

16.34 hrs

**Statement by Minister Modifications to the National Policy on Education, 1986**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, With your permission I would like to make a statement about which I have an assurance in the House during the discussion on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) was adopted by Parliament on May 1986. A committee was set up under the chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurti in May 1990 to re-view NPE and to and make recommendations for its modifications. That Committee submitted its report in December 1990. At the request of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) a committee was set up in July 1991 under the chairmanship of Shri N. Jajardhana Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, to consider modifications in NPE taking into consideration the report of the Ramamurti Committee and other relevant developments having a bearing on the Policy, and to make recommendations regarding mediations to made in the NPE. This committee submitted its report in January 1992. The report of the Committee was considered by the CABE in its meeting held on 5-6 May, 1992. While broadly endorsing the NPE, CABE has recommended a few changes in the Policy.

The NPE has stood the test of time. Based on an indepth review of the whole gamut of educational situation and formulated on the basis of a national consensus, it enuciated a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. That framework framework continues to be relevance. However, the development during the last few years and expreicne in the implementation of the Policy have necessitated certain modifications. The modifications required have been specified in the paper "National Policy on Education ,

1986- Revised Policy Formulations" \*laid on the Table of the House . I also lay on the Table of the House the report of the CABE Committee on Policy.

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16.35 hrs

- (I) **Need to provide more funds to the Government of Kerala for the development sports in the State.**

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMES (Eranakulam): Kerala is a small strip of land guarded by rearing Arbaïn Sea on the West and hilly western ghats on the East and a green coverage given by the coconut gardens and paddy fields. Rivers and blackwaters flowing through the length and breadth of Kerala can be developed for water sports. The sanke boat races at Alleppey, Aranmula and Cochin, the Pooram festival at Trichur with hundreds of Defcordated elephants, temple festivals, Kathakali, Mohniyattam, Kalaripayattu, Chavittunatakam and other cultural arts are the special festers of this tiny land. The wild sanctuary at Thekkadi, the hill resorts at Panmudi and Mannar, Sea beaches form Kovalam to Beckal in Calicut, make Kerala atourist Paradise, Idli, Dosa, Payasam etc., are the delicious duches of Kerala. Cochin backwaters can be developed for water sports. I request the Government of India to extend Maximum help and provide more funds for the development of Sports in Kerala.

- (II) **Need to classify Kurvikarans of Tamil Nadu as Scheduled Tribe**

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): "Narikuravars" are a class of poeple who love in sub-human conditions in Tamil Nadu . They are called 'Kuruvikarans' in the districts of Madras, Chengleput and North Arcot. They are called 'Rattians' in Kaanyakumari district. They are called 'Narikuravars' in Salem, North Arcot and

Trichy districts. In the Kutch distinct to the State of Gujarat they are called 'Vagarles' or 'Vagrivals'. Their language is called vagriboli. Their population in the State of Tamil Nadu is estimated at 5 lakhs.

They are socially deprived and economically impoverished. They are illiterate, half naked and semi starved. They live under roadside trees, under bridges and on pavements. They are alienated from modern civilisation.

This class of people is classified as depressed backward class. The same class of people who live in the Kutch distinct Gujarat in the name of 'Vagris,' are notified as Scheduled Tribe and listed at item 27 of the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Gujarati word 'vagri' is equivalent to 'Bird' or 'Bird chatters' in English language and Kurvikarans in Tamil language. Hence it is evident that Kurvikarans or 'Narikuravas' of Tamil Nadu are of the same class of people called 'vagri' in Gujarat. While Bagris of Gujarat are classified as Scheduled Tribes, why not the 'Vagris' of Tamil Nadu?

Hence, I request the Central Government for classification of Kurvikarans of Narikuravas of Tamil Nadu as Scheduled Tribes for all purposes. Further, I urge upon the Central Government to bring these people into the mainstream of civilization and settled life with human development and dignity.

- (iii) **Need to construct an over-bridge at Shikohabad railway crossing, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATYHERIA (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the railway crossing on the National High Way in Shikohabad Legislative Assembly constituency of Firozabad parliamentary Constituency remains closed for several hours daily. Several trains pass over this railway line. Due to the closure of the gate the traffic is jammed for several hours on this way. Because of this much time of the people of this area and those who are settling to

and for is waste. If a patient who is seriously ill is to be admitted in a hospital, and the railway crossing is closed, the patient will breathe his last without medical care due to the closure of the crossing. Several such incidents have already occurred there and still continue to occur.

So keeping in view the demand of the people of Firozabad constitute I urge the Union Government that an over-bridge should be constructed at Shikohabad to solve this problem.

- (iv) **Need to introduce direct Super Fast Railway Trains from Agra to Allahabad, Varanasi and Bombay.**

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Sir, Agra is an international tourist Centre. More than 50 lakh tourists from the country and abroad visit Agra to see the heritage of the world, the historical buildings and places. On the one hand there is Taj Mahal, Agra Fort Sikandra, Itma-ud-daula and Fatehpur Sikri, monuments of the Mughal period which form the matchless heritage of love and architecture, on the other hand Bateswar and Runkata have been the places of meditation for the Saints. The Radhawami Sect has also originated from Agra.

It is also an important trade Centre as it is located in a corner of U.P. and is in close proximity to Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Traders from the country and abroad come to Agra in large numbers.

There are no sufficient direct Super Fast trains from Agra to the metropolitan cities like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and to the religious places like Allahabad, Varanasi and other important cities. At present the Toofan Express, which runs from Delhi to Allahabad via Agra is also not convenient. Due to this the tourists and other passengers traveling on this route are facing great inconvenience. Same is the case with the passenger train from Delhi to Bombay via Agra.

So I demand from the Union