

**Accounts Officer in Indian Council of Historical Research**

3799. SHRI DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the period of deputation of the Accounts Officer in the Indian Council of Historical Research has been extended in spite of the fact that he has completed the maximum period of four years of his deputation in the Council and whether there is a move to absorb him in the Council and if so, the reasons thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Accounts Officer is personally obliged to the Director because his unqualified son has been provided with a job in the ICHR by the Director?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No extension beyond 31st January, 1979, on which date the Accounts Officer completed four years of deputation, has been given by the Government. The Chairman, I.C.H.R. has, however, given an extension for a period of three months with effect from 1-2-1979, with a view to considering his absorption in the Council.

(b) The son of the Accounts Officer has been appointed in the Council on an ad-hoc basis. The post will be filled up on regular basis through normal channel after the recruitment rules are finalised.

**Change in School Calendar**

3800. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider to change the decades old school calendar to make it rural

oriented in order to keep peak harvesting season away from annual examinations to suit it to the children of farmers and others depending on agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter with State Governments to bring a uniform calendar throughout the country; and

(c) if so, Government reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). School Education is managed mostly by the State Governments. School calendar including vacations is fixed by the State Governments considering the position in a State. There is no uniform school calendar throughout the country.

In the recent past, State Governments were requested to consider the following recommendations:

(i) Recommendation made by the Working Group on 'Employment of Children' in September, 1976:

'In rural areas, the timings and vacations of the primary and middle schools should be adjusted to suit the requirements of the agricultural cycle so that children can help their parents in their work and can also attend school regularly'.

(ii) Recommendation of the Informal Committee on School Dropouts in November, 1976:

"Vacations should be made to synchronize with the local harvesting seasons."

These recommendations along with other recommendations made by the Committees were circulated among the State Governments for consideration. Eight States and six Union Territories (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Naga-

land, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh Administration, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Pondicherry) have signified their acceptance of the recommendations. The recommendation is under consideration in 5 States and one Union Territory (viz. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, Daman and Diu). Two States and one Union Territory (viz. Haryana, Kerala and Lakshadweep) have not accepted the recommendations because of the following considerations:—

(i) Summer vacations cannot be synchronized with harvesting season in Haryana due to June and July being the extremely hot months in the State. Since the State Government does not have sufficient roofed accommodation, the schools have to be closed during these hot months,

(ii) Harvesting season in the State vary from locality to locality and crop to crop and hence the suggestion is not practicable, and

(iii) There is no harvesting season in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

12.00 hrs.

**RE. STATEMENT ON THE RECENT VISIT OF SHRI KOSYGIN, CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, USSR**

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao):** Sir, on going through today's list of business, I find that it makes no mention of any statement by the External Affairs Minister on the recent visit of Premier Kosygin and the treaties and agreements signed with him. This is most unfortunate. More than that, it is improper. We read from the newspapers on the 14th—five

days ago—that five wide-ranging agreements were signed between the Governments of India and the Soviet Republic. On the 15th, Mr. Kosygin left this country. On the 16th, Mr. Vajpayee, External Affairs Minister, who is otherwise so proper, chose to go to TV and make wide-ranging statements of policy. For instance, he said the Indo-Soviet joint communique was silent on Kampuchea because of the differing attitudes of the two States on this question. He made another wide-ranging statement by referring to his unhappiness at Mr. Kosygin's strong attacks on China from the Indian soil, which has caused some embarrassment. This is unprecedented that on the day next to the leaving of such a high dignitary such statements are being made. I do not want to enter into this. What I am drawing the attention of the Government through you is that it is not fair to Parliament and Members of Parliament that they should be treated with such scant respect. It is not fair that we, Members of Parliament, when the session is going on are given on the next day by leading newspapers a correct or incorrect version of what the Government wants to say. In the morning papers we come to know that the Government wants to say. I would like to draw your attention to the impropriety contained in this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Papers to be laid on the Table

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki):** Sir, the point he raised is a very vital matter. You have passed on to the other subject without making any comment. It is most unprecedented. I want to bring it up and invite the attention of the Prime Minister who is here that the House was taken for granted. Generally when this sort of discussion takes place on a very high international plane, the first forum to which report is to be made is the Parliament. Many days have gone by