

there is any necessity to issue directives, the Reserve Bank will take the necessary action.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

***2150. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States were being consulted about any taxes or cess to be levied for the purpose of introducing free and compulsory Primary education in the whole of India; and

(b) if so, the nature of the response by the States?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) The attention of the State Governments has been drawn to the proposal of the Planning Commission to levy education cess for certain educational purposes.

(b) It is too early to say how far the States will be able to implement the proposal.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the approximate amount of the cess that is to be levied has been indicated in the circular, and if so, what is that approximate amount?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The cess will be flexible. I do not think we can lay any hard and fast rule, as the conditions differ from State to State.

Shri Kamath: In view of the clear constitutional directive in this regard, to provide for free and compulsory primary education within ten years from the commencement of the Constitution and in view of the fact that two-thirds of that period of ten years has already elapsed, is the Minister in a position to tell the House whether two-thirds of the ground has been traversed and if not, how much ground has been traversed in this respect?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The Government is fully conscious of its responsibility in this matter. By the end of the Second Five Year Plan, I expect 62 per cent of the age group between 8 and 11 will be in the schools. But,

I am afraid considering our limited resources, it may not be possible to fulfil the Constitutional directive. But, Government is making every possible effort. It is with that view that we have written to the State Governments to explore all possible resources to implement this directive of the Constitution. Apart from the Constitutional directive which says that the State shall endeavour..... etc., we feel that the Government has a moral responsibility in this matter.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the names of the States where there is free and compulsory primary education at present and whether this cess will be levied from those States also?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Some States have certain limited areas where free and compulsory education is being tried. But, I do not know of any State which has free and compulsory primary education all over the State. I should like to have notice with regard to this.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether this cess is contemplated in those States also where in a large measure this is now in existence?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: This is a matter for the State Governments to decide. It is not for us to direct.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know whether the Government has prepared any estimate for the expenditure to introduce primary compulsory education throughout the country?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Rough estimates are there.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: What is the amount of the estimate?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Government has appointed various committees. There was the Sargent Committee; then the Kher Committee went into the question thoroughly. The estimates are there.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: I wanted to know the amount.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister desires that the hon. Member should look into those reports.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I now when this circular was sent to the State Governments, and whether any target date was fixed by which time the replies from the State Governments should come?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: We wrote to the State Governments in February 1956. It is a very important matter and the State Governments will naturally take time to consider this question. It is too early to expect a reply from them.

Mr. Speaker: I may suggest to the hon. Deputy Minister that in cases where such matters of importance come up before the House and question is put as to what the estimate is, we have the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan and if the estimated cost of introducing compulsory primary education is known, he may give it to the House. If that is not known, he may ask for notice. There are various reports from time to time over 10 or 15 years. That may not be useful.

Shri Kamath: The Deputy Minister told the House what the position would be like at the end of the Second Five Year Plan period, that is 1961, one year after the ten-year period fixed by the Constitution. I wanted to know how much ground has been traversed up to date, approximately if not accurately.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I cannot say off-hand. I think by the end of the Second Five Year Plan, 62 per cent of the school-going children between the ages 8 and 11 will be in schools. But, I cannot give the figure just now.

STATE BANK OF INDIA

*2151. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General has drawn the attention of Government

towards the absence of any provision for auditing the accounts of the State Bank of India by the Comptroller and Auditor General or by an auditor appointed in consultation with him; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After careful consideration of the matter Government have come to the conclusion that the provisions in the existing law require no change.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: On the recommendation of a Parliamentary Committee, the I.F.C. Act of 1948 was amended in 1952 providing for audit by the Auditor General. In pursuance of a criticism in this house on the Companies Bill, similar provision was incorporated. If that is so, why is there no such provision in the State Bank Act and the Indian Insurance Corporation Bill?

Shri M. C. Shah: This matter was discussed in the Parliament and the Parliament did not make such a provision in the State Bank Act. With regard to the Insurance Corporation Bill also, that would come before the House very soon.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Has the Auditor-General drawn the attention of the Government to the other corporations that are under contemplation in addition to this one, and if so, will the hon. Minister be good enough to place a gist of the remarks for the benefit of this House on the Table of the House?

Shri M. C. Shah: Correspondence between the Government and the Comptroller and Auditor-General is confidential. The Comptroller and Auditor-General had written in August 1955 a demi official letter to the Secretary, Revenue and Expenditure Division of the Finance Ministry with regard to the State Bank Act. Recently, he referred to the non-provision of such a clause in the Insurance Corporation Bill.