

Shri Tyagi: Some curb should be applied to the expansion of this Board. It is fast becoming an empire in itself, with all the Ministries.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am sorry hon. Members are taking advantage of this occasion and use this Question Hour for stating what they could very well say on other occasions. This inconvenience arises occasionally. Possibly the hon. Minister thought that it could be answered by the Commerce and Industry Ministry and so the question has been assigned to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. They will answer that. After all, we are not rejecting the question. The hon. Minister said it was transferred to the other Ministry and he has explained the position. It has been transferred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and in due course it will come up.

Shri Hem Barua: This information could have been conveyed to us earlier in a correction slip.

Mr. Speaker: I shall try to do that.

Shri Goray: May I know who has provided the finances?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry was responsible for this project, and it was in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that that particular project was operated by the Social Welfare Board.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Ministers will kindly give us information earlier if a question is to be transferred to some other Ministry. We shall take all the necessary steps.

Shri Goray: If the money was advanced by the Education Ministry, how is it that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has to deal with this matter?

Mr. Speaker: It does not matter. Some Ministry is responsible for it.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Sir, I would like to put one simple question. I

want to know whether this match factory is in the private sector or in the public sector.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: All these questions may be better referred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

National Physical Efficiency Drive

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 *1251. { Shri P. G. Deb;
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal;
 Shri Arjun Singh
 Bhadauria;
 Shri P. C. Borooah;

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a national physical efficiency drive;

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

(c) whether it has been launched in the Union Territories?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) The National Physical Efficiency Drive has already been launched.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

On the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Physical Education and Recreation, the Government of India have approved a scheme for launching a National Physical Efficiency Drive on a country-wide scale. The Drive was formally launched in February, 1960.

2. The aim of the Physical Efficiency Drive is to popularise the cult of physical fitness throughout the country and to arouse the enthusiasm of the people for higher standards of physical efficiency and achievement. The Drive is based on precise and carefully graded physical fitness tests. These tests which relate to athletics, indigenous exercises including Yoga Asanas and swimming have been

drawn up separately for Men and Women and for two age groups viz., (1) below 18 years of age and (2) 18 years and above. Thus there are four test categories. These tests are so designed that all people, young and old, whether in urban or rural areas, can take the tests. Each of the four test categories mentioned above has three standards laid down from moderately easy to fairly difficult. The highest standards are the "Three Stars" standards, the next "Two Stars" and the easiest "One Star". Merit Certificates in three categories viz., "One Star", "Two Stars" and "Three Stars" are awarded to such participants as successfully qualify in the prescribed graded Physical Efficiency Tests.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Drive has been launched on a country-wide scale.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know how much amount has been allotted for this scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The total amount sanctioned for this scheme is Rs. 1,20,000.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know whether this national physical efficiency drive is different from the national discipline scheme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Yes, Sir. It is entirely different. I would refer the hon. Member to the pamphlet issued by the Ministry of Education on the national physical efficiency drive. A copy of it will be placed in the Library if it is not already there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In the statement, it is said that there are two age groups: below 18 years of age, and 18 years and above, separately for men and women. I want to know what will be the aegis or the organisation through which this will be carried out for the age group below 18. May I know whether it will be through the colleges and schools or will there be another separate organisation for it?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The idea in starting this scheme is that all persons,

young and old, living in the rural and urban areas should be able to participate in this scheme. Certain tests have been standardised and we hope that there will be continuous effort on the part of the citizens of our country to improve the physical efficiency drive, and this scheme may be instrumental in the realisation of that goal.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My question has not been answered. My question was this. There are two categories: those below 18 and those above 18. For those who are below 18, I want to know which will be the organisation through which this drive will be carried out. Will it be through the educational institutions, the schools and colleges, or through any other special organisation to be set up for that purpose?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: Wherever the educational institutions take up the scheme, they will be welcome to do that. But, as I said, it is not confined merely to educational institutions. There may be some children who are outside the schools and who are below 18 and some inside the schools. The scheme is open to all the citizens of the country, young and old, and we hope that through these centres they will be able to participate in the scheme.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if any time-limit has been fixed for this drive, or, whether it will go on perpetually?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: This is a perpetual process. I hope the physical efficiency will continuously increase and that those who have attained a lower standard will gradually go towards a higher standard.

Shri Tyagi: I want one clarification: whether physical efficiency in schools and colleges is a subject on the central list or on the State list. If it is a subject on the State list, I would like to know how the Centre is financing it.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The hon. Member is aware that though education is

a State subject, except of course higher education and research for which the Central Government have some responsibility, the Government of India, in consultation with the State Governments, have undertaken a number of pilot projects, and we are assisting the State Governments of educational development practically at all stages. The House has generally welcomed this development which has taken place in the country. Without interfering in the work of the State Governments, we have been giving assistance for the development of education—pre-primary education, primary education, higher education and university education.

Shri Tyagi: Then take over education altogether.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know whether funds will be allotted to the States for this work?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: As I said, funds have been allotted.

Shri B. K. Galkwad rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

High Altitude Research Observatory at Gulmarg

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 *1254. { Shrimati Manjula Devi:
 { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 { Shri Hem Barua:
 { Shri A. M. Tariq:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been finally decided to close down the high-altitude research observatory at Gulmarg jointly run by Aligarh and Jammu and Kashmir Universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the method of disposal of the assets of the observatory?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) and (b). In

view of the High Altitude Laboratory proposed to be established at Gulmarg and at Khilanmarg by the Atomic Energy Department, it has been decided by the University Grants Commission that the present High Altitude Laboratory run by the Aligarh Muslim University and the Jammu and Kashmir University be eventually closed down.

(c) The equipment is to be either transferred to the Aligarh Muslim University or made available to the Atomic Energy Department as may be expedient.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: May I know whether the committee appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has recommended to the University Grants Commission that the observatory should be continued?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The committee which the hon. Member is referring to was appointed and they decided to recommend to the University Grants Commission to continue the laboratory till such time as the laboratory of the atomic energy department at Gulmarg started functioning and that the future of the laboratory will be considered on merits. The committee did not take any decision with regard to the closure of the laboratory. The committee suggested that its future will be considered on merits. But later on, the Aligarh University said that they were not interested in the continuance of the laboratory. Therefore, the University Grants Commission took the decision.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know if Government are aware of the fact that instruments worth thousands of dollars were purchased for the laboratory and they were not used at all and they are lying unpacked for the last two years? If so, may I know what action Government has taken against those in charge of the laboratory?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: As far as the equipment is concerned, I am aware that expensive equipment has been