

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 convert-
ed into Higher Secondary or Multi-
purpose Schools in each State as on
1st July, 1964;

(b) whether it is a fact that pend-
ing consolidation of the works of
these Multi-purpose Schools, no
grants were made available upto now
for the conversion of ordinary Sec-
ondary 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 consoli-
dation 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 im-
prove the working of existing multi-
purpose schools, the Central Govern-
ment 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 streng-
then core subjects, (d) to strengthen
schools library, (e) to provide audio-
visual 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 multi-
purpose 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 con-
solidation 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 pro-
per 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-

rashtra, 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 U. 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.

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