

far more favourable than the terms allowed to other countries. Now, if the parties concerned know that all this is going to be under discussion their trade is going to be affected, and so we will not get those terms. That is the position.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I humbly submit that you said thrice "We will pass on to the next question"—We have taken 32 minutes on three questions—and your words should be respected by the House?

Shri Hem Barua: He has wasted two minutes by his interruption.

Post-Matric Scholarships to Backward Classes

- +
- *878. {
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri D. A. Katti:
 Shri B. K. Galkwad: ✓
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Shrimati Minimata:
 Shri Siddiah:
 Shri Chintamani
 Panigrahi:
 Shri Kunhan:
 Shri Sadhu Ram: ✓

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) how the disbursement of scholarships to the post-Matric Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward classes students through State Governments has been made in 1959-60;

(b) whether it is not a fact that students neither received any scholarship nor were informed that they were selected or not selected up to the first week of January, 1960 in some States;

(c) whether the rates of scholarships as mentioned in the Regulations have been adhered to by each State Government; and

(d) whether a statement showing disbursements of scholarships in

different States will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Consequent on the decentralisation of the Scheme of Inland post-Matric scholarships to backward classes with effect from 1959-60, the funds available for the Scheme for 1959-60, have been placed at the disposal of the State Governments/Union Administrations. The scholarships to the students belonging to these classes are being awarded and disbursement made by the State Governments/Union Administrations concerned, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India.

(b) Government of India released the allotment in suitable instalments, from time to time, to enable the States to disburse the scholarships in time. They had also issued clear instructions to the State Governments that scholarships should be disbursed, without avoidable delay. Government of India have no information regarding the type of cases mentioned, but the State Governments are being requested to send full information in this regard which will be placed on the Table of the House on receipt.

(c) All the State Governments/Union Administrations have been requested to pay scholarships at the rates prescribed by the Government of India. The State Governments are being requested to confirm that they have done so and information will be placed on the Table of the House, on receipt.

(d) Upto-date information is available only with the State Governments/Union Administrations and they are being requested to communicate it to the Government of India. It will be laid on the Table, as soon as it is received.

In this connection, I should like to explain to the House that there has been possibly some delay in giving these scholarships by the State Governments. As the House is aware, the scheme was decentralised and, as far as the Central Government is concerned, the funds were placed at the disposal of the State Governments. But, probably they took some time in setting up the proper machinery and so on. So, there has been some delay in giving the scholarship money. It is a regrettable thing and I am very sorry that a large number of students have been inconvenienced. We have sent several reminders to the State Governments to send us full reports. At a later stage, I hope to inform the House about the number of students who have been awarded scholarships. The State Governments have also been advised to approach the Home Ministry if they want any additional funds.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statement, is it necessary to pursue this matter?

Some hon. Members: Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Part (a) of the statement says:

"The scholarships to the students belonging to these classes are being awarded and disbursement made by the State Governments/Union Administrations concerned, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India."

I sent this question in January last. Today it is the 16th March and 31st March is very near. May I know how the Government can say that it is being disbursed? Have they taken any action in the matter?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: The difficulty is that I have not received full reports from the State Governments. We have sent them several reminders, telegrams also, and we have requested them to send us the reports as quickly as possible, and if the House would like, I could read out the statements we have received from the

State Governments. But, that would not satisfy the House, because we must now get the final report from the State Governments to know the actual position. It will take some time before I can place it on the Table. It is not in my hands. The State Governments are now the agencies for distributing the scholarships and we will have to get the reports from the State Governments.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: The hon. Minister has stated that the Government have issued circulars and clear instructions to the State Governments that scholarships should be disbursed without any avoidable delay. May I know the number of circulars, with dates, which were issued to the State Governments?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I could not just now give information about the number of letters we have addressed to the State Governments.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: He could at least mention how many circulars have been issued.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I do not have that information with me.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: He does not know exactly the number and date of the circulars. Does he at least know the month in which the last circular was issued?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I will place the whole information on the Table of the House. As far as funds were concerned, the first instalment of funds was released as early as August 1959. The second instalment was released in October 1959. The last instalment was released in February 1960. So, as far as the Government of India are concerned, we have released all the funds at our disposal and we have written to the State Governments that they might approach the Home Ministry if they want additional funds. If the hon. Members are keen to have the information as to how many times we have sent communications to the State Governments, I will place the

whole information on the Table of the House.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the Government going to do to overcome these two bottlenecks, namely, firstly, with regard to the selection of candidates and, secondly, with regard to the disbursement of these scholarships? Will the Government appoint some committee to resolve these bottlenecks?

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: No committee is necessary. The State Governments are quite competent to handle this matter. Probably this year they did not have the necessary machinery. I hope there will be no difficulty next year.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: In reply to a question as to what was the latest position in regard to the fixation of criteria for the determination of backward classes on the 3rd of this month the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Datar, stated that the matter is still under consideration. When the criteria for determining the backward classes is still under consideration, on what basis are these scholarships for the backward classes being disbursed?

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: The Home Minister had replied to this question and had explained to the House the position with regard to the criteria which the Central Government want to lay down.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The Minister stated that grants have been released in three instalments to the State Governments, the last being in February 1960. Why were they released in three instalments and why was it as late as February 1960? Because, that may be one of the reasons why the State Government found it difficult to disburse the scholarship money.

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: That was not the reason at all. We have told the State Governments how much funds would be available, and we have laid down the policy. There was some

change in the policy at some stage, but, as far as the Government of India is concerned, the delay has not been on account of that. The delay is on account of the delay in the setting up of a suitable machinery by the State Governments on account of certain financial difficulties and adjustments.

Shri Sonawane: May I know whether the rate of scholarships to the eligible students was the same as it was when it was being disbursed by the Centre, or has it been reduced or enhanced?

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: We have given definite instructions to the State Governments that there should be a uniform policy. The rates are fixed by the Central Government.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that some State Governments have not acted according to the direction given by the Ministry of Education and it is only because of this that this difficulty and favouritism have taken place?

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: No, Sir. This is a definite direction. We have placed the funds at the disposal of the State Governments. The State Governments are expected to act accordingly. If the hon. Member has any definite complaint about this matter he will kindly let me know and I will look into the matter.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: The Government is pleased to appoint advisory boards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to give advice on such matters. May I know whether these advisory boards were consulted in this matter as to whether this should be decentralised?

Dr. K. L. Shrivastava: Yes, Sir. The Board was consulted and it advised so.