

**CONVERSION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS  
INTO MULTI-PURPOSE SCHOOLS**

\*574. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Schools converted into Higher Secondary or Multipurpose Schools in each State as on 1st July, 1964;

(b) whether it is a fact that pending consolidation of the works of these Multi-purpose Schools, no grants were made available upto now for the conversion of ordinary Secondary Schools into Multi-purpose ones and that no grants would be given during the remaining period of the Third Five Year Plan; and

(c) what are the items of consolidation on which grants are made available?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) : (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) Information is available upto 31st March, 1964 according to which there were 22406 secondary schools in the country (16273 High schools and 6133 Higher secondary) and 2340 multi-purpose schools.

(b) and (c) Although emphasis in the Third Five-Year Plan is to improve the working of existing multipurpose schools, the Central Government has not advised the States not to give grants for converting ordinary schools into multi-purpose schools. "Under a centrally sponsored scheme, financial assistance is being given to State Governments to strengthen selected multi-purpose schools. These grants are intended: (a) to improve laboratory facilities, (b) to provide equipment for teaching of practical subjects. viz., Technology including "Craft, Commerce, Agriculture, Fine

Arts and Home Science, (c) to strengthen core subjects, (d) to strengthen schools library, (e) to provide audiovisual aids, and (f) to undertake special projects like out-of-school programmes and attention to talented pupils and slow learners.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: From the Statement given it appears that about 8,000 schools have been converted into higher secondary schools out of 24,000 or so. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the slow progress in the conversion of schools into higher secondary schools is due to certain opposition in the States, or due to the failure of the scheme?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Madam, I would not say that the scheme is a failure. What we have decided is that the time has come when we should consolidate and strengthen the schools that already exist. The figures show that there are 2,340 multipurpose schools. That itself shows that the scheme is not a failure but, as I said, we feel that the time has come when we should go in for consolidation and we have offered special funds and assistance to the States to consolidate these schools.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know, Madam, what are the grounds on which some States have not still accepted the scheme? Is it due to the poor achievements at the end of the Higher Secondary stage? And is it not desirable, therefore, that a proper assessment of the scheme be made on an all-India level?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I do not think it is correct to say that any State has not accepted the scheme. Some States have financial difficulties, but I might point out that we have given financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to West Bengal. Punjab, Assam and Mysore during 1963-64; One lakh of rupees has been sanctioned to Maha-

ashtra, Rs. 50,000 to Madhya Pradesh during 1964-65, and there were the Union Territories where we have consolidated or improved the schools, in Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura and Pondicherry. All this shows that it is not correct to say that the States have not accepted the scheme.

SHRIMATI II. AMMANNA RAJA: Is there any State which has not accepted this scheme, where they have not introduced this multi-purpose schools scheme?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I think every State has introduced the multi-purpose school; some States have not availed themselves of our offer to assist them to improve and consolidate those schools. Apart from the States which I have mentioned, the other States have not so far availed themselves of our assistance.

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SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: My question is yet unanswered and the question is: Is it not desirable that a proper assessment of the scheme be made on an all-India level?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have you made an assessment on the all-India level?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Madam, we have been assessing all this from time to time and it is as a result of the assessment that we felt that more schools should be improved. The idea is that we improve some of the existing schools so that they may act as model schools for others.

#### **SCHOOLS IN INDIA WITHOUT PROPER SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT**

\*575. SHRI G. M. MIR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Member of the Planning Commission, has made the

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observation that 70 per cent of schools in India do not have adequate scientific equipment; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Education Department to remove this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) Yes, Madam. On one occasion he made an observation in respect of secondary schools stating that 60 to 70 per cent of them were without adequate laboratory equipment.

(b) A new scheme for strengthening of science laboratories of Secondary Schools has been taken up from the current financial year. This scheme will supplement the programmes already included in the Plan.

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know, Madam, whether it is a fact that the Central Government has offered aid to the State Governments for certain schemes in the matter of education and may I know what are those schemes?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Madam, the entire expenditure for strengthening the science laboratories on the basis which I should mention will be sanctioned as Central assistance outside the State ceilings of Plan expenditure, and the scheme is the strengthening of the science laboratories, the training of science teachers and the improvement of laboratory equipment.

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the hon. Minister that in our country so far as expansion of education is concerned it is good but the question is whether it is a fact that there are no school buildings, no trained teachers, there are no sufficient staff and yet the Government is going on expanding education? Will it not be possible for the hon. Minister to consider