

find it difficult to depart from them lest they should give some cause for dissatisfaction to those who have had the benefit of facilities and assistance that has been given to them so far.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether recently the Government of Mysore has changed the list of backward classes and this has created a lot of opposition there?

Shri G. B. Pant: I just said that as a result of the report of the Committee that was appointed, some changes have been made. Whenever changes are made, howsoever desirable and right the changes may be, those who do not derive any benefit or who thereby forfeit some advantage which they may have been enjoying whether rightly or wrongly, do not feel very happy over it.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad rose—

Mr. Speaker: Scheduled Castes are exempted.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: I am not asking about Scheduled Castes. May I know whether the Government are going to consider the backwardness of the backward communities on grounds of educational, economic and social conditions?

Shri G. B. Pant: The whole effort of the Government is directed towards the raising of the standard of life of the common man in the country. At the time when the Government accepted the socialist pattern of society as its goal, it obviously decided to take steps that would tend towards the achievement of that purpose.

Shri Tyagi: In view of the fact that those who are better off amongst the backward classes, being vocal, monopolise a substantial part of the benefits which are offered to the backward classes and the deserving ones remain deprived of them, have such instances come to the notice of the Government?

Shri G. B. Pant: Many things have come to the notice of the Government. That may be one of them.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is done in the Centrally administered areas may be a guide.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know what lead the Central Government has given. It has got its own Centrally administered areas. What has it done? That is the question.

Shri G. B. Pant: So far as the Centrally administered Areas are concerned, they also are following their own lists because we have not yet prescribed any very definite policy. We have been in constant touch with the States in order to find out if any uniform policy could be devised. The Centrally Administered Areas do not count for much so far as this question is concerned.

Educational Facilities for Children of Armed Forces Personnel

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*320. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 293 on the 19th February, 1960 and state:

(a) the further progress made in the finalisation of the contributory scheme for educational facilities for the children of personnel other than officers of the three Services;

(b) if finalised, the details thereof; and

(c) when it is likely to be implemented?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): (a) to (c). The scheme is still under the consideration of the Services Headquarters.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What are the reasons why so much of time has elapsed and such a useful scheme is still under consideration?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): Compared with most other schemes, it may not be an inordinate time. The main difficulty in this matter is that it is not possible to provide either finance or other aspects of education on a uniform basis on account of the different levels in other ranks. The case is not the same as that of officers. Also, the officers' scheme is a contributory scheme and it is not probably worked in the same way as this would have to be. This however is only my guess. I have not seen the report of the Chiefs of Staff yet. The main difficulty is, there are many different categories in other ranks.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know if this question of free travel for a parent and the children is also under the consideration of the Government so that when the officers are transferred so frequently, the schools also may not be changed so frequently. That would perhaps meet this particular problem. May I know whether this question has been taken into consideration?

Shri Krishna Menon: This is a scheme about the education of children irrespective of travel on a contributory basis. That has nothing to do with transfers as such.

Mr. Speaker: What the hon. Member wants to know is, armed forces personnel are being transferred from one place to another. A Bengali may be posted to Madras and once again he may be posted to Punjab. Should the children also run along? What facilities are being given for the education of the children generally so that they may get the benefit and they may not suffer on account of the transfer. Is that the question?

Shri Jaipal Singh: Yes.

Shri Krishna Menon: At present, the education of children is not the responsibility of the Defence Ministry and is not a charge of the services. It is the responsibility of the State Governments. The present schemes

are considered as part of the amenities to be provided for the troops in order to improve the morale and generally improve the level of education in the country. Therefore, it is considered on that basis.

Mr. Speaker: All that he wants to know is whether this aspect of it is being considered by the Defence Minister.

Shri Krishna Menon: No. That would be another question. This is irrespective of transfers. Certain educational facilities have been provided partly because of frequent movement and partly because they want to give better education.

Shri M. R. Krishna: If the education of Army children is not the responsibility of the Central Government how has it become the responsibility of the Central Government as far as the children of the Officer class are concerned?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have not said that it is the responsibility of the Central Government. The officers put up to scheme for which the Government gives a matching grant. That is all. We are trying to evolve a scheme on a similar basis and see what its financial implications are. The initiative must come from the services because, basically this is a voluntary scheme.

Shri Jaipal Singh: The hon. Minister has missed the import of my question. What I was trying to elicit from him was whether in this contributory scheme, as far as the Government is concerned, that particular aspect is being taken into consideration. Whether the response comes from the other half is another matter. Has the Government itself taken the initiative to bring forward this aspect?

Shri Krishna Menon: This matter is, at the present time, in the hands of the Chiefs of Staff.

Mr. Speaker: He is considering it.

Maharajkumar Vijaya Anand: May I know, will the children of civilian employees in the Defence Ministry be

entitled to admission in King George Schools and will they have the same benefits?

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, if there are places—and there should be places. They do not come under the same scheme for the children of the soldiers.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know what concessions are being given to the children of those other than officers in the institutions which are directly under the Defence Ministry like the Sainik School and other feeder institutions?

Shri Krishna Menon: In K.G. Schools, officers' children are given certain concessions, but there is shortage of accommodation and there is greater demand for these schools. This problem is under the consideration of Government and, subject to its financial implications, would be sought to be implemented. The Sainik School is not so much of an aided school. There are scholarships available there, and it is not particularly confined to the children of officers. In the Sainik School, the students, or rather the parents, accept the responsibility that if Government want them to go into the services, they will do so.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know which agency in the Ministry of Defence is considering this scheme, and the personnel of it?

Shri Krishna Menon: The Chiefs of Staff make a recommendation because they are the most immediately concerned. The authority however is in the Government. The Chiefs of Staff have been asked to make a scheme—the initiative has partly come from them—and submit the same to Government for consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the railways have established educational institutions and hostels for the children of their employees? Do Government think on those lines to

give facilities to the children of military personnel who are often transferred from one place to another?

Shri Krishna Menon: The Railway Administration is very much more advanced in the way of social welfare than we are.

Shri Tyagi: The need for a chain of such institutions with hostel facilities arises from the fact that officers are liable to transfer from one corner to another, sometimes in the middle of a school term,

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Tyagi: . . . with the result that the medium of education also changes. Therefore, the scheme of having a chain of schools was considered, so that the armed forces could have such facilities. The officers were prepared to contribute only on condition that the Government would also be prepared to contribute something and give them free land and other facilities.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It seems he is disclosing a secret that he learnt when he was a Minister.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if he puts a question or gives an answer.

Shri Tyagi: My question is this. Is the Minister going to look into this demand of the services, which is an old demand, and give them the assurance that in case they are prepared to come up with their contributions, the Minister will also give funds to them? .

Shri Krishna Menon: I am looking into the question. We can give no assurance. This is a matter of money. The statement made by Shri Tyagi covers two separate problems. One is the general education of all children, and the other is regarding the K.G. schools. The demand for the expansion of both is insistent from the services, from the public and from everybody concerned, and is under close examination.