

Free and Compulsory Primary Education

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- *153. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri Pangarkar:
 Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Jhulan Sinha:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 749 on the 9th December, 1959 and state the up-to-date progress made in the introduction of free and compulsory primary education?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The further progress made in the introduction of free and compulsory primary education is as follows:—

(a) The revised draft Model Legislation for Free and Compulsory Education has been finalised and sent to the State Governments for their guidance.

(b) Individual studies of six States where education is comparatively less developed—Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh—and which contain about 70 per cent of the non-attending children have been completed. The studies of other States are in progress.

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement, I find that individual studies of six States where education is comparatively less developed have been completed. May I know when the studies of other States will be completed and which are those States where the studies are going to be completed?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I have already indicated the names of the States where studies of problems have been completed. By and by, studies of other States will also be taken up. I cannot give the exact time by which the studies should be completed.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: In (b) of the statement, I find stated that the revised draft model legislation for free and compulsory education has been finalised and sent to the State Governments for their guidance. May I know how many States are acting on that advice, and whether any legislation has been passed in those States to which the model draft has been sent?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: State Governments are waiting for the finalisation of the Third Plan. As soon as we know how much amount is allotted for elementary education, they would take up the question of introducing necessary legislation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether in some States the scheme to establish the free and compulsory primary education system has been taken up only in Block areas?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, several States have free and compulsory education in limited areas.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know what special steps are being taken in the major States of U.P. and Bihar which are backward in primary education, to accelerate the progress of primary education?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: We have had a discussion with the Ministers of these States which are educationally backward. It is generally felt, and I think we have agreed in principle, that special assistance will have to be given to these States to bring them on par with the other advanced States as far as elementary education is concerned.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether any assessment has been made in different States of the number of children of school-going age who are

eligible for primary education, and the percentage that is at present going to schools?

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

Mr. Speaker: Has any assessment been made of the number of children of school-going age?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, an assessment has been made. It is expected that during the next four or five years, if primary education is made free and compulsory, we will have to bring in about two hundred lakhs children. That is, at present, they are out of the schools.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether any of the six States mentioned in the statement or any of the other States have indicated whether they are going to introduce legislation, draft of which has been sent to them?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The States are all ready to introduce free and compulsory primary education. We are only waiting for the finalisation of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Tangamani: My point is different. Draft legislation has been circulated to the various States. Are any of the States going to have legislation passed on those lines?

Mr. Speaker: He said they are ready. They are only waiting for the finalisation of the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Tyagi: Education being a State subject, I am anxious to know as to how long and how far the Central Government intend to go on spoon-feeding the State Governments to do their job, as, according to the Constitution, it is their liability to start free and compulsory education.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: As far as I have been able to understand, free and

compulsory education is the duty of the State and the Centre. In any case, since this is a constitutional directive, I think, the Central Government will have to give funds to the State Governments for the introduction of free and compulsory education. Without that assistance, I think, we may not have free and compulsory education for the next 50 or 60 years. Therefore, the assistance will have to be given by the Central Government.

Shri Tyagi: It is a constitutional matter. I want to know how far Central funds can go to departments which do not belong to the Centre actually. Have they fixed any limit as to the extent to which they will go to the aid of the State Governments for a job which is the State's job and not the Centre's?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may as well suggest the abolition of the Education Ministry here. Health, Education etc. are State subjects.

Shri Tyagi: There is a tendency for the States to be totally dependent on the Centre.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of policy as to how far the Centre can go to the aid of the State Government etc. The hon. Member will have an opportunity to raise this matter during the various debates that may come up later.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: What is the amount of money which the Planning Commission or the Working Group has suggested to be placed at the disposal of the various State Governments for the implementation of this programme?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The total amount is roundabout Rs. 300 crores—the amount that will be required for introduction of free and compulsory education in the Third Five Year Plan.