

Common Board of Higher Secondary Education

*500. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether one Common Board of Higher Secondary Education for all centrally administered areas has been decided upon,

(b) if so, what is the nature of the scheme; and

(c) what steps have been taken to implement the decision?

The Minister for Education (Dr. K.L. Shrimali): (a) No such Board for centrally administered areas is being set up.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the Government had any such suggestions made to them and whether they have considered at least bringing together the Himachal and Delhi Administrations both for efficiency and economy?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: That proposal had been under consideration for some time, but we are not thinking of setting up a common board for higher secondary education. There is a proposal to set up a board which could conduct examinations for not only the Centrally administered areas but for those institutions which would like to get themselves affiliated to this board. We have written to the Director of Education, Delhi, to examine this proposal. At one time there was a proposal to convert the Ajmer Board into the All India Central Board of Secondary Education, but that proposal has been dropped and we are winding up the Ajmer Board.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Ajmer Board has now gone over to Rajasthan and it has merged with Rajasthan but the question is whether you cannot bring together at least Himachal Pradesh and Delhi for both efficiency and economy. What was the nature of the proposal which was made and which has been dropped?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have already explained that there was a proposal that we should set up a Central Board of Secondary Education to conduct all-India higher secondary examination not only for the Centrally administered areas but also for all those institutions in India who would like to get themselves affiliated to the Central Board. Now, there were certain difficulties and we have not yet been able to finalise that proposal. The original proposal was that the Ajmer Board, might be converted into the Central Board, but now we have taken a decision that as far as Ajmer Board is concerned, it should be wound up. It is not true that Ajmer Board is merged into Rajasthan Board as suggested by my hon. friend. Ajmer Board is the responsibility of the Central Government and we have taken a decision to wind it up.

The other proposal to set up a Central Board to conduct examinations for Delhi and other areas is under examination

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the States have been consulted and whether any of the States favour this idea of a Central Board for conducting the examinations?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: We had written to the State Governments also. Generally the proposal has not found favour with them.

Shri Bose: May I know if there is any machinery to see that the standard of education in the higher secondary schools all over India is of the same type?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have not been able to follow the question of the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: Is there any authority to co-ordinate or find out if the same syllabus is adopted all over India and the same standard for higher education is maintained?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: That is neither necessary nor is envisaged by the Government of India. The All-India Council of Secondary Education has

drawn up a general syllabus for the higher secondary schools but we do not expect that each State should follow it without any change or modification. They should change and modify to suit their local conditions. We do not envisage that there will be uniform syllabus all over the country.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The University Grants Commission is there to look after the standard of education at the university level all over the country, but they are seriously handicapped because...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member gives up a preamble. All that is not necessary. A short question may be asked. What is it that he wants?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: How are you going to co-ordinate the question of raising the standard at the higher secondary level with the university level until and unless there is some machinery to do it?

Mr. Speaker: He said that already there is a Council which has provided all the details.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The All India Council of Secondary Education has been set up, but there is difference between the University Grants Commission and the All India Council of Secondary Education. As far as the University Grants Commission is concerned, it is a statutory body and the higher education is the responsibility, to some extent, of the Central Government. The same is not true with regard to secondary education and we are doing our best with the help of All India Council of Secondary Education to raise the standards of secondary education also.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: May I know, Sir, whether Secondary education in Andamans is going to be placed under the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education?

Mr. Speaker: As I said already, these are all suggestions for action. The hon. Minister has already said

that they are contemplating the Central Board to cover not only the Andamans and the Union territories, but other States also.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: There is no other link. They have brought about certain changes.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member must have an opportunity to discuss the matter and make his own suggestions. He is an educationist and is thus much more deeply interested than the hon. Minister. But I am not going to allow this kind of speeches during the Question Hour. Hon. Member can only elicit a fact and not give his opinions or make suggestions for action.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I only want to know what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker: They are doing what they are doing. He said once, twice and thrice as to what he is doing.

Kerala Food Poisoning

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*501. { Sardar Iqbal Singh;
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan;
Shri Damar;
Shri Ram Krishnan;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the Court of Enquiry set up to investigate into the food poisoning cases in the Lok Sahayak Sena Camp in Sasthamkotta;

(b) whether the Court has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 1.]

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know the main recommendation of the Court of Inquiry?