

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 13th March, 2006/22 Phalguna, 1927 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*301. [The questioner (Shri T.S. Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 45]

*302. [The questioner (Shrimati Kumkum Rai) was absent. For answer *vide* page 37—39]

Financial support by IAS, Shimla

*303. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla was actively involved with financial support in patronising a religious ceremony in which *Brahmins* were given *dakshinas* as reported in the findings of the Review Committee set up by Government to look into the affairs of the IAS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take action against the authorities of IAS for vitiating the functions of IAS;

(d) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla, it was one of the co-sponsors of the 'Akhila Bharatiya Vedic Sammelan' organized by 'Akhila Bharatiya Veda Rakshana Samiti' in New Delhi, on the 3rd and the 4th April, 2004. The IIAS, Shimla had provided an amount of Rs. 2.00 lakh under its budget head pertaining to the programme of "collaborative seminars/conferences".

While the One Man Committee appointed by the Government in October, 2004 to review the work of IIAS, Shimla, and to enquire into its affairs, has referred to the budget submitted by the organizers which included provision for gifts to vedic scholars and reverential offering to "Their Holinesses", the audited expenditure furnished by the "Akhil Bharatiya Veda Rakshana Samiti" to the IIAS, Shimla only mentions expenditure on mementos.

(c) to (e) Findings and recommendations contained in the above Report have been accepted by the Ministry, and forwarded to the Governing Body of the Institute, which is the competent authority, for appropriate action.

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत: सर, मैंने इस जवाब को पढ़ लिया है। मेरा पहला सप्लीमेंटरी है, जहां पर (c) to (e) में लिखा है कि रिपोर्ट की जो सिफारिशें और फाइंडिंग्स हैं और जिसे मिनिस्ट्री ने एक्सेप्ट करके गवर्निंग बॉडी को भेजा है, मेरा सवाल यह है कि क्या उस गवर्निंग बॉडी की तरफ से कोई जवाब आया है? अगर नहीं आया, तो क्या उस जवाब और उस ऐक्शन के बारे में कोई टाइम बाउंड फ्रेमवर्क होगा?

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: सर, जब उन्होंने गवर्निंग बॉडी को लिखा तब उन्होंने श्री-मैन सब-कमेटी बनाई, जिसमें प्रो० मुशीरल हसन, प्रो० के०पी० सिंह और हमारे फाइनेंस एडवाइज़र, श्री एस०के० राय शामिल हैं। यह सब कमेटी डिटेल् में इसे देख रही है और जो भी एप्रोप्रिएट ऐक्शन होगा, वह लेगी...(ब्यवधान)

श्रीमती वृन्दा कारत: क्या यह टाइम बाउंड है?

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: नहीं यह उन्हें दे दिया गया है, उन्हें हैंड ओवर कर दिया गया है और जितनी जल्दी हो सकेगा, उसका रिजल्ट आ जाएगा।

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, I have a second supplementary. Sir, I don't know why, in the reply, the Ministry is shy of actually giving the

details of the reports. Why it is necessary to give details is because it has implications for the future institutions in this country. The report very specifically states, and, Sir, I quote:

"As far as this particular Sammelan was concerned, there was nothing academic about the event. It was a propagandist venture. The institute's active involvement, wilful participation and financial patronage of religious ceremonies in which *dakshinas* were given to *Brahmins* indicated how far the institute has degenerated from the noble ideals to which it was established by Dr. Radhakishan."

Sir, this is the report. The reason why I have asked this question is not because of one or two individuals who are guilty and against whom action must be taken. The reason why I have asked this question is also that in our country, if we do not have an institutionalised framework to prevent the bending of rules for narrow sectarian regions, Sir, it's going to be very dangerous. Therefore, what I want to know from the Minister is: Is the Ministry thinking of institutionalising any monitoring framework with people who are outside the institute so as to prevent this kind of bending of rules in future and hijacking of institutions for narrow agendas?

श्री मोहम्मद अली अशरफ फातमी: सर, उन्हें जो काम करना था, उन्होंने उन चीजों को लेकर उस काम को नहीं किया, इसीलिए उसके अन्दर जाया गया और देखा गया और उसी समय एक वन मैन कमेटी बनाई गई। पहले उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई और चूंकि जो काम करने के लिए उस कमेटी का गठन किया गया था, उसने उससे थोड़ा हटने की कोशिश की। इस तरह उन्हीं मामलों को लेकर पहले वन-मैम्बर कमेटी बनी, उसकी रिपोर्ट आई और अब श्री-मैम्बर सब-समेटी बनाई गई है। चूंकि यह ऑटोनॉमस प्रतिष्ठान है, इसलिए उन्होंने तीन लोगों की अपनी एक सब-कमेटी बनाई है और अब उसके नतीजे आएंगे। जो काम उन्हें दिया गया है, उस राह से जो भी हटेगा, उस पर ऐक्शन लिया जाएगा।

Improvement in connectivity of mobile phones

*304. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:††

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kripal Parmar.