

then assure the House that these questions are also investigated by the same very inquiry that is being carried on.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : The hon. Member has already written to us and I would further request if the hon. Members have any such documents which can give us a clue and proper evidence, they are certainly welcome to do so.

श्री अक्षय सिंह : क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि यह एन्क्वायरी कब तक खत्म हो जाएगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी तो शुरू भी नहीं हुई है ।

Raising of Marriageable Age Limit

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*453. **SHRI N. R. LASKAR :**
**SHRIMATI ILA PAL-
CHOUDHURI :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a final decision to raise the marriageable age in the country ;

(b) if not, what is the reason for delay in taking the decision ;

(c) whether some of the communities have opposed the move : and

(d) when the legislation is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Not yet, Sir,

(b) The proposed measure is still under consideration in consultation with the State Governments, and reactions of some of them are awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question of legislation will be considered after ascertaining the views of all the State Governments and processing the matter further in consultation with the concerned Ministries etc.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR : I would like to know why the hon. Ministry thought it necessary to bring forward such a legislation at the present moment. Does he mean, by this, he will control the population by choice and not otherwise ? What is the exact purpose of bringing such a legislation ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The legislation has not been brought forward yet. The matter is being discussed in consultation with the State Governments. There is no legislation yet. But I would like to inform the Hon. Member that it is what we call a non-clinical approach in reducing the fertility by raising the marriageable age limit.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR : Even if such a law is passed, does he feel that it is possible to enforce such a law throughout the country ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : In many parts of the world, it is being done. We may have some special difficulties. We will certainly keep in view such difficulties.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Ila Pal-Choudhury. How are you interested in this ?

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOUDHURY : At this stage, I am not interested in this question personally, but I am interested in it as a representative of Bengal. The hon. Minister said that it has been sent to all States for their reaction. West Bengal Kerala happen to be the most thickly populated States. Have their reactions been received ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : Yes, Sir. Both States have stated that they are fully in favour of the proposed legislation excepting that they pointed out certain amendments. They have said that unless we have full and complete compulsory registration of births and deaths it may be very difficult to enforce it. But I am glad to inform the hon. Member that we have the other day passed the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill and when it becomes an Act the registration would be complete.

SHRIMATI SAVITRI NIGAM : How many States have sent their reactions ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : Seven

States have sent their replies : we are awaiting reactions from others.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : For the last two or three years the Government of India have been proposing and advocating the desirability of raising the minimum age of marriage in this country, which I think is a very laudable effort. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much time will the government take before making up its mind for introducing suitable legislation. Secondly, as far as the enforcement of the Sarda Act, which is already in force in this country, is concerned, it is observed unfortunately more in its breach than in its compliance. Has the hon. Minister forcefully brought it to the notice of the various State Governments, specially of the northern States of this country, that it is extremely desirable that the Sarda Act, which prescribes the minimum age for marriage of girls as fourteen, or whatever it is, should be strictly enforced, before taking this second step ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, popularly known as the Sarda Act, was mostly a punitive measure, punishing the parents and those young people who got into marriage before the age of consent. Under that Act the onus and responsibility of proving that the bride in question was below the age of consent was left to the person who complained. Therefore, it was found to be impractical of practical implementation. Now the whole scope of the Act has been changed in the proposed new Bill. As soon as the State Governments accept it, we hope to bring forward the necessary legislation.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : May I know whether the proposed legislation will embrace all religious groups and communities or not ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The Sarda Act embraced all religious groups in India and the proposed legislation will also include all the religious groups.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश श्यामी : बाल विवाह को रोकने के सम्बन्ध में शारदा एक्ट बना हुआ है। लेकिन उसको सरकार की तरफ से धमल में नहीं लाया गया है। बाल विवाह को रोकने के

लिये सरकार ने कोई प्रयत्न नहीं किया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बिल में संशोधन करके शीघ्र ही इस प्रकार का बिल बनायेगी ताकि वह भी क्रियात्मक रूप ले सके ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The hon. Member is quite correct. To obviate the difficulties of the Sarda Act, the proposed legislation will have such provisions which will meet such contingencies.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : The question of raising the age of marriage of girls is intimately connected with the facilities for education of girls, who attain a certain age, so that they will be engaged in other avenues which will keep them occupied. May I know whether any investigation has been carried out in this respect ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The hon. Member is quite correct. Girls, particularly in the rural areas, have only one career and that is marriage. If the education could be prolonged by providing them higher education, it will have the effect of delaying the marriage. Unfortunately, that subject is not with my Ministry. We cannot do it because the schools are not with us and we have no money.

श्री विष्णु मिश्र : सरकार विभिन्न स्टेट्स से पूछ रही है। उसके बजाय आप यहां के एम पीज से क्यों नहीं पूछते हैं ? जो सोशल आर्गनाइजेशन हैं हिन्दुस्तान में उनकी राय जानने की भी सरकार क्यों कोशिश नहीं करती है ? स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स के लोग तो ऐसे समाज सेवा के काम नहीं करते हैं, वे तो पालिटिशियन होते हैं। इसके बजाय सरकार सोशल आर्गनाइजेशन से और यहां के एम पीज से क्यों नहीं पूछती है, उनकी राय क्यों नहीं लेती है ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : The hon. Member's views are very valuable and we shall be very grateful for the opinions of Shri Bibhuti Mishra.

SHRI P. B. MANDAL : What will be the age of boys and girls in the proposed legislation ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : 21 for boys and 18 for girls.

SHRI A. SREEDHANRAN : I come from a State where the rate of fertility is very high. Fertility takes place not only when they are married young but also when they are married old. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India will fix an upper age limit for marriage so that children are not produced in senility.

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : There is no such contemplation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Why not ?

SHRI HEM BARUA : Possibly this legislation to raise the marriageable age is proposed in order to make the family planning programme more effective. In that connection may I know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister said recently that the difficulties towards the implementation of the family planning programme are triangular? If so, what does he mean by the difficulties being triangular?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to by triangular difficulties.

SHRI HEM BARUA : It is reported recently in the papers that the hon. Minister said that the difficulties towards the family planning programme are triangular.

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : I said in a speech at Chandigarh that we have three difficulties to implement family planning programme.

SHRI HEM BARUA : What are those difficulties ?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR : First— we do not have an ideal contraceptive to suit our rural conditions. (2) Facilities of mass communication are not fully available to us. (3) The methods of motivation are also not with us.

Income-Tax Returns Not Filed by Ministers

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*454 **SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :**

**SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI M. N. REDDY :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Ministers who have not filed their Income-tax returns for the past 3 years ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some Ministers have paid the arrears of taxes this year ;

(c) if so, the names of the Ministers, the taxes and the penalty paid by them ; and

(d) action taken against the Ministers who have not paid the taxes so far, the action the Ministry took and at what level, to realise the taxes from the defaulting Ministers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (d) Information with regard to those Ministers who had notified their returns for any of the last three years 1966-67 to 1968-69, has been furnished on 16.5.69 in respect of Question No. 4065 dated 24.3.1969. Detailed information as regards the latest position is being collected.

श्री यजदत्त शर्मा : लोग माननीय वित्त मन्त्री महोदय से एक विशेष अपेक्षा रखते हैं। यह देश और यह सदन भी यह समझता है कि वह एक क्रान्तिकारी पग के साथ और लोगों के मनो में अनेक प्रकार की नई आशाओं जगाने वाले नारों के साथ इस नए पद पर आई हैं। इनकम टैक्स विभाग के अन्दर अनेक प्रकार की धांधलियां हैं। मैं आपका संरक्षण चाहता हूँ। राजनीतिक जीवन के अन्दर शुचिता और प्रामाणिकता लाई जानी चाहिये ताकि आम जनता में भारत की राजनीतिक के प्रति आस्था जगे। आपके कार्यालय के अन्दर मन्त्रियों से सम्बन्धित प्रश्नों के ऊपर अनेक प्रकार के प्रश्न लगाये जाते हैं और सदस्यों के प्रश्नों को रोका जाता है। इस सम्बन्ध में हमें संरक्षण मिलना चाहिये।

मेरे प्रश्न के क भाग में दस वर्ष तक की मन्त्रियों की आय के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी मांगी गई थी। लेकिन इसको तीन वर्ष कर दिया गया