

Democratic Decentralisation in Andhra Pradesh

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*1100. { Maharajkumar Vijaya
Anand:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the replies given to supplementary questions on Starred Question No. 1079 on the 24th March, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the discussions with the Central Social Welfare Board, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Planning Commission have been concluded in regard to the democratic decentralisation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether an agreement has been reached; and

(c) the details thereof?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It has been decided to hand over the programmes relating to women and children to Panchayat Samitis.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What was the viewpoint of the Andhra Pradesh Government in this matter? Is it a fact that they have no use for this Social Welfare Board in the State and want to save on the unnecessary expenditure on staff?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: There was disagreement between the Social Welfare Board and the Andhra Pradesh Government. The Social Welfare Board wanted their project implementation committees to work in co-operation with the panchayat samitis, whereas the Andhra Government wanted these committees to work under the panchayat samitis. Since this position was not acceptable to the Central Social Welfare Board, they have decided to hand over the whole programme to the panchayat samitis.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What saving will be effected by handing over this programme to the panchayat

samitis? If there is any saving, why is it that it is not being pursued in all the various States?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: There are not likely to be any great savings. It is at the discretion of the State Governments whether they want the co-operation of the Social Welfare Board or not. The Social Welfare Board cannot ask any State Government to have the Project Implementation Committees as they like. They have to depend on the co-operation of the State Government.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: May I know what is the role of the local voluntary organisations for social welfare in this scheme of decentralisation?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The voluntary organisations have a very important role to play. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is it a fact that the Central Social Welfare Board has on its rolls about 7,000 paid persons and that this work could be carried through these persons—this decentralisation agency? How is it that the Minister says that no savings will be effected?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: As far as my information goes, I do not think there is going to be any savings because the work which was being done by the Project Implementation Committee is going to be continued by the panchayat samitis. They also propose to employ most of the people who were working with the Central Social Welfare Board. Therefore, as far as my information goes, there is not likely to be any saving. But, if the hon. Member has any information, he may send it on to me.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: The work of welfare of women and children in the rural areas is somewhat specialised; and the panchayat samitis, not having had any experience, may not be able to give sufficient guidance and the work may suffer. What safeguards have been proposed against this and who is going to give the necessary guidance to the panchayat samitis for conducting and co-ordinating this work?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: That is the point of view which was placed before the Andhra Government. -But since the Andhra Government had passed this Panchayat Act and democratic decentralisation had taken place, they thought that the whole work should now be entrusted to the panchayat samitis and not to the Central Social Welfare Board. I hope the panchayat samitis will also take care of women and children. I agree with the hon. Member that since they have been neglected in the past for a long time, they do need special attention. Personally, I would have welcomed the Central Social Welfare Board continuing its activities with the Project Implementation Committees. But, since the Andhra Government has taken the decision, nothing can be done about that.

Shri M. S. Murty: May I know whether there is any proposal to divert the funds that are now being spent by the Central Social Welfare Board to these panchayat samitis?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: No, Sir.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I want to know whether these panchayats have planned out their social welfare work regarding women and children or whether they have been advised to set up some sort of committees who will be able to give them more specialised thought and give guidance to the people for this work.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The Andhra Government have proposed to constitute a Standing Committee of panchayat samitis which will replace the Project Implementation Committees. That is all the information that is available with me.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: In view of the hon. Minister's statement that the Central Government do realise the need for safeguards, even if the Central Social Welfare Board does not come into it directly, is it not possible for the Project Implementation Committees to do this work to help the panchayat samitis through the State Social Welfare Boards? Has that

point of view been placed before the Andhra Government?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The hon. Member is making a suggestion; and it will be considered.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: That suggestion has already been made, sometime ago. May I know what steps are being taken to implement that?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: This question had a limited reference; and the hon. Member is asking a much wider question. If she will give notice I will answer that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what is the total amount which the Social Welfare Board was spending in Andhra? May I also know whether that expenditure will be continued there or not?

Mr. Speaker: He has said so. Has the hon. Minister got the break-up of the amount?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I do not have the information as to the amount the Social Welfare Board was contributing. But, I have been assured by the State Government that they have placed a sum of Rs. 40,000 at the disposal of the panchayat samitis for work of welfare of women and children; and they will also place much larger funds from the Budget provisions of the Women Welfare Department. As far as I am aware, there is no lack of funds as far as the panchayat samitis are concerned.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: There is a proposal for a sub-committee for social welfare. I want to know whether local welfare agencies—voluntary organisations—will be entrusted with the work of social welfare in the particular areas because they have special experience in the field?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: This is really a matter for the panchayat samitis and the Andhra Government to consider. I cannot answer that question.

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: There are only a few more minutes left. Some hon. Members have requested that Q. No. 1104 may be answered.

Several Hon. Members: Yes, Sir.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Sir, Q. 1104 is a very important question—double member constituencies. It should be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; Shri Amjad Ali.

Double-Member Constituencies

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*1104. { Shri Amjad Ali;
Shri Kalika Singh;
Shri Dasaratha Deb:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances in the double-member constituencies in States and Parliament in which besides the reserved seat the other seat also was won by a member of Scheduled Castes since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1950;

(b) whether the double-member constituencies have led to evil practices of casteism;

(c) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to do away with them;

(d) whether abolition of Double-Member Constituencies Bill is proposed to be introduced shortly; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): (a) Eighteen.

(b) The Election Commission is not aware of any such evil practice.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The question of abolition of double-member constituencies is still under consideration of Government.

Shri Amjad Ali: In spite of the fact that Government have not been, till now, able to come to a decision, how

could the Paresident be advised by the Ministry to put it in his Presidential Address?

Shri Hajarnavis: The Address of the President merely speaks of the intention of Government to bring this Bill.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Address said that the Bill shall be brought forward in this session—the Budget session.

Shri Hajarnavis: I have got the Address before me. It says:

“My Government intend to introduce a number of legislative proposals both by way of Bills and amendments. Such proposals will include:—”

Therefore, what was given there was a mere intention.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Am I to understand that the President was advised before the Government took a decision on this matter; or there were second thoughts on account of certain difficulties?

Shri Hajarnavis: The matter is being continuously examined. There may be second thoughts; there may be third thoughts.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Before being examined, the President was advised to mention it in the Address.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was the decision taken later on or what?

Shri Hajarnavis: We thought we could introduce the Bill. Then we found that the matter required further consideration which we are now doing.

Shri Amjad Ali: Was it examined after the decision was taken and the President was advised to put it in his Address?

Mr. Speaker: It is not as if there was no decision before the President put it in. But, subsequently, it must have been reviewed. You cannot quarrel with that. (Interruptions). Order, order. One at a time.