I know what loss they have suffered during this "Bandh"—the Central Government Departments, such as the Postal Department, the Railways and the Airlines?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: In this question we are not discussing, or seeking any information about the merits or demerits of this

'Bengal Bandh'. That question is already discussed and I do not want to go into that question. Really speaking, it is in the context of this that we had mutual discussions, and I think the discussions were helpful, co-operative and friendly. I do not want to say anything which will unnecessarily create a wrong atmosphere about it.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister's answers to this question really raise the whole problem once again. Now I just want to ask the hon. Minister. Why should the "Bengal Bandh" be regarded at all as a problem between the State of West Bengal and the Union Government? The very fact that the hon. Minister still harps on it as an aspect of the problem between the State of West Bengal and the Union of India shows that his mind is not yet clear of misconception and misunderstanding. Will the hon. Minister enlighten the House that, as far as the "Bengal Bandh" of 10th April is concerned, the Union Government is satisfied that the State Government did nothing more than to see that Central Government property and all other property were properly protected by asking certain concerns and undertakings to close down in order that they may not be destroyed or they may not be damaged?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Madam, about this "Bengal Bandh" matter I have already said in this hon. House whatever I had to say, and I do not want to repeat it, also because, after the discussions between the representatives of the State Government and the Central Government, it is not right to raise the question again now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

T.A. AND D.A. PAID TO CHAIRMAN OF I.A.C.

*339. **SHRI ARJUN ARORA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the actual amount of T.A. and D.A. paid to the Chairman of Indian Airlines during each year of his term as Chairman;

(b) the number of air journeys performed by him within the country at the cost of Indian Airlines; and

(c) the number of trips abroad undertaken by the Chairman, since his appointment, financed by the Indian Airlines and the actual cost and foreign exchange spent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) No T.A. or D.A. was paid to the Chairman, Indian Airlines for the tours undertaken by him within the country although he was entitled to these.

(b) Six.

(c) The Chairman undertook 2 trips abroad on behalf of the Corporation for which complementary tickets were issued by foreign airlines. The expenditure incurred by the Indian Airlines in this connection was Rs. 5171.94 all in foreign exchange.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Madam, may I know why this sum of Rs. 5,000 odd was spent and what were the purposes and achievements of these foreign trips?

DR. KARAN SINGH: As has been pointed out in the answer, for the trips within the country, of course—although there was the entitlement—no money was paid. For these foreign trips also we were saved from having to pay the fare because of a well-known international convention according to which Chairmen of Airlines are offered reciprocal facilities by other Airlines. Apparently, this sum of Rs. 5,000 odd on the two tours must have been on his stay when he was abroad.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What was the purpose, I asked.

DR. KARAN SINGH: I am not sure what it was; I do not have the information but I think these were concerned probably with attending some aviation conferences; I will have to check on that, but certainly they should have been for some *bona fide* purposes, and it is a very small sum.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Biren Roy.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I have a second question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I shall come to you again.