

sought because the Centre has, ultimately, through the University Grants Commission, to make grants. The University Grants Commission has advised the Ministry that the States should refer the matter to the Ministry who would seek the advice of the Commission.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Since the Government of India gives subsidies to the various universities for their running, is it the policy of the Government that wherever a university is established without the concurrence of the Government of India, they will not grant money for its running?

Mr. Speaker: It is not so. When we want money from some other person, we intimate him. Is that wrong? What would the hon. Member himself advise? Go on starting a number of universities, and ultimately quarrel with the Government for providing funds? I am really surprised.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: This is a very important question involving principles.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member did not get up earlier, he did not catch my eye. What can I do?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is not a question of getting up earlier. A certain observation was made by you in respect of what Shri Braj Raj Singh said. I have a submission to make that it involves a very important question of principle. It impinges upon the autonomy of the States. It is not only that the Commission gives certain assistance to the universities. Even for our primary education we are getting so much grant from the Centre, but it is not that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may take up this question later when occasion arises. The simple point is whether it is proper or improper to ask for that advice. The hon. Member may seek an occasion later.

Biography of General Thimayya

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*529. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 833 on the 29th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Book "Thimayya of India—A Soldier's Life" by Mr. H. Evans from the legal point of view; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rule 21 of the Army Rules *inter alia* prohibits an officer from publishing or causing to be published any matter relating to a political question or on a Service subject. As Gen. Thimayya is not responsible for the publication of the Book, this rule is not applicable.

Under Section 5(1) of the official Secrets Act, 1954 wilful communication of secret information by a person who has obtained it owing to his office under Government is an offence. We are advised that this Section may be applicable to this case. Gen. Thimayya who has been consulted has stated that a number of quotations given by the author are not Gen. Thimayya's own words and that he had told the author nothing that could be a breach of security.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In reply to a previous question the hon. Minister said that the conclusion was irresistible that the matter contained in the book came from Gen. Thimayya. In view of this fact, may I know whether it is an offence or not under the Official Secrets Act, 1954?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have answered that Gen. Thimayya has not denied that he has spoken to this gentleman, but these words are not his, and any construction of the law in this matter would depend upon

facts. At the present moment, Government would be content to let the matter rest where it is.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know whether the Defence Minister is aware of the fact that there is a rule of the Revenue Department of the Finance Ministry that no book, pamphlet or periodical can come to India which shows any territory of India as not being a part of India? So, may I know from the Defence Minister whether they have given any clearance certificate to the customs before allowing this book to enter India?

Shri Krishna Menon: This question is about Gen. Thimayya's responsibility. I do not have the privilege of controlling the other authorities.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member put the same question on a prior occasion, and the same answer was given.

Shri A. M. Tariq: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: It has been included in a cover page or somewhere. The hon. Minister said he was not responsible for it, but some other person. What further has to be done?

Shri A. M. Tariq: That is not my question.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow. This is irrelevant. This does not arise. This relates only to the responsibility of Gen. Thimayya, not responsibility for that map.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is clear from the reply of the hon. Minister that Gen. Thimayya has made the observation that certain portions which appear in the book were not supplied by him. I want to know whether the Government of India could ascertain the portions supplied by Gen. Thimayya and the portion written without his consent, and in regard to the latter portion, what action has been taken against the publisher by Gen. Thimayya or the Government of India?

Shri Krishna Menon: No, I did not say anything of the kind. What Gen.

Thimayya has assured me, and I am prepared to accept, is that these words used by Mr. Evans are not necessarily his words. He has never said he has not spoken to him, or the basic facts may not have been there. But, when you consider the matter under the Official Secrets Act, it is all a question of words, construction, narration and so on. I have given to the House frankly what the position is, and so far as Government are concerned, they are prepared to let the matter rest where it is.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether, after the report given by Gen. Thimayya, the Law Ministry's opinion was sought whether any words contravened section 51 of the Official Secrets Act; if so, what are their findings?

Shri Krishna Menon: I think I have answered that fairly. I have not got the capacity to explain it further. What can I do? I can only repeat what I said.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nath Pal: This is a very important supplementary. You will agree with me when you hear it.

Mr. Speaker: I ought not to have allowed it, but somehow it has crept in again. I receive as many as 10,000 questions in a session.

Shri Nath Pal: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Possibly the hon. Member was not here.

Shri Nath Pal: I was here.

Mr. Speaker: This question has appeared before us thrice, again and again. I am really surprised.

Shri Ragbunath Singh: Our questions have all been rejected, and this question is always allowed. That is the difficulty.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order?

Shri Hem Barua: The hon. Defence Minister says that there are no words of Gen. Thimayya quoted.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Shri Hem Barua: I am coming to it.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard him. Next question, Shri Sharma.

Shri Nath Pai: But you should really allow a supplementary.

Overcrowding in Colleges and Universities

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*530. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 Shri Ramji Verma:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 347 on the 11th August, 1960, and state the further progress made in the proposal to introduce a suitable test for admission to universities with a view to reducing overcrowding in colleges and universities?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The matter is still under the consideration of the University Grants Commission.

Shri D. C. Sharma: This very reply was given on the last occasion, and the same reply is being repeated today. May I know whether any progress, slight or big, has been made in the direction of a solution to this problem?

Dr. Keskar: I have said that the University Grants Commission is considering it. The point of the Commission is that this is a very important matter in which the whole procedure that is at present prevailing will have to be changed, and it should only be changed after very careful consideration.

This was also discussed at the Education Ministers' Conference, and

then all the State Governments were asked for their views; some have given their views, while some have not. All these views have been put before the Commission. The latest position is that the Commission feels that the new national service scheme might also have an influence on this matter, and, therefore, it is better to wait until that scheme itself becomes more concrete, and then they would study it and give their final decision.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the Vice-chancellors of the Indian Universities have also been consulted on the subject, and if so, their reactions to this proposal that there should be a test for admission to universities?

Dr. Keskar: I have not got the views of the Vice-chancellors, but I am sure the commission will ultimately,—if it has not already done so,—consult the Vice-chancellors in such an important scheme as this.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: In view of the importance of the subject, is there any proposal under consideration that this should be entrusted to a committee of experts who should be asked to give their proposals?

Dr. Keskar: That is exactly being done now. A committee has been appointed which is preparing definite proposals, but, as I said, the commission feels that the scheme of national service might impinge on this, and they would like both the things to be considered together.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know the personnel of this committee?

Dr. Keskar: I have not got it here with me. It is a working group of educationists, administrators, defence experts and others.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय को यह पता है कि स्वतन्त्रता के पश्चात् से विश्व-विद्यालयों, महाविद्यालयों, स्कूलों और पाठशालाओं में भीड़ बढ़ती चली जा रही है,