

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 4th December, 1961|the
13th Agradayana, 1883 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*142. [For answer, vide cols. 898—901 infra.]

CRIME IN SCHOOLS

*143. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a write-up in the Delhi edition of the "Statesman" of the 10th September, 1961, with the caption "Crime in Schools"; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to eradicate the evil?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No complaints of this nature have been received in the Directorate of Education of Delhi Administration, nor have any specific cases, on which enquiry could be made, have been cited in the article. In the circumstances, the existence of this evil or the degree of its prevalence, as shown in the article remain to be proved.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the fact that many incidents have happened in different cities both during ordinary times and during examination times, may I know the steps the Government are taking to prevent students from taking to such anti-social activities?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, I thought the hon. Member was first referring to only this article which appeared in the Delhi edition of the "Statesman". He is now going over

to other cities also. Well, Sir, occasionally it is true that such incidents do take place, but the only remedy is to improve the atmosphere in educational institutions towards which the Government have been making continuous efforts.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: What is the nature of the crimes which these children are believed to be indulging in?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have no idea, Sir, because no enquiry has been made, and no enquiry is possible because no specific instances have been quoted.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, if the hon. Minister is aware that these types of crimes which are taking place in Delhi schools . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you have any particular incident in mind, you may bring it to his notice.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: One child killing the other. Everybody has read it in the newspapers—one child attacking the other child. May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that this kind of tendency is developing from these 'Horror Comics' which are selling in Delhi shops openly?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As far as 'Horror Comics' and other things are concerned, they are being prevented, under another law, from being sold in public. As far as this question is concerned, it is true that occasionally an incident might take place but let us not exaggerate it. Occasionally such things do happen and, in fact, they happen more in adult society than in educational institutions.

RELIGIOUS AND MORAL INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*144. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state whether

Government have set up a special unit to prepare material for imparting religious and moral instruction in schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): Yes, Sir.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know what books these people are going to write?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Well, Sir, I do not know which people the hon. Member is referring to.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Members of the unit, perhaps.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Sir, it appeared in the press that the Education Ministry here have appointed some people to write certain books.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If your question is whether a special unit has been set up, the answer is 'yes'.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Sir, it also appeared that this unit, or whoever is there to advise, has advised the Government to get books written without the mention of God.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, I expect the hon. Member is referring to a press note which was issued by the Ministry about the books which had already been written. There are some 20 leading publishers. A large number of books have been collected which will be placed before the Committee at its next meeting so that these books can then be sent to the various educational institutions. I do not know whether that is what the hon. Member is referring to.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In that connection I may remind you that it was mentioned that no mention of God would be made in those books regarding religious and moral instruction.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Well, Sir, the Press Note which was issued is with me. It says:

"Following the recommendations of the Committee on Religious and Moral Instruction, the Ministry of Education has requested the Committee consisting of Shri Sri Prakasa as Chairman with Shri G. C. Chatterji (Chairman, National Book Trust), Shri A. A. A. Fyzee, formerly, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu and Kashmir, and Shri P. N. Kirpal, Education Secretary to the Government of India, as members, to prepare suitable literature for use in our educational institutions, from primary to university, for inculcating moral and spiritual values amongst students. Publishers, organisations and individuals who desire any publications to be considered by this Committee may send a sample each, which will not be returned, to Shri M. P. Jain, Assistant Educational Adviser to the Government of India, Ministry of Education, Room No. 69, 'M' Block, New Delhi so as to reach by 15th January, 1961. The publication should be such as describe briefly in a sympathetic manner the basic ideas of various religions as well as the essence of the lives and teachings of the great religious leaders, saints, mystics and philosophers. Suitable collections of poems and selected passages from Sanskrit, Persian, English and the regional languages and books describing deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice in the cause of the country and in the service of others will also be considered."

Sir, there is no mention of God, nor anything to the effect that God should not be mentioned.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has Government got any clear conception of what is religious? If you have a Committee like this established . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a matter of opinion.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The words used are 'moral and spiritual values'.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether any terms of reference had been given to this Committee which has been responsible for selecting this kind of literature?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes, Sir; terms of reference were given.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know, Sir, if the members of the Sri Prakasa Committee have been made to act as members of this Committee also, and may I know whether it is the intention of the Government to publish these books themselves or through some publishers, or any institution which wants to prepare educational books on these lines will be considered for aid by the Government of India?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Government will get these books written by people who are competent to write them. It is also possible that some books may have already been written. Therefore, they have issued a Press Note and they have invited publishers and others to send their publications.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether these books will have to be compulsorily used by schools and colleges throughout the country or they will be optional.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Well, Sir, that is for the State Governments to decide. My own feeling is that in this matter the less the compulsion the better it is, because compulsion sometimes makes this instruction distasteful.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL: May I know whether these books that are being prepared by this unit are meant for secondary schools or for higher educational institutions as well?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: They are for elementary schools, secondary schools and for colleges also.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether this Committee

is going to select literature and recommend it to the States or it will directly be recommended to the States by the Central Government that this literature should be started in various categories of schools?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: It will be recommended to the authorities which are responsible for education, including the State Governments.

SHRI SATYACHARAN: Has it, Sir, been clearly enunciated what the exact pattern of religious education that has to be imparted at the stage of secondary schools would be?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes, Sir, I should like to refer the hon. Member to the Sri Prakasa Committee Report and also to the Chapter on 'Religious Education' in the Radhakrishnan Commission Report.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE ALL INDIA
FREEDOM FIGHTERS' CONFERENCE

*145. SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of a resolution passed by the "All India Freedom Fighters' Conference" held in New Delhi in the first week of September, 1961 regretting the neglect and indifference towards the Indian Freedom Fighters even after 14 years of Independence; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The responsibility for affording relief to political sufferers has been assumed by the State Governments who have framed their own schemes for purposes like pensions, cash