

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : असल में ग्राम इंडिया सर्विसेज के लिए यूनिशन पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन द्वारा परीक्षा ली जाती है, लेकिन क्योंकि फिर भी हमारे यहां सर्विसेज में बहुत जगहें खाली रहती हैं, इसलिए यह सीमित परीक्षा रखी गयी है। हमने सोचा कि इस प्रकार इन जगहों को पूरा किया जाए। होगी तो यह परीक्षा भी यू०पी० ए० सी० द्वारा, लेकिन इसके द्वारा हम उन लोगों को भी, जो भिन्न-भिन्न विभागों में काम करते हैं, मौका देना चाहते हैं ताकि वे बैठ सकें।

Mid-day Meals in Schools

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 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri B. K. Das:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri Daji:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Bhakt Darshan:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to drop the scheme for providing mid-day meals to primary school children in the rural areas during the Third Plan period; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Which are the States that are now providing mid-day meals, and may I know whether the cost is entirely borne by the State Governments or it is shared by the Central Government?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The States which have schemes of free meal distribution are: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Laccadives, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim and West Bengal. I might also inform the hon. Member that we are receiv-

ing some assistance from international organisations like CARE and UNICEF also. Some assistance is available from the Central Government also provided the scheme is included in the State plan.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The hon. Minister just now stated that West Bengal is providing mid-day meals to the children. So far as I know, nowhere in West Bengal this mid-day meal is being provided. May I know what is the source of information of the hon. Minister that West Bengal is providing this mid-day meal?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The State Government has given this information.

Mr. Speaker: If he challenges the information given by the hon. Minister, he need not have asked for that information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that 50 per cent of the expenditure will have to be borne locally and the remaining 50 per cent by the State Government and the Central Government? If that is so, may I know whether the help that will come from international organisations will be over and above that 50 per cent?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Well, Sir, the scheme varies from State to State and there is no uniform basis. As I said, if the State Governments include this scheme in the State plans, then they are eligible for the Central assistance like other schemes.

Shri Daji: Is the Government aware that the scheme is progressing very slowly, and may I know what steps are being taken to see that by the end of the Third Five Year Plan all the children or at least most of the children are covered by this scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: At present nearly 7 lakh children are being provided with mid-day meals and we are hoping that by the end of Five Year Plan nearly 10 million children may be covered. The progress is slow if you look at the number of children who have to be fed. At the same

time, we are most anxious that we do not become completely dependent on foreign assistance. We would like the community also to participate in this programme, and everything that is possible is being done to speed up the programme. But we are most anxious that the community should also participate actively in this whole programme.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the figures that were just now given by the hon. Minister it seems that the scheme is not progressing according to the phased programme. May I know what efforts are being taken to have all the children covered by the scheme by the end of the Third Five Year Plan?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The scheme is progressing according to the phased programme. As I said, our target by the end of the Third Five Year Plan is 10 million children and 7 lakh children are already being provided with mid-day meals. We hope to bring in a larger number of children under the scheme as the Plan progresses. At the same time, as I said, the Government are most anxious that the community should also participate. In this matter, naturally, the progress has to be a little slow.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, मध्याह्न भोजन को जो योजना चलायी जा रही है इस के बारे में यह ग्राम धारणा है कि इसका वास्तविक बोझा संरक्षकों अर्थात् गार्जियन्स पर पड़ेगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारें इसमें कितना हाथ बंटाने जा रही हैं ?

डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली : इसका उत्तर तो मैं दे चुका हूँ।

Shri Tyagi: What is the total amount of expenditure involved for the whole scheme? In the face of the deep indebtedness of the nation how is this scheme justified? When quite a few

thousands of new schools could be opened with this amount, why are we indulging in this kind of luxury of giving food when the children are not starving?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The expenditure on mid-day meals is fully justified. In fact, if we have more funds, we would like to feed more children in the country. The health of the nation depends on the health of our children. Our productivity also depends to a large extent on our future generation. So, Government are anxious to speed up this programme. Our only difficulty is finance. If we have more funds, we would like to extend the scheme. I do not agree with my friend in this respect.

Shri Tyagi: I do not agree with him either. He has not answered my question fully. What is the total amount of expenditure involved in the scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: This matter was gone into by the Renuka Ray Committee. If we have to cover 50 million children, it will cost the Government about Rs. 144 crores during the Third Plan period. It is a phased programme. Though it is an ambitious programme, we have made a very modest beginning. If more resources are made available to us, we propose to extend the scope of the scheme.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: What is the per capita allotment per day? Is it not very low?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: On the one hand, there are friends like Shri Tyagi who say that it is a luxury....

Shri Daji: He is an exception.

Mr. Speaker: The beginnings are always small. We should appreciate that.

Shrimati Sarojini Mahishi: Is it a fact that the scheme of midday meals cannot be implemented properly in the schools on account of the fact that funds that are meant for this particular scheme are not received in due

time but only at the fag end of the year?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: No, Sir.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या प्रोफेसर महालेनोबिस ने यह सुझाव दिया है कि इस योजना को कार्यान्वित करने में सरकार के ३०० करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे जिसको कि बहन करना उसके लिये असम्भव है और इसलिये सरकार को इस स्कीम को छोड़ देना चाहिये ?

डा० का० ला० श्रीमाली : जो नहीं, यह किसी ने नहीं कहा कि स्कीम को छोड़ देना चाहिये ।

Shri Morarka: Is it not a fact that Professor Mahalanobis has expressed on opinion that providing midday meals now would amount to starvation of the children in the future and, therefore, these Rs. 300 crores must be utilized for other purposes and not for providing meals?

Mr. Speaker: That is entering into an argument.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the midday meals cost two annas per child? I want to know whether Government intend increasing the amount because for two annas we cannot get anything except grams.

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered that question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want him to say whether these two annas are sufficient or not.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की तरफ गया है कि इस सारी योजना को कार्यान्वित करने के लिये ३०० करोड़ रुपये चाहिए और प्रोफेसर महालेनोबिस ने जो अपनी राय प्रकट की है और जो कि अखबार में निकली है कि यह प्राथमिकता की चीजे नहीं हैं और इन योजनाओं को अमल में न लाना चाहिये क्या सरकार उनके इस विचार में महमत है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने जो चाहा कहा है ।

Shri Tyagi: Would you please allow a discussion on this question? Because, quite a few members feel that it is extravagant.

Mr. Speaker: If I receive a notice in the proper form, I will consider it.

Shri Tyagi: How long can we tolerate this extravagance?

Mr. Speaker: Then what should I do? If he cannot tolerate it, I will pass on to the next question.

निर्वाचन याचिकाएँ

*३६४. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या विधि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) लोक-सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के गत चुनावों के सिलसिले में दायर की गई कुल निर्वाचन याचिकाओं में से कितनी याचिकाएँ स्वीकार की गईं और कितनी याचिकाओं को रद्द कर दिया गया ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि पंजाब में दायर की गई निर्वाचन याचिकाओं के बारे में आवेदन पत्र मिले थे जिनमें यह प्रार्थना की गई थी कि पंजाब से बाहर के न्यायाधीशों को इन याचिकाओं को सुनने के लिये नियुक्त किया जाय ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किये गये; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने इन याचिकाओं के शीघ्र निबटारे जाने के बारे में कोई आदेश जारी किये हैं ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra): (a) 46 election petitions were presented to the Election Commission in respect of the last general elections for the Lok Sabha. Out of these 4