

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Scare Regarding Poisoning of School Children

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11. { Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri T. Sanganna:
Shri Bhakti Darsan:
Shri Khushwaqt Rao:
Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some schools in Delhi were closed by rumours of poisoning of children in the schools;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to counteract the rumours; and

(d) the number of deaths, if any?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). No schools were closed but the attendance in schools dropped on 14th and 16th March, 1959, due to panic caused by rumours that children had been given poisonous injections. The origin of these rumours has not been traced.

Immediate steps were taken by the Delhi Municipal Corporation to counteract the rumours. On the 14th March the Municipal Education Officer went to Shahdara area where the rumours first started and tried to assure the public that there was no foundation whatsoever for these rumours. Later in the day the Health Officer and the Education Officer issued statements to the Press with a view to removing misconception about matter. On the 16th March the following measures also were taken:

- (i) Two loudspeaker vans went round the city reassuring the public that there was no basis whatsoever for panic.

- (ii) Printed leaflets were distributed.

- (iii) A press-note was issued which was carried by the papers of the 16th evening and the morning papers of the 17th March.

- (iv) The information was broadcast by All India Radio in its local announcements on the 16th and 17th March.

The Delhi Administration also posted policemen at all the schools in the affected area to find out the persons who spread such rumours and to reassure the public that the rumours were baseless.

The attendance in schools improved considerably on the 17th and is normal since the 18th March, 1959.

(d) No deaths of school children have been reported so far due to vaccination or inoculation to school children.

Shri S. A. Mehdi: Is it a fact that the rumours were circulated because of certain injections that were given to these children, which are normally given in April, whereas this time the Chief Medical Officer sent his inspectors before time to give these injections?

Shri G. B. Pant: I do not exactly know what really was the motive of the people who circulated these rumours and what were the reasons which impelled them to do so.

श्री बाजपेयी दिल्ली नगर निगम के मेयर ने यह सुझाव रखा है कि सरकार इस प्रकार की अफवाह फैलाने वालों के विरुद्ध कोई कानूनी कार्रवाई करे, कोई नियम बनाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

श्री गो. वं. बल. मैं समझता हूँ कि वह पकड़े जायें तो उनके साथ कार्रवाई होनी चाहिये।

श्री भक्त वरदान मंत्री जी के उत्तर से स्पष्ट है कि इतने दिन बीतने पर भी अभी तक इस बात का पता नहीं लगाया जा सका है कि वह अफवाह कहा से फैली और किन लोगों के द्वारा फैलायी गयी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजधानी का गुप्तचर विभाग क्या करना रहा है और क्या करने वाला है ?

श्री गो० ब० वन्त राजधानी का गुप्तचर विभाग बहुत से कामों को कर सकता है। लेकिन अफवाहों की क्या बुनियाद है इसको पकड़ना बहुत आसान नहीं है। हम सब लोग भी तो सुनते घायल हैं पर किसी को पता नहीं लगा कि किनसे फैलायी है।

Shri Hem Barua. Is it a fact that some people suspected to be involved in this 'poisonous' game were man-handled?

Shri G. B. Pant: I have not heard anything about that, but if they were involved in it and were man-handled, I would not be very sorry

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Infringement of copy right

*1451. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to be State

(a) Whether his attention has been drawn to the observation of Mr. Justice Dhawan of Allahabad High Court that part of a notice issued by the Central Government for alleged infringement of copyright smacked of "a *Nadir Shah* firm" though dressed up as a notice according to law";

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Justice Dhawan also observed that the prosecution was entirely misconceived and should not have been sanctioned; and

(c) whether the matter has been examined?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Bajarnava): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of taking up the matter in appeal is under consideration.

Scholarships

*1456. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the basis on which the Central Government scholarships for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes are awarded?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): Under the Government of India scheme of post-Matric Inland scholarships to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes students, scholarships are awarded to all eligible Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes applicants for pursuing their post-Matriculation studies in recognised institutions in India on a mere pass basis irrespective of the marks or division obtained by them in their last annual examination provided they are promoted to the next higher class and apply on the prescribed form in time

2 Scholarships to the "Other Backward Classes" applicants are awarded for each stage of education on merit within the quota of scholarships allocated to each State/Union Administration on the basis of the population of Other Backward Classes in each State/Union Administration. Within each stage of education scholarships are renewed from year to year on a mere pass basis

Production of Pig Iron

*1460. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) how much saleable pig iron is being produced at Rourkela and at Bhilai separately;

(b) what are the countries from where enquiries have been made for buying this pig iron;

(c) the rates quoted by them; and

(d) whether Government proposes to sell it?