

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have one suggestion. Just now Shri Vajpayeeji told that sugar has become bitter in taste. So please at least do not create bitterness in the atmosphere of the House...(Interruptions)

Fellowships by the Ambedkar Foundation

362. SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Overseas Fellowships are being given for higher studies by the Ambedkar Foundation,

(b) if so, the details of fellowships given in each subject for Ph.D and Post Doctoral courses during the last three years;

(c) whether conducting of the interviews and declaration of results are being delayed unduly;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to check the same?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) to (e). The scheme of Ambedkar Overseas Fellowships was approved by the Government in January, 1992. Awards for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 have already been given to the selected Scholars. The Ministry is in the process of finalising the awards for the year 1995-96. For the year 1996-97, the advertisement has already been issued and formalities for selection of candidates are underway.

STATEMENT

Subject	Name of Awardees	Course for which Fellowship is given
1	2	3
Year 1992-93		
Economics	S/Sh. Atul Mishra	Ph.D
	Vivek Suneja	Ph.D
International Relations (IR)	Rahul Mukherji	Ph.D
Sociology	Ranjit Nayak	Ph.D
Year 1993-94		
Economics	Ms. G. Radhika	Ph.D
International Relations	Kamal Sadiq	Ph.D
Sociology	K.P. Singh	Ph.D

1	2	3
Law and Constitutional Studies	Ms. Anu Grover	PG
Year 1994-95		
Economics	J.D. Rathod	Ph.D
International Relations	Rajendra Parihar	Post Doctoral
Sociology	Ms. Saliha Bava	Ph.D
	P. Umesh Chandra	Ph.D

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Ambedkar foundation have been established and the fellowships which are to be given through it are meant for Doctorate and Post-doctorate level studies as it envisages. Reply given to the question suggests that 11 fellowships were given, out of which only one is given to post doctorate scholar while 10 are meant for doctorate level. It does not contain the complete answer to my question. I had also asked whether there was an excessive delay in declaring the results and what steps were being taken to eliminate delay this. In the reply it is mentioned that results of 1995-96 are not yet declared. December is coming to its end there is delay somewhere. I would like to know from Hon. Minister whether there is single committee for awarding scholarships to the scholars doing doctorate and post doctorate studies and whether the selection is made on the basis of single criteria. A distinction must be made between Doctorate and post doctorate scholars and fellowships must be given to them separately. As I said, only 10 scholarships are given to the doctorate level and only one is given at the post doctorate level. Whether these are being mixed together instead of being kept separate? Government's attention was drawn to the irregularities committed in this matter. What action has been taken in this regard?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, we have awarded 12 scholarships, you can count them. The subjects in which we gave scholarships are Law, Economics, Sociology and International Relations. These are given for Master degree, post doctorate and Ph.D.

Hon. member has two Complaints. First why the delay took place and second, whether single criteria is followed. I would like to clarify that qualification is same but for the delay which took place in 1995-96, there are so many reasons. We will complete this is the current financial year and after making the selection we will send it. Complaint of irregularities have been received. We have considered it seriously. No complaints of such serious irregularities have been received which could under mine the very objective of starting these scholarships.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as it has been said now, the objective of

setting up this foundation is to establish a linkage between the Ph.D. and post doctorate level studies and thoughts of Ambedkarji. Whether it is not true that this institution has not published any book or brought out any publications or research paper and this foundation is confined to organising Ambedkar day only. Whether it is also true that right from the day this Government came to power, Ambedkarji's name is quoted every frequently but the post of Director is lying vacant since the day the Government came in power and the entire foundation is being seen by only one clerk?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Respected sister, that post has been filled up.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : When it was filled up?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Just four or five days ago.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : It was filled after I sent my question. It is vacant from the day this Government came in power. It is true. You quote the name of Ambedkarji every now and then and you are running his foundation in this manner!

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Thank you very much. It was filled up at your instance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, now it has been done.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Stop taking the name of Ambedkarji.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Respected sister you are right in your saying but you are going beyond the limits. As far first objectionable comment is concerned, we are not here just for chanting the name...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Then tell me what arrangements are made?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I am speaking about that only. Many Universities have established Dr. Ambedkar chairs, it was the third issue. The Fourth issue was about Ambedkar overseas fellowships, which are being given which I have told in your presence.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Irregularities, are being committed while awarding these scholarships.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The third point was about Dr. Ambedkar National awards, there are also being given by us. Sixth point was regarding Awards for International social changes, there are also being given. Seventh point was with regard to Publication of collective works of

[English]

Baba Sahib in Hindi and in other languages.

[Translation]

I will release Bangla version after the session is over.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Alright. You will do it now.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : No. it is already published where I am at fault, I will accept it willingly and where I am not at faults I will request you to accept it. Now it has been published in Punjabi also and I will go to Chandigarh and release it. The work on a feature film on Baba Saheb Ambedkar is held up and for that you can criticise me.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Deputy Speaker, Sir, it means that not a single work is done.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : You may held me responsible for feature film. In this regard I want to tell through you that I have asked the Maharashtra Govt. to deposit its shares by the 30th April and we will also contribute our share by the 30th April which is the last date. Show should be organised on 14th April, otherwise film will be ready by 30th April. Only minor work remains to be done. Paswan ji had raised the matter regarding his memones with 26 Alipur Road in a Dalit rally. A note is being sent to the cabinet with regard to the announcement made by the Prime Minister in Dalit rally on 21st November, in this regard. Nothing remains to be done on my part.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : What happened to the feature film which was to be made on Baba Saheb Ambedkar? Ram Vilas Paswan ji was telling in a very assertive manner that a feature film will be made on Baba Saheb Ambedkar but till now it is not ready.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already explained. He has answered to that.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Three years have elapsed since then but the film is not completed?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The work on the film began only after the announcement of Paswanji...*(Interruptions)* Joshiji, listen. There were hinderances and you can witness the film on 1st May instead of 30th April.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Tell us where were the hinderances?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Hindrances came during the course of film making and there is no need to explain them.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is indeed a very good step to start Ambedkar fellowship and if we fulfill our targets as per our objectives then it will definitely be an achievement of its own kind. I want to congratulate you for the new Ambedkar fellowship but I want to know what will be the selection criteria for the fellowship and what facilities will be extended to the students who will be selected

for this fellowship. The total number of seats fixed for selection every year and the total number of Scheduled Castes students selected for this fellowship. Through you, I want to know whether you will earmark seats for them?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has told so many things in such a haste that I could not note down them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please answer to those points which you have understood.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will do my best to answer each and every question. You have asked about the qualifications. For Master's course B.A. first class is required for research course, i.e. Doctorate, Master Degree with first class with experience in research and teaching is required. After that they will go for M.Phil. Those who have done Doctorate and wish to undertake post Doctorate Research must possess experience. So far as your query regarding the number of SCs inducted is concerned, I may tell you that twelve intelligent students have been selected, out of them five are scheduled castes, one from O.B.C. and remaining six are students of General category. You have asked about the procedure and in that regard, I have to say that proper advertisement is given and applications are invited. Thereafter a committee which is constituted outside the Ministry, selects them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has answered to the points which he understood.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Minister should also be awarded fellowship for giving a good answer.

DR. BALIRAM : What are the names of those five students who have been awarded Scholarships for going abroad? My second question is...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one supplementary question is permitted.

DR. BALIRAM : Last Year nine students were given sanction for going abroad. Whether the Minister will tell that these nine students will be sent abroad this year or not and out of them how many will be from scheduled castes communities? A film is being made on Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Rs. 6 Crore were given for that three years ago but that film is not shown so far. By when it will be released?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The name of the students belonging to scheduled castes have been asked but their names have not been segregated from the list I have with me at present. I will tell their names later on.

DR. BALIRAM : The House is being misled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have asked the question. Now listen the answer.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I would be misleading the House. I failed in telling their names. I

will tell their names later on. So far as the going abroad of nine students is concerned, they will be able to go abroad only if they clear their admission tests etc. We allow them three years of time in case they failed to clear admission tests. When the students are selected, they have to go abroad within three years. But many of them do not go. So, I want to inform the House that I have decided today itself to decrease the waiting period from three years to two years so that others should also get an opportunity. So far as the matter regarding the film costing six crores of rupees is concerned, I may tell you that this money was given by Shri Paswanji. Later on it was delayed a bit. Now it will be ready by 1997...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Where from Paswanji arranged this money. The Income Tax people will conduct a raid on him if he does not disclose the source of this huge amount.

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Right now the Minister was talking about a film to be made on Baba Saheb Ambedkar. I want to ask you that two years ago, a Scheduled caste lady, Dr. Padmawati from Andhra Pradesh had taken loan from the Bank and made a film on Ambedkar. Whether your department are ready to purchase this film.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will think over it.

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : What the Minister is telling?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has total that I will think over it.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation is making so many new schemes. I want to ask whether Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had embraced Buddhism in Nagpur and work is going on in Nagpur city on a large level. They are studying the views of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar on a large scale. Whether any such proposal has been received in your department from the Govt. of Maharashtra. These studies are being done there for the last 10-15 years. I want to know whether you want to help this foundation after considering their proposal? Maharashtra Govt. has sent all these things to you and they are already doing this work from the last ten years.

To enable them to do the proposed work in a better way will your department help them?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, I was shocked when an obedient Minister like me was told that I was misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He did not say so. You have already answered this allegation...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Whoever said so...*(Interruptions)* Sir, names have been received now. First, Shri Ranjit Nayak, for Ph.D...*(Interruptions)* First let me speak. Let me tell first as I also want to

speak. First, Shri Ranjit Nayak, Cambridge University. Second, Shri K.P. Singh, for Ph. D. sent to Merryland. Third, Shri G.D. Rathore, he has accepted the offer, but has yet to go. Next, Shri Rajindra Parihar, for post doctorate. He has accepted the offer and has yet to go. Shri P. Umesh Chandra, SC. going for Ph.D. This is the first thing and now there is no question of misleading.

Sir, next thing is that Shri Sharad Pawar had met me. He has also raised the same issue which you raised. I asked him to send the proposal through state Govt. for no assistance can be extended without the approval of the state Govt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : It has come from the Maharashtra Govt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I will verify it. I think that has not reached us but they say it has come if it has come then we will look into it sympathetically...*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have not mislead, instead you have acted as a beacon light.

[English]

Grant of Dual Citizenship

*365. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received numerous representations from the NRIs for the grant of dual citizenship; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

SHRI MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Question of grant of dual citizenship has been considered but it could not be accepted as the concept is not consistent with the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1955.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, granting dual citizenship to the NRIs is not only in their interest but it is in the interest of the nation also, especially in the liberalisation regime; and that the Government has considered this question, means that the Government find that it is useful to the nation.

But as the Minister has already pointed out, there are legal hurdles. So this Constitutional hurdle and the Citizenship Act, 1955 are only standing in the way. In view of that, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider amending these Acts thereby getting rid of the legal hurdles and then consider the question of accepting the proposal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, any Act can always be amended. That is a different matter. As far as the Citizenship Act is concerned, at present, Section 9 lays

down that if any person voluntarily accepts or acquires the citizenship of another country, i.e. if any Indian voluntarily acquires the citizenship of any country, then he ceases to be an Indian citizen and he has to give up his Indian citizenship in that case.

Secondly, of course, he, the NRI concerned, has to be a person of Indian origin. That is obvious. Indian origin has also got a specific definition which I think is quite liberal.

Thirdly, it is true that if dual citizenship is given, then the people who get this dual citizenship will certainly get certain advantages and benefits which they are not having otherwise. I do not deny that. It is very advantageous for them. For their coming and going for their business purposes; for the education of their children and so on, they will certainly be able to derive quite a number of benefits. But there is another side to this question which we also have to consider and these matters are also being studied carefully. If a person gets dual citizenship and he remains as a national citizenship of another country also, will he have the right to exercise all political rights in this country? We have to examine this question. If he is an Indian citizen and also a citizen of a foreign country, he can be elected to any post here. He can become a President of the country or Vice-President of the country or something. He can enter these sensitive areas like the security forces, the police, the Army and everything.

Regarding remaining a citizenship of another country also, I am not saying that these are things which cannot be dealt with but the matter has to be studied more carefully. I do not consider the present position regarding dual citizenship. This has been going on for years ever since the Constitution was adopted. It has never been agreed that dual citizenship should be given. I do not myself wish to such a rigid stand because the Constitution was adopted many years ago. Things are changing. I think there are many aspects of this question which deserve to get a second look and I would like if some Committee also, maybe, the Standing Committee or any other Committee should go into this matter in greater detail and discuss this question and come up with their recommendations in the light of the prevailing situation. So it is an open question. I am not closing it. I am not closing it, but neither can I give a commitment here just now that dual citizenship will be agreed to.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am happy that he has agreed for setting up a Committee to look into this matter in great detail.

My second supplementary is that a lot of Indians are working abroad as NRIs. There have been a number of representations to give them the right to exercise their votes during the time of General Elections. I mean it is to facilitate their voting, to give some provisions so that they can vote also. Those representations are with the Ministry. I would like to know from the hon. Minister