

आइल आसाम मे बनता है उसमें से ही यह जूट रैचिंग आइल बनेगा लेकिन दूसरे क्रुड आइल से भी यह बन सकता है ।

AGE-LIMIT FOR ADMISSION INTO UNIVERSITIES

*67. { SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK†:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has prescribed that the minimum age limit for students seeking admission into universities should be fixed at 16 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, the universities in India, specially technical institutions under some universities, have not been following the practice of admitting students within certain age-limits; and

(d) whether Government have examined the possible effect of this restriction on University Education?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The University Grants Commission has decided that the age "17 plus" will be a desirable minimum age for admission to University courses. But as it would be difficult immediately to enforce this, the Commission decided that it might be suggested to the Universities that, for the present, as a first step, minimum

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Maheswar Naik.

age of "16 plus" might be prescribed for admission to the first degree courses.

(b) The main reason for prescribing a minimum age-limit for admission into Universities is that many Indian Universities take students at too early an age when they are neither sufficiently mature intellectually and otherwise, nor adequately equipped to take full advantage of higher education.

(c) As a rule minimum or maximum age-limits have not been prescribed for entrance to the University (except for certain Technical Courses by the Universities, barring a few exceptions.

(d) In view of the new pattern of 11 years pre-University education this recommendation should not present any serious difficulties.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have ascertained the number of students who are under 16 years of age, while seeking University education, and what is the percentage of those students and the total number seeking admission to the Universities?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am afraid I do not have the percentage.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What is the number of students who were under 16 years of age while seeking admission to the Universities? And what is the percentage of that number to the total number seeking admission?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As I said, I do not have the percentage.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that with the increasing aspirations of students, the general age level of students has come down, below 16 years of age? If so, how is the present fixation of age at 16 likely to affect a number of students who are seeking admission to Universities?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I do not know what the hon. Member is driving at. This matter has been fully considered by the various Commissions—the University Education Commission, the Secondary Education Commission and the University Grants Commission—and they have come to the unanimous conclusion that students should not go to Universities unless they have attained maturity and a certain mental age. It is in accordance with that understanding that the University Grants Commission are making this recommendation to the Universities.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, whether the Universities were consulted in this connection?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: When the University Education Commission and the Secondary Education Commission went round, they naturally formed their opinion only after consulting the various Universities and the other people concerned.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: May I know, Sir, whether any action has been taken as regards the number of students in various Universities who are much below the age of 16? I have come across cases where the boys were below the age of 14.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Such cases have come to our notice.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: What is the reply, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Such cases have come to the notice of the Government.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: What action has the Minister taken?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The action we are taking is this. The University Grants Commission is making this recommendation to the Universities.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: I would like to know what the Government propose to do with the present cases?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Nothing can be done.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I know, Sir, how many Universities have accepted this recommendation?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: From a perusal of the replies received so far it may be mentioned in general that no minimum or maximum age-limit has been prescribed for the entrants by the Universities, barring a few exceptions. So far as the pre-University course is concerned, only 4 Universities, namely, Annamalai, Kerala, Madras and Sri Venkateswara have prescribed a minimum age-limit. That is, 14 years and six months in the case of the first, three Universities and 15 in the case of Sri Venkateswara University. The Andhra and Delhi Universities have prescribed a minimum age-limit of 16 years for the first year of the three-year degree course. Both Delhi University and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute have specified a minimum age-limit of 19 years for admission to the first year of any post-graduate course. Minimum age-limits of 17 years for all degree courses in engineering and architecture and 16 for all diploma courses in engineering have been prescribed by the Roorkee University which is purely a technical University. Now, the other Universities which have prescribed a minimum age-limit of 17 years for admission to the first year of the M.B.B.S. course are Agra, Jabalpur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, S.N.D.T., Mysore, Baroda, Punjab, Gauhati, Bombay, Calcutta and Patna. The Universities of Aligarh, Osmania, Mysore, Andhra and Marathwada have prescribed a minimum age-limit of 16 years for admission into a pre-professional course. Aligarh and Marathwada have also specified a minimum age-limit of 17 years for admission to the first year of the

professional degree courses in engineering and agriculture.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: I only wanted to know whether Government regard age as an infallible indicator of intellectual maturity. If not, what harm is there in taking marginal cases of students, who in any case, are not going to be below 15 when they enter the Universities?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Normally age is a criterion of certain standards of development. It is true that some students are more intelligent than others. But it is not merely a question of intelligence. The students who go to the Universities should attain a certain outlook and should have acquired the ability to study for themselves and not depend on the school-masters, as they do in the school stage. Therefore, from all points of view, it would be desirable to have a higher age-limit for admission to the Universities.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या मंत्री महोदय बता सकते हैं कि १६ वर्ष के नीचे कितने विद्यार्थियों को विश्वविद्यालयों में एडमिशन देने से इनकार किया गया ?

डा० के० एल० श्रीमाली : मैंने कह दिया कि मेरे पास इसके आंकड़े नहीं हैं ।

SHRI K. K. SHAH: Is it intended by the Government that students who are below 16 years should wait till they attain 16? Or, is it intended that some alternative occupation will be found for them?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The intention is that the students should wait before they can get admission.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Is it not in the interests of the physique of the students that they should not be admitted to the Universities before they attain the age of 16?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes, Sir. That might also be one of the reasons.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Consequent upon the decision already made by the University Grants Commission, may I know, Sir, whether the Government is also seeking to raise the age-limit at the higher secondary stage?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Naturally it is expected that the students will be 17 plus by the time they leave the higher secondary stage. One year has been added to the higher secondary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SEIZURE OF GOLD OF GOLD ORNAMENTS FROM THE MANAGER OF A BANK IN CALCUTTA

*68. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any gold or gold ornaments were seized from the manager of a bank in Calcutta on the 15th February, 1960; and

(b) if so, how much gold or ornaments were seized and of what value?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Gold and gold ornaments of approximate weight and value 614 tolas and Rs. 78,600 respectively were seized from the manager of a bank in Calcutta on the 15th February, 1960.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, whether any one was arrested in this?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know the name of the bank and the persons so arrested?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: He is the Branch Manager of the Allahabad Bank, Limited. He is not the arrested