

[*Translation*]**Adult Education Centre**

*165. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted for improving the condition of Adult Education Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the Committee, if any; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on these recommendations?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The Central Government has not set up any such Committee.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the gravity of the issue as it is related to the rural regions where 80 percent of the total population live. Under Article 45 of the Constitution, I would like to submit that as per the information available at the moment (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The committee you are referring to has not been even constituted.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: I am seeking the information about that.....

(*Interruptions*)[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All this is not going on record. Please be careful about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that in December last year the then Minister Shri Raj Mangal Pandey had regretted that whatever information about the adult education was being provided to the Central Government was not based on facts. Centres there are not working properly. Some people are misusing the funds. In view of the information which then Minister released to the Press, it is very much essential to constitute a committee in this regard. Will the hon. Minister provide the information to the House as to when the committee will be constituted?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to constitute the committee?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have informed the House about the factual position. Both the allegations that the committee was not constituted and the progress was not evaluated are untrue. The basis of the information provided by the then Minister last year is that wherever the project is being implemented, its progress has been evaluated. Nos separate committee has been constituted for the purpose, but the evaluation has been made. On the basis of that evaluation, the corrective measures have been taken and are being taken and that is the source of information, the then Minister provided to the House.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the utility of the committee will be in the sense that in Uttar Pradesh during the last eight years.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the way of

asking a question. You will have to ask about original question.

SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that eight directors were transferred during the last eight years in Uttar Pradesh due to which adult education programme was adversely affected. Generally those officials who have just one or one and a half years' service before retirement are appointed there. The importance of this programme is not being realised. The hon. Minister must be aware of the prevailing situation in the states in this regard. Government figures show 46 percent literacy in Uttar Pradesh, whereas the actual literacy is just 26 percent in the State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that keeping these factors in view whether an important committee will be constituted to give a proper direction to the adult education programme?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: As I have already informed the House that the evaluation of the programme is being done very carefully by prominent institutions of the country every year. It is true that in several states the progress has not been made as was expected. There are no two opinions about it. I invited the Chief Ministers of the States and their representatives from 16 to 20 of this month and directed them to find out the loopholes in the implementation of National Literacy Mission and also to take measures to overcome them on behalf of the Central Government. You can well understand the importance of the programme from this.

[English]

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that so much emphasis was made on Operation Blackboard and so much of funds were allocated towards education, then why is that adult education is not getting proper treatment?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Operation Blackboard is a different scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister agrees that illiteracy is a national problem. Despite the fact that sincere efforts were made and several centres were opened to provide adult education, the reality is that two third of the total population is illiterate even after 45 years of independence. Women in particular are illiterate. The percentage of literacy among the rural women is just 17. In spite of the fact that sincere efforts are being made and annual evaluation is also being made; the actual situation is very deplorable. Will the Government chalk out a special programme or constitute a committee to take effective measures so that the situation does not deteriorate further?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that I agree with Honourable member that much is left to be done in this direction, yet it would be wrong to hold that nothing has been achieved even after such efforts. Much progress has been made in this direction as is evident from the fact that many districts in different states have been declared fully literate. It is true that progress has not yet been made at a desirable pace taking into account the gravity of situation. The vital question is to find out the ways and means to accelerate the pace of progress and to remove the shortcomings. We would like to discuss and analyse the efforts made in this direction with the honourable Chief Ministers. Since these projects are being run directly by the states so if at any level it is considered desirable, a committee shall also be constituted in this regard.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SHAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Honourable Minister whether an enquiry would be conducted into the accounts of voluntary organisations to which grants have been given and whether all the adult Education Centres are being run for which financial grants have been sanctioned to the voluntary organisations.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attempts made through these adult education centres have not been found enough and satisfactory. Therefore, instead of concentrating on centrebased approach, a mass based approach has proved successful and voluntary organisations have contributed to it in a big way. A conference of all social Welfare organisations was held a fortnight back and it discussed their problems. I would like to inform the hon. member that if it comes to our knowledge that such and such organisation is a fake one, we will definitely take action against it.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: The National Literacy Mission which was started in May, 1988 has since that time somewhat changed its approach; and whereas earlier it had proceeded on a centre-based approach, now we are told that the approach changes to total literacy campaign with area-based, time-bound literacy campaign. Now, I would like to know, with this new approach, how are the already existing adult literacy centres going to be utilised? I also want to know what is the time frame within which this total literacy campaign is supposed to be completed and what is the machinery that is being contemplated for monitoring this total literacy campaign?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: It is a fact that

since this Mission was launched on 5th May 1988, the approach has changed, as the hon. Member has said; and that is why I am saying that this evaluation that is being done every year is only for the purpose of finding out any discrepancy falls in approach or any other thing that may come up. And I would like to inform the hon. Members that since this is a programme in which all the people in the country have got involved, it is one of the heartening aspects; even many Members of Parliament, Legislators are directly involved in the propagation of this programme. And I am quite sure that this mass-based approach will yield results and we hope to achieve our target by the end of this century.

DR. B.G. JAWALI: There have been a lot of complaints by the people that the whole scheme of adult education is more of a fraud than the utility. Is the Government aware of this fact; if so, what action the Government proposes to take?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I don't think we can say that there is a total fraud. If there are misdemeanours, they will be found out and dealt with.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, who is also the leader of the House that just as an adult education programme is being implemented to educate the illiterate people, similarly, whether any programme is proposed to be implemented to impart practical knowledge and character building to the I.A.S. and IPS officers who consider themselves to be super human beings?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This question is disallowed.