

(b) this amount as a percentage of the total expenditure on higher education in India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. D.P. YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

Study Team to U. S. S. R. on Employment to Blind Man

1120. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Study Team was sent to USSR recently by the Government of India to study for better employment of blind man in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the study team;

(c) whether the team has since submitted its report to Government; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made therein and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team consisted of the following :—

1. Shri B. S. Ramdas,
Dy. Secretary, Deptt. of
Social Welfare, New Delhi ... Leader
2. Shri Jagdish Patel,
General-Secretary, Blind
Men's Association,
Ahmedabad ... Member.
3. Shri Edward Jonathan,
Principal, School for the
Blind, Palayamkottai
4. Shri G. Dan,
Honorary Director,
Training Centre for
Teachers of the Blind,
Narendrapur (W. B.)

5. Shri G. L. Nardekar,
General Secretary, National
Association for the Blind
Bombay. ... Member

6. Shri Suresh C. Ahaja,
Executive Officer, National
Association for the Blind,
Bombay.

(c) The leader of the team has submitted a report.

(d) A statement showing the major recommendations made by the leader of the team is attached. An endeavour will be made to implement the various recommendations in the light of available resources.

Statement

Recommendations

In the light of the observations of the Delegation in the Soviet Union, the following recommendations are made :—

1. that every blind person who is able and willing to work should be given employment, where necessary in factories specially for their benefit;
2. that a beginning with the introduction of a social security may be made by granting a small monthly pension of Rs. 20/- to every blind person in the country irrespective of the fact whether he is gainfully employed or not;
3. that suitable legislation should be introduced earmarking one to two per cent vacancies in the public and private sectors for handicapped persons including the blind;
4. that the manufacture of electrical switches and other electrical appliances might be undertaken as a part of the project to expand the workshop/factory of the National Centre for the Blind, Dehra Dun. A projects to this effect may be formulated and the collaboration of the Soviet Union sought on a

- Government to Government basis. Similar factories may also be set up in other parts of the country;
5. The Soviet Government will be willing to consider collaborating with India in projects of this nature;
 6. that the Government should issue instructions to the effect that switches and all other products manufactured by the blind should be purchased by all Government Departments and public sector undertakings from organisations of the blind;
 7. (a) that the manufacture of caps/stoppers of coca cola and other soft drinks, beer, wine, medicine and the like may be made at the National Centre for the Blind, Dehra Dun;

(b) that the possibility of making such other items as tin boxes for boot polish creams; door hinges and bulb holders etc. may also be explored;
 8. that a larger number of workshops for the blind should be established in the country both by Central and State Governments and in the voluntary sector for which liberal assistance should be provided;
 9. that schools and other training establishments for the blind should undertake suitable vocational programmes in order to equip them with skills needed for factory work;
 10. that schools for the blind should give a greater vocational bias to their education. The student should be prepared for the type of job he is likely to take up on the completion of his educational process. This should be consistent with his aptitude and abilities;
 11. that one or two good sanatoria for the blind should be established in the country by the Central Government;
 12. that if necessary, an expert may be sought from the Soviet Union to assist in developing the school for partially sighted children particularly with regard to the equipment and physical arrangements to be provided in such schools;
 13. that the blind in this country should be provided subsidised housing. They should also be exempted from the payment of income tax and given concessions on such transport facilities as are not already provided;
 14. that a good recreation programme should be organised for the blind on a national basis. A few clubs should be set up and summer camps organised regularly at health resorts. Competitions in games, music, braille and other subjects should be organised;
 15. that the National Centre for the Blind should develop a well equipped research unit for developing ways in which industrial processes can be simplified and make safety devices designed to meet the requirements of blind industrial workers;
 16. that the visit of the Indian Delegation to USSR has proved very useful and exchange of such visits in future years will be of great value and should be encouraged. In 1971-72, a Delegation from USSR may be invited to study in depth the services for the blind in India and advise us on the formulation of projects for the rehabilitation of the blind here;
- Similar exchange programmes may also be arranged with other countries.