

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 12th March, 1965/the 21st
Phalgun, 1886 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में एम० ए० के लिए
पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम**

*439. श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव :
क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा
करेंगे कि क्या सरकार दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
में एम० ए० के लिये पत्राचार पाठ्यक्रम
शुरू करने का विचार रखती है और
यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

†[CORRESPONDENCE COURSES FOR M.A. IN
DELHI UNIVERSITY

*439. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will
the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to
state whether Government propose to start
correspondence courses for M.A. in the
University of Delhi and, if not, the reasons
therefor?]

शिक्षा मंत्री (श्री एम० सी० चागला) :
1965-66 से एम० ए० में डाक द्वारा
पाठ्यक्रम चलाने के लिए सरकार ने
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के पास एक सुझाव
भेजा है। उस पर विश्वविद्यालय विचार
कर रहा है।

†[THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): Government have
proposed to the Delhi University to start
correspondence courses for M.A. from
1965-66, and the proposal is under the
consideration of the University.]

†[] English translation.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या मैं
जान सकता हूँ कि इस संबंध में
यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमिशन से कोई सलाह
ली गई ? अगर ली गई तो उनकी
राय दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय को भेजी गई ?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Sir, the
University Grants Commission is strongly
in favour of correspondence courses. The
Delhi University has been working the
B.A. course very successfully. Now the
attempt is to extend it to M.A.

DR. NIHAR RANJAN RAY: Has the
University Grants Commission assured it-
self about the academic soundness of
correspondence courses in respect of B.A.
(Hons.) course and even the post-graduate
course?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, we have not
gone to that extent. We want to go step
by step. Finding that the B.A. (Pass)
course has been working successfully, this
is the next step we are taking. It may be
that we may also think of post-graduate
and B.A. (Hons.) courses, as suggested by
the hon. Member.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या
यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमिशन ने यह राय
दी है कि भारत के दूसरे विश्वविद्यालयों
में भी कोरेस्पोंडेन्स कोर्स चलाया जाये ?
अगर ऐसी राय दी है तो कौन-कौन से
विश्वविद्यालयों ने कोरेस्पोंडेन्स कोर्स
जारी किया है ?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Sir, we
want to start this in three or four uni-
versities but these universities have not yet
been selected. As I said, Delhi was a pilot
project. The pilot project having succeed-
ed, in the Fourth Five Year Plan we have
the intention of using these correspondence
courses in a very large way.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN: Has any com-
parison been made with regard to the
standards attained through regular courses
and those attained through these corres-
pondence courses?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I do not quite follow how you can compare the standards. The examiners are there; they correct the papers; they set the questions and do all that. The only difference is that for a correspondence course they have to study one year more than for the ordinary collegiate course.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN: I mean the percentage of marks obtained by the students.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I have not got that information.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTA-LANKAR: Does the hon. Minister realise that the standard of education, both of the teachers and the taught, has considerably fallen and the introduction of correspondence courses will contribute to a further fall in the standard of education? Further, is it not a fact that dialecticism in education, in which there is a personal contact between the teacher and the taught, is a great contributing factor in raising the standard of education, and in correspondence course this will be entirely lacking and the standard of education will fall further? And thirdly, at a time when the attendance in classes is already thinning, will not the introduction of correspondence course further contribute in absenteeism?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: No, Sir. With great respect, I do not agree with the hon. Member. Far from the standards falling, in my opinion, the introduction of correspondence courses will lead to the raising of standards. I will explain why. Today the admission to colleges is much too easy; the numbers are too large and what my hon. friend has suggested—contact between the teacher and the taught—is not possible. Therefore the idea is that we should give real college education to a fewer people who are qualified for it and at the same time not deny others the right to have higher education. Everybody is entitled to higher education but everybody does not have the right to have collegiate education. Considering the number of colleges and the personnel, Sir, it is impossible for us to give proper education to everybody who wants to go to the college.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: I would like to know if the Education Minister could let us know how many students took advantage of the correspondence course from the Delhi University and further, if there is any proposition to introduce correspondence course in B. Com. as well, apart from the Arts course.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: In regard to the first part of the question, I have not got the figures. I can give them to my hon. friend, if he wants, later. With regard to B.Com., there is no such proposal at present.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: Does the hon. Minister of Education think that the mere object of M.A. or M.Sc. course is to pass the examination or does he think that the object of university education, to a great extent, is to come into contact with senior scholars and thereby derive inspiration and incentive for higher learning? How will he compare the correspondence course students with the regular students of the university?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is no comparison. I quite agree that a regular M.A. course with tutorials, meeting professors, taking part in collegiate activities, is much better than the correspondence course, but the point is that tens of thousands of young men and women who want higher education cannot get admissions in our colleges. The other thing is that there are people who want to earn their living and at the same time study, so that they can through correspondence courses improve their prospects and improve their knowledge.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Since these correspondence courses are going to be introduced for the first time in the Delhi University, may I ask the Minister whether Government have any kind of supervisory machinery which will examine the material sent to the students concerned in order to ensure that it is of the requisite standard?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: My hon. friend is not right when he says it is being introduced for the first time. I have made it quite clear that the B.A. (Pass) course is conducted through the Delhi University by

correspondence and it has been a great success.

SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: May I know the nature of this correspondence course, Sir?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, the nature is very simple. Courses are sent to the students through correspondence and they can study them at home in the evening and read the various kinds of literature sent to them. This is done in the U.S.A., the U.K. and also in the U.S.S.R.

श्री राम साहय : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस प्रकार कोरेस्पोंडेन्स कोर्स के जरिये जो कोर्स होंगे वे ग्राड्स के किन-किन विषयों में होंगे और क्या इनके बारे में एक्सपेरिमेंट किया जा चुका है ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : बी० ए० के लिए एक्सपेरिमेंट करने की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि इसके बारे में एक्सपेरिमेंट हो चुका है । जहाँ तक एम० ए० की पढ़ाई का सवाल है जितने विषयों पर लिखित इम्तहान होते हैं उतने ही सबजेक्ट्स के बारे में कोरेस्पोंडेन्स कोर्स होंगे ।

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: In view of the fact that this correspondence course has greatly benefited women, especially housewives, will the Minister consider extending this scheme to other universities also?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: As I said, Sir, the idea is to extend it to other universities.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: If the hon. Minister thinks that correspondence courses are very successful, as he says, why should he not abolish all these universities and impart education by correspondence only?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a drastic proposal for action.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJ-PYE: May I know if there are any students for correspondence courses from outside Delhi, from the rural areas?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is nothing to prevent anybody from going in for the correspondence courses.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: In view of the utility of correspondence courses, especially for those who find it difficult to attend colleges, may I very respectfully ask the Education Minister to tell us if the principal opposition comes from vested interests like the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I do not see what vested interests a Vice-Chancellor has. On the contrary, Sir, he is relieved of the burden of having more students in the colleges.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Is the hon. Minister of the opinion that education, higher university education, can be obtained, genuine university education can be obtained through correspondence courses? There is another question that arises from the statement of the hon. Minister that one might improve one's prospects by becoming a B.A. through the correspondence course. May I ask the hon. Minister whether there are no other ways of improving one's prospects in life, than getting this tinsel B.A. through the correspondence course?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There are many ways of improving one's prospects. But as I said, it is the bounden duty of the State to provide higher education to every citizen who wants it. There are not enough colleges. I wish there were thousands of colleges so that everybody could come in. We cannot say we shut our doors as far as admission to colleges is concerned. So we provide a substitute for university education.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: But is it genuine university education? Is the Government committed to the policy of propagating this kind of tinsel B.A.s who are not really educated? Do you really mean

it is genuine university education or is it only pandering to the mass opinion?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: It is genuine.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: I want to know what are the subjects which the student is taught through correspondence course and what are the fees?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I cannot tell the hon. Member just now. If he wants it I will let him know.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Yes, I want.

SHRI T. M. DASGUPTA: May I ask, Sir, whether there is a proposal to have correspondence course for law subjects?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is no proposal at present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many other subjects. Probably somebody would like to ask about them. You see, I would like to remind the House that we have a large number of questions to deal with. I hate to ask a Member not to raise a question. But if Members go on raising questions without limit, I have to disappoint some. So I hope you will not put me in the predicament of having to disappoint anyone.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: If a question is not necessary, you should stop the question. Rather commenting on it later on, you stop the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I can proceed to the next question.

DEFECTS IN THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

*440. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published by the University Grants Commission entitled "Three Studies in Examination Technique" which points out some errors in present examination system; and

(b) If so, what steps Government are going to take to devise an examination system which will be free from the defects pointed out in the above-mentioned report?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The University Grants Commission has circulated the report to the universities for their information and consideration.

SHRI A. D. MANI: According to this report, perhaps more than 60 per cent. fail in the examination on account of the vagaries of the examination system. The Commission has also drawn attention to one point that in the case of an English paper, one examiner passed 60 per cent. of the candidates and when the papers were submitted to another examiner, only 11 per cent. passed. As such, has the Government tried to find out from the University concerned, why there was so much discrepancy in the marks, because the allegation is being made that examiners are liable to be bought and sold?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: This question does not directly arise from this question of examination reform. Corruption can be there in any walk of life and you cannot put it down completely. We are here dealing with the question of reform of the examination system and not with the defects of examiners.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Since the University Grants Commission has drawn attention to the serious defects of the examination system, does the Government propose to examine the usefulness of adopting the American or the British method of evaluating answers and have the *alpha*, *beta* system?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Sir, we are continually and constantly making researches in our examination system and we have got our National Council which is making researches and a committee has been appointed and suggestions have been circulated to the universities. We do realise what a terrible national waste it is of 60 per cent. of students who do not pass. But it is difficult to arrive at a real and proper assessment of the students' ability, and the difficulty is felt not only in this country but also in the U.S.A. and in U.K.