

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 22, 1964/Vaisakha 2,
1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

University for Hill Areas

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- *1130. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Rishang Keishing:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Committee to study the developments of higher education and also for setting up a new University for the State of Nagaland, NEFA, Manipur and other hill areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether any report has been submitted by this Committee;

(c) the main recommendations thereof and the number of those accepted; and

(d) when the University is likely to be set up?

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission have jointly set up a Committee for the purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether any study has been made with regard to the number of students reading in the colleges and whether this number of students will justify the setting up of a university for that area?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The whole question is being considered. I cannot answer this question till the Committee has reported. Certainly the number of students will be taken into consideration in deciding whether it is suitable to set up a university there or not.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Since Nagaland and the NEFA administration are controlled by the Ministry of External Affairs, I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs has been consulted or whether it is making any contribution for setting up this university?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I could not follow the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether the External Affairs Ministry has been consulted or has contributed towards the decision that is being arrived at.

Shri M. C. Chagla: No decision has been taken. The question of consulting the External Affairs Ministry does not arise. After the report has been made by the Committee, we might have to consult the External Affairs Ministry.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन और शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने जो समिति गठित की है, वह किस की भांग के आधार पर गठित की है और वह किन किन बातों पर विचार करेगी ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: A Committee has been appointed to consider the question of setting up universities in these places.

Mr. Speaker: Who has demanded it?

Shri M. C. Chagla: There has been some demand from the people of these States; the terms of reference are: to study the development of higher education including the question of setting up of a university in the State of Nagaland, NEFA, Manipur and other hill areas of Assam.

Shri Shinkre: Is the Minister aware that there are demands for new universities also on political grounds and, if so, are the Government considering that such demands should not be encouraged? There is a demand from Goa also.

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise here.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We will only set up universities if the progress of education demands it. We would not submit to any political pressure.

Shri Hem Barua: Since universities cease to be universal in the matter of inspiration and aspiration, when they are nomenclatured like this—university for hill areas, Mangloid, Tibetan, Burmese, Aryan, Dravidian University Australasian University and so on—may I know whether the Government have any steps under consideration to ensure the integration in that strategic area, namely, the eastern frontier?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I agree with the hon. Member that the main idea of a university is its universality, and there should be mobility of students. We are doing our best to see that university students are not restricted to the students of a particular region, and that there is more mobility of students and that the universities take up an all-India complexion.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय: सरकार की ओर से जो यूनिवर्सिटी बनाने का विचार हो रहा

है, क्या उस की व्यवस्था केन्द्रीय सरकार के द्वारा होगी या प्रांतीय सरकारों के द्वारा ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Under the law, as my hon. friend knows, education is a State subject and the universities have to be set up by the States. It is only when the university becomes a Central university that it becomes the responsibility of the Union Ministry.

Shri Kapur Singh: I want to know whether the Government have made sure that the pre-requisite—the cultural and educational base—for setting up of a university already exists in this area?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I am sure the Committee will take this factor also into consideration.

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether any representation has been received by the Government about the recent apprehensions of disunity in these areas—Assam, NEFA and Nagaland?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We have received no representation.

Shri N. R. Laskar: May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to say whether this Committee has visited any places or any sites up till now?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir; they have visited Shillong, Aijal, Haffong, Tura, Kohima, Imphal, Jorhat and some other places.

Shri Man Singh P. Patel: In view of the progressive introduction of regional languages at the level of university education, how is the mobility of students from one university to another university likely to be encouraged?

Shri M. C. Chagla: That is why I have been emphasising a link language in India, either English or Hindi. If you make, at some stage, Hindi compulsory in all the universities, that will furnish the basis for the mobility of students.