

(b) 194 persons were prosecuted of whom 19 have been convicted so far.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if the liquor that is being sold here is being manufactured locally or is being brought from somewhere else?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: I cannot categorically say that the liquor which is sold here is manufactured here or the other way about.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if any foreigners are involved in this trade?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: No such information has come to our notice.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether there are any localised areas for such illicit distillation or they are spread all over the city?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There are certain areas in which this evil has spread a good deal and action is being taken, especially concentrated action is being taken in those areas.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, the reason why there is so much illicit manufacture of liquor in Delhi where there is no prohibition and so much wine is available in every market in Delhi?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is costly.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: No, it is not costly.

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: The evil of illicit distillation is there because some people find it remunerative. Secondly, this illicit distillation has always been there even when there was no prohibition.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Is it a fact that the making of illicit liquor in Delhi has increased very much?

SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS: There is no evidence to show that it has increased very much; detection is very much better now.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that much of the illicitly distilled liquor that comes to Delhi and is sold here comes from the neighbouring wet areas belonging to certain other States, like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Not from Bihar, perhaps; naturally if it comes it will have to come to Delhi from U.P. and also Punjab.

*8. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 47-48 infra.]

ILLITERACY IN INDIA

*9. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one-third of the total illiterate population of the world is to be found in India; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to put an end to illiteracy in India within a measurable period of time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI-MATI SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

STATEMENT

In order to liquidate illiteracy in India, two-pronged action is necessary—the first through elementary education and the second through Adult Education for liquidating illiteracy among the adult population. As regards elementary education, the Ministry of Education has taken steps to see that elementary education is provided for the age group 6—11.

2. As regards liquidation of illiteracy among adults, the question has been, engaging the attention of the Ministry of Education for a long time. The State Governments and the Union Territories were requested to formulate adequate and detailed programmes for increasing the tempo of adult literacy work for the period 1962-63 to 1965-66 and to include them in their Annual Plan budgets. An assurance was also given that additional resources required for the purpose will be provided over and above the State Plan ceilings. However, due to national emergency no progress could be made in supporting the State Governments and the Union Territories for increasing the tempo of literacy work.

3. The difficulty in the matter of liquidating adult illiteracy is paucity of financial resources. As priority is being given to primary and elementary education, difficulties are experienced in finding adequate resources for liquidating illiteracy among the adult population.

4. In spite of inadequacy of finding resources, some State Governments have gone ahead with their plans for voluntary work for the liquidation of illiteracy. This voluntary effort in the Maharashtra State passes under the name "Gram Shikshan Mohim". This effort has been recommended to other State Governments and the Union Territories for being followed.

5. The Education Minister also wrote to the State Governments and the Union Territories that an appeal should be made to teachers that they should come forward in a spirit of voluntary service and offer *vidya-dan* for removal of illiteracy. Each teacher is expected to take up voluntarily the work of making adult population literate.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask the hon. lady, Sir, whether the statement which she has given is correct, namely that one-third of the total illiterate population of the world

is to be found in India? If it is correct, does it not mean that there is no attempt being made to put an end to this illiteracy in India?

SHRIMATI SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN: No, it does not mean that no attempt is being made. Primary education is being speeded up as much as possible so that at least from that rank more illiterate men are *not* added later *on* to the illiterate community. Secondly, from the Education Ministry, social education had been transferred some time back to the Ministry of Community Development, as part of their social education programme. As such our Ministry is writing letters also to the Education Ministers of the various States asking them to speed up this work. We are trying to get special funds also to take it up as a Centrally sponsored scheme, in order to speed up the spread of adult education in the various States. We thought that we would be successful, but this emergency has put an end to that also. However, we are very conscious of this vast problem and some States are making very brave attempts and they have succeeded to an extent and have achieved good results. Especially, in Bombay State, they are doing it without other finance, by utilising all the social workers and also government agencies. We are trying our best to improve and expand adult education as fast as possible and we are hoping to get some financial help also.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask, Sir, why the Emergency is being pleaded in such an essential matter as the creation of a literate class of people amongst our population?

SHRIMATI SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN: I suppose under the Emergency there was a cut not only in social education but in every other scheme also, especially in what are called welfare schemes. Therefore, this is part of the general cut. We are trying to persuade the Govern-

ment, saying that in a democratic country for effective functioning of democracy, adult education is very necessary, if not social education, and neither the Planning Commission nor the Cabinet is unaware of this and we are hoping to get more funds this time.

श्री भगवत नारायण भागवत : क्या गवर्नमेंट ने प्लानिंग कमिशन से परामर्श करके ऐसी कोई योजना बनाई है जिसके अनुसार यह निश्चित हो सके कि कितने वर्षों में भारतवर्ष में इल्लिटरसी समाप्त हो सकेगी ?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As far as this question is concerned, there are two ways in which this problem has to be tackled. One is as my colleague has just now stated, to speed up the expansion of primary education, and the Government have taken a decision that by the end of the Third Plan period, all our children within the age group 6 to 11 will be in educational institutions. This is an important decision and it is going to make an important impact on the spread of literacy. The other is to educate the present population which is illiterate. This is a big question and it has to be tackled. Again, the difficulty is with regard to financial resources. The work has to be done by voluntary agencies also. As hon. Members may be aware, in most other countries the spread of adult education is not entirely the function of the Government. Wherever adult education has spread, to a large extent voluntary agencies have also cooperated in this matter. So we are making an earnest effort to enlist the cooperation of voluntary agencies. But the objective cannot be achieved within a short time. It will take time because India is a big country and we have this legacy of illiteracy from the past. We have not created this illiterate population. This illiterate population is a legacy of the past and we are trying to fight this enemy. It will take time and it cannot be achieved

in a day or two or in a year or two; it will take some years.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: One of the means of eliminating illiteracy from the country as has been rightly pointed out by the Minister is by free compulsory primary education. May I ask whether there is any State in the country which has not introduced this free compulsory primary education?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Certain States have yet to do so and I am hoping that by the end of the Third Plan all the States in India will have passed legislation for free compulsory primary education.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has any statistical assessment been made of the results of the Maharashtra Government's efforts to liquidate illiteracy through voluntary efforts? What is the percentage of illiteracy that has been liquidated in Maharashtra?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: No State-wise statistics have been collected; but whatever information we have gathered shows that this experiment has been very successful and it is catching. In every village where voluntary workers have gone, the villagers there have become literate. So this is catching on and we have drawn the attention of other State Governments also to this important work which is being done in Maharashtra.

UNIFORMITY IN SERVICE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYEES OF UNION GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE GOVERNMENTS

*10. SHRIMATI SEETA YUDHVIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) which of the State Governments have agreed to raise the retiring age of their employees from 55 to 58 years; and

(b) the steps which Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in the service conditions of employees of the Union Government and the State Governments?