

है और वही हमको यहां संसद में भेजता है तो फिर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ 18 साल उम्र का नौजवान वोटर क्यों नहीं हो सकता है ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You are making a speech ; not putting a question.

**SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :** Because the Minister has denied it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** May be so, but this is Question Hour.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** गुड़ खायें, गुलगुलों से परहेज । तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार 18 साल की उम्र मानने के लिए तैयार है ?

**SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI :** We have been feeling that several Members of the Treasury Benches have not yet acquired their maturity. Will they be deprived of their franchise ?

**SHRI R. K. AMIN :** Persons in the age-group of 18 to 21 on an average are more literate than the rest of the population. If you include them in the electorate, the total percentage of literacy will increase. In order to increase the total percentage of literacy for the electorate, will you include persons of the age-group of 18 to 21 in the electoral roll ?

**SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM :** Literacy is not the only criterion for entitlement of a vote in this matter. The majority of the voters are illiterate and therefore this question does not arise.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** May I know whether the Government is also seriously thinking about the question whether any upper age limit should be fixed so as to keep away some of our old people from participating in elections ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Very well said. That will be considered.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

### INDIA AS WORLD WEATHER WATCH CENTRE

**SNQ. 9. SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been selected as the Centre of World Weather Watch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) :**

(a) and (b). India has agreed to participate in the World Weather Watch plan drawn up by the World Meteorological Organisation. The plan envisages the establishment of 3 World Meteorological Centres at Washington, Moscow and Melbourne, with Regional Telecommunication Hubs and Regional Meteorological Centres located at important places on the Main Trunk Circuit between Washington and Moscow, and Moscow and Melbourne. India has agreed to the location and manning of a Regional Telecommunication Hub and Regional Meteorological Centre at New Delhi on the Main Trunk Circuit between Moscow and Melbourne. The main objective of the plan is to speed up transmission of meteorological data and to enable participating countries to receive world analysed data, charts etc., which would go a long way to improve the weather forecasting service.

**SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL :** Sir, this is a new type of centre in India. May I know what is the total expenditure to be incurred on that and whether the Government of India will be aided by some other agency or some other tied programmes are connected with it? May I also know whether some foreigners are also working in this centre?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH):** This particular plan may be new but I think this Hon. House knows that the Meteorological Department here is in fact one of the oldest and best established departments in this country. In fact, we are going to celebrate its centenary in four or five years. It is new and in view of the technological developments—rockets, satellites, high speed computers and so on—the whole forecasting and study of the weather of the world has become very much more important. The U.N. Resolution has stressed this. In this particular scheme we are going to spend Rs. 4.29 crores up to 1970-71 and we are going to receive from the World Meteorological Organisation a sum of Rs. 1.63 crores in equipment and spares—very valuable equipment which normally we would not have got. As far as foreigners are concerned, you will be happy to know not only is there not a single foreigner working in our Meteorological Department but 11 of our officers are working throughout the world in Sudan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and in the World Meteorological Office giving our technical experience.

**SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL:** Is it obligatory on the part of India that all the information must be supplied to other countries?

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** Yes, Sir. By becoming a Regional Hub there will be very sophisticated weather study equipments here in Delhi and it will become an Asian Centre for the collection of material and for the dissemination of material to countries in this region.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU:** While the organisation of the World Weather Watch is to be welcomed, I would like to know from the Minister what is being done at present about such a simple thing as artificial rain making? I understand a scheme for about Rs. 50 lakhs was put to the Finance Ministry for providing four aircraft.....

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is about weather study. I am not allowing that.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU:** I want to know whether the Minister can represent to the Finance Ministry that it is most important that this rain-making scheme receives the four aircraft?

**श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से एक हकीकत जानना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि आजकल जो हमारा मौसम विभाग है उस के बारे में पिछले पांच साल का हमारा यही अनुभव रहा है कि जिम दिनके लिए हम अखबार में यह वैदर फोरकास्ट पढ़ते हैं कि आज मौसम साफ रहेगा उस रोज बादल छा जाते हैं और बारिश हो जाती है और जिस रोज के लिए यह उनका फोरकास्ट होता है कि बादल छाये रहेंगे और बारिश होगी उस रोज न बादल होंगे और न बारिश ही होती है। तो यह जो करोड़ों रुपया आगे इस काम पर और यह सैंटर औफ वर्ल्ड वैदर वाच पर खर्च किया जाने वाला है वह भी इसी तरह से बेकार में ही जायगा?

**डा० कर्ण सिंह :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह कहना सत्य नहीं होगा कि हमारा वैदर फोरकास्ट हमेशा गलत ही रहता है बाकी मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि वैदर का फोरकास्ट करना बड़ा कठिन कार्य है और यह वैदर फोरकास्ट के बारे में केवल भारत में शिकायत हो ऐसा नहीं है रूस और अमरीका में भी लोगों को शिकायत है लेकिन चीज यह है :

When I am right no one remembers;

when I am wrong no one forgets."

जब वैदर फोरकास्ट सच होता है तब तो कोई कहता नहीं है और जब कभी वैदर फोरकास्ट गलत निकल जाता है तो सभी लोग उस की शिकायत करते हैं। मेरा विचार है कि इस रीजनल टैलीकम्युनिकेशन हब और रीजनल मेट्रोलिजिकल सैंटर की स्थापना से हम अवश्य लाभान्वित होंगे और हमें आशा

है कि हमें उस से इस फोरकास्ट करने में ऐकुरेसी मिलेगी और यह सब्सि इम्प्रूव करेगी।

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA:** May I know how much expenditure is involved in this scheme and whether any grant will be received from other countries?

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** As I said, the expenditure up to 1970-71 is Rs. 4.29 crores and will get Rs. 1.63 crores in terms of very sophisticated and advanced equipment from the World Meteorological Organisation.

**SHRI HEM BARUA:** Sir, we have a Meteorological Department which gives weather forecasts—of course the forecasts very often go wrong. When that is there and when we are going to have a World Weather Watch in this country, will the Minister tell us that this does not mean duplication of work?

**DR. KARAN SINGH:** On the contrary, the World Weather Watch can only be developed upon the basis of our organisation. I feel proud to say that we are perhaps the only country or one of the two countries in Asia alone with Japan which has got such a well established infra structure of Meteorological Organisation. It is only on that that this will be built. So there is no question of duplication and it will be of great advantage to us.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### SHALLOW TUBEWELL SYSTEM OF IRRIGATION

\*601. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government sought the opinion of the Geological Department about the effect of shallow tubewell system of irrigation on general humidity of soil;

(b) whether it is a fact that shallow tubewell system of irrigation is likely to dry up soil which in turn may defeat the very purpose of irrigation; and

(c) whether Government propose to convene a meeting between the experts of the soil science and Agricultural and Geological Department to ascertain various effects of shallow tubewell system of irrigation?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):** (a) No, Sir. The Geological Survey of India are not concerned with this subject at all.

(b) No, Sir. On the other hand, shallow tubewells schemes are helpful in draining the root-zone soils of excess water.

(c) The position being as above, no further examination of the effects of shallow tubewells is considered necessary at present.

##### STRIKE BY CEMENT WORKERS

\*606. **SHRI HIMATSINGKA:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the offer by the Cement industry to implement the Central Cement Wage Board's recommendations with regard to increase of wages, the cement workers gave notice for one-day token strike on the 28th June, 1968;

(b) if so, what were the main grounds for their strike; and

(c) what steps were taken to avert the strike?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI):** (a) and (b). A letter was received from the Indian National Cement Workers' Federation in May, 1968, expressing dissatisfaction with the recommendations of the 2nd Ce-