

elite and those available to the normal poorer citizens be removed, and will some equal type of medical facilities be made available to everybody?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not accept that there is any distinction between the facilities available to one group and those available to the other group.

TRAINING CENTRE FOR ADULT DEAF

*525. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision for establishing a Training Centre for Adult Deaf?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI) : The matter is still under consideration.

Well, Sir, I must admit that this scheme has not progressed as satisfactorily as we would have liked it to progress. There have been various difficulties. However, the Ministry's officers had recently gone to Hyderabad and there were certain discussions with the Andhra Government, and it is proposed to set up the centre in the Andhra State. The Andhra Pradesh Government has welcomed the proposal, but the final decision is still to be taken. I hope the final decision in regard to this matter will be taken shortly.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, when this resolution to establish such a model centre was passed and in what year the Ministry decided to set up such a centre?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, this proposal was in the Second Five Year Plan. I regret that the progress with regard to this scheme has not been satisfactory, but the Ministry made various efforts in this direction. At first, Sir, it was thought that it would be desirable to give this work to some voluntary agencies. So, we sent a press

communique and also invited applications from voluntary agencies. But those who came forward were not considered satisfactory by the Government. Later on, Sir it was decided to have some kind of arrangement with the Delhi Polytechnic, but that also has not yet been finalised. We also had negotiations with the Director-General, Employment and Training, to set up a separate section for the deaf, but that also did not materialise. The Ministry made various efforts; they were not sleeping. However, Sir, I must say that the progress has not been as satisfactory as we would have liked. Well, Sir, after our discussions with the Andhra Pradesh Government we are hoping that we will be able to finalise this proposal soon.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that, in spite of the fact that there are about 16 lakhs of deaf and dumb people in the country, education facilities have been provided to only about 3,000 children and there is no facility for imparting technical education to the adult deaf?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir with regard to education for the adult deaf, as I said, it is our proposal to set up the centre. As far as giving facilities to other deaf persons is concerned, the Ministry is giving grants to various voluntary organisations.

*526. [The questioner (Diwan Chamart Lall) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2877 infra.]

TIME FOR NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS

*527. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made by the Election Commission to complete the next General Elections in one-fourth the time the 1957 Elections took; and if so, what are the details of the procedure contemplated?