

view of the prevailing situation. Otherwise, it will put a very bad effect on our political system. The situation at the time of independence was quite different from the situation prevailing today. Before independence there was a generation which was fully devoted to national cause. They were ready to make every sacrifice for the country. But the new generation did not see the hardships of pre-independence era. They were born in independent India. They saw a developing India. They think that the India of today has not undergone any changes from what it was earlier. A number of people among us mislead them. Regionalism is being encouraged at various places. It is exercising overbearing influence everywhere. It is mainly attributed to discontentment among youths, which has been created due to many factors such as non-availability of employment etc. Discontentment has spread everywhere among the youth. All these people are joining the regional parties which raise some sort of anti national slogans. Through you, I request then hon. Minister of Home Affairs to ban all such regional parties which are fully based on regionalism. which have parochial views which have no economic policies behind them, which have no political philosophy and which spread the feelings of regionalism. Formation of all such political parties should be banned immediately.

A lot of things have been said about the institution of Governor in this House. We know that the institution of Governor has discharged its duties in a most responsible manner when any constitutional crisis arose in a State. This institution has proved very helpful in preserving democracy in our country to a great extent. It will be treated as politically motivated if any allegation is made or any aspersion is cast against this institution. It is not wise on the part of anyone who raises hue and cry on the decisions of the Governor taken for maintaining law and order in a particular State. It is not necessary that the Governor should always agree to the views of the ruling party in the State. Because, every political party takes decisions keeping in view its political interest. A tendency of making allegations and casting aspersions against this institution has been on the increase in our country. This tendency needs to be checked.

I would like to request the opposition parties to think deeply on this subject.

18.00 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Railway Schools

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : I want to raise half-an-hour discussion in relation to the reply of the hon. Minister for Railways to my Question No. 3429 on 17.3.88. I do not want to embarrass the Government in this regard nor do I pinprick the Government. I want to bring to the notice certain obligations lying with the Government regarding the education of the sons and daughters of Indian railway men. The Minister has dodged the answer. He has stated that there are 51 High, 34 Higher Secondary Schools, 7 Intermediate Colleges and 1 Degree college run by the Railways. My question was : what is the curriculum that is followed by these railway schools and colleges ? Is it not a fact that they follow the curriculum of the Directorate of Education of various States in which the schools and colleges are located ? In the matter of appointing teachers, their standard, their numbers, do they not follow the standards set by the Board of Secondary Education and Board of Higher Secondary Education of various States ? But the Minister did not answer it properly. It has been stated that the pattern prescribed by Department of Education for Centrally Administered Schools is adopted for Railway School Teachers, with regard to qualifications and pay scales.

So my first question is : Of the schools and colleges mentioned in the reply, how many are affiliated to WBSE and how many are affiliated to Board of Secondary Education and Board of Higher Secondary Education of various States ? I am from a railway colony—Kharagpur—which is the biggest railway colony in India. I am a student from a railway school, BNR Indian Railway High School. All throughout my life I have seen that these schools have been following the curriculum of the State Government. Even the standard of education is

[Shri Narayan Choubey]

of the State Government. The number of teachers to be appointed are according to the State Government formula. But in these days of economy drive, you are not appointing adequate number of teachers. What is happening? You know that when the officers of the railway school department apply to the Directorate of Secondary Education for seeking affiliation for getting recognition of the schools, while they make an application, they categorically assert that they would be following the curriculum, the standard of teachers, the yardstick of teachers as accepted by the Board of Secondary Education of the State. Suppose a man is transferred from Bengal to Bihar, then he will be following the curriculum of Bihar. If he is transferred to Bengal, then he will be following the curriculum of Bengal...*(Interruptions)***

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not record anything.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Ignorance is ignorance. I am also ignorant of many things, but not of this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHAIRMAN : Mr. Choubey, go on now. Go on please.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, the schools are visited by the School Inspectors of the States. Inspection of the schools is done by the Inspectors of the State Government. Recently, the Inspector of Schools, Midnapore district, visited the Railway Schools in Kharagpur and he pointed out that there are not adequate teachers there. He recommended to the Railways that the teachers should be appointed. I cite an example from my own experience. Railways have given me a reply that they follow their own standard. The Railways have a standard to run the railways. How can the Railways have a standard to run the schools? The Railways either follow the State Government's standard or they follow the standard of the Central Board of Education. Either of these two standards they follow. Again I want to stress that because in the name of the

economy drive they want to appoint less number of teachers, that is why they are doing this thing. My appeal to the Government and to the Minister is that although they have stopped the recruitment of many clerks, many artisans, but at least for imparting education to the sons and daughters of the railwaymen, let them not bring the economy drive and let them appoint the adequate number of teachers. In Kharagpur Railway High School, there is no teacher who had a subject like Geography while he was in B.A. or in M.A. There is no teacher at present who has passed with Biology; but he is supposed to teach Biology. I want to know whether the officers of the Railway Board or the Railway Minister allow their sons and grandsons and daughters and grand-daughters to be taught in such schools. For them there is the Doon School, for them there is a school in Kursiang, for them there is a school in Kalimpong, for them there is a school in Dehradun, but for the railwaymen...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't interrupt.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : So, Sir, my question is straight. When the Railways are following the curriculum of the State Government, are they going to appoint the teachers as per the yardstick defined by the Directorate of Education of the State Governments; since the schools are in various States? This is my question. If they do it, heavens won't fall. If they do it, crores of rupees won't be spent. If they send one officer to London and Japan and U.K. for buying locos or rakes, they spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees. In the name of modernisation, they are doing many things which are not required for the Railways, but at least for imparting education to the sons and daughters of the poor railwaymen, let them have this thing done. I want to cite one case of Adra from where Camrade Basudeb Acharia has come. In such a big colony, where at least thirty thousand railwaymen are living, there is only one primary school, and that primary school is located at a place where young kids have to go three-four kilometres to attend the school. At the instance of Shri Basudeb Acharia, a new school building

** Not recorded.

has been constructed but it is half-built and is not being completed. Now they say that that building is not for the school. Sometimes the Government says Education is a State subject. Yes, Education is a State subject, but the Government have been running the schools and they are bound to run the schools. In Jamalpur, in Kharagpur, in Adra, in Bilaspur. and in Chakradharpur, there are Railway schools. So, I enjoin upon the Railway Minister to do appoint sufficient teachers in Railway schools as per the yardsticks of the State Governments. This is number one. No. 2 is this. I am glad that we have 7 Intermediate colleges and one Degree college. But the biggest railway colony in India is...

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduar) : What is the medium of instruction ? Why don't you tell this ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Medium of instruction is their own language. Don't worry.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : From State to State ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : From State to State it differs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please Don't disturb. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : You have colleges, but we have been urging on the Government to have a college at Kharagpur, the biggest railway colony in India where more than 30,000 to 40,000 railwaymen live and the number of railwaymen and the members of their families is more than two lakhs. You have a college at Kharagpur. We have suggested that even without making a new building; if you start with a night college at Kharagpur, that can be even with Commerce or Arts, if not Science. I would request the Minister to kindly give replies to these questions of mine so that we can be assured that the Government will be serious regarding the education of the sons and daughters of railwaymen, as the Minister is quite serious regarding the education of the sons and daughters or grandsons and grand daughters of his own.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, because I have been called 'ignorant', I should be

allowed to express my 'ignorance'.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I don't allow. The hon. Minister may reply to Mr. Choubey.

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the learned hon. Member through his brief statement about railway schools wanted me to answer several questions. One question was asked as to whether all Railway schools are affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education. It is not so. Except five schools which are situated in Bilaspur, Bhusawal, Jharpani, Gorakhpur and Itarsi, remaining other schools, whether they are in Bihar, West Bengal Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, are governed by the syllabi of respective State Governments.

As regards his 2nd question about the courses of study, I would like to state that all of our schools are being run on the pattern of the State Governments and since people of different States go on transfer, the courses of study and other curriculum procribed by the respective State Governments are followed.

His third question was about the appointment of teachers. He said that the Government is observing economy drive in the matter of making appointment of teachers. Through you, I would like to inform the learned hon. Member, Shri Choubey that some norms are followed in this regard. The question of maintaining unity and uniformity in Railway schools is raised. In order to bring uniformity in all the schools managed by the Railways, 29 periods have been prescribed for teaching in a week. Different State Government have prescribed different norms with regard to number of periods to be taught in a week. For example, in West Bengal it is 25 periods in a week. On the basis of our norm, 73 teachers are required for Higher secondary school, Kharagpur, whereas on the basis of their norm, 90 teachers are required. Thus we fall short of 17 teachers. If we take this as the basis we can see that different standards exist in

[Shri Mahabir Prasad]

Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. We cannot bring an uniformity in the appointment of teachers on this basis. A norm of 29 periods per week has been fixed for railway schools. This is taken as the basis for the appointment of teachers in railway schools and no reduction in number of teachers is allowed.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Please mention it subject-wise. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD : Shri Choubey, I had also been a teacher. I have been a lecturer since 1958. I know that teachers should be subject-wise. I have noted the hon. Member's point. I shall tell him later how it is being done. The hon. Member also said that an Inspector went to Kharagpur and then submitted a report after inspection. The findings of such reports are taken into account and action is initiated accordingly.

Another question which the hon. Member raised relates to lack of adequate educational facilities to the children of railway employees. I understand that the hon. Member is a socialist but he used a word 'Doon' school. But I can say that in the Congress (I) party as well as in our railways there are no arrangements to that effect. The Government tries so act according to standards. As I have said before, the Government believes in uniformity. (*Interruptions*) Kindly listen to me patiently. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I do not want the 'Doon' arrangement to be applied here. The Government should appoint teachers on a subject-wise basis.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD : The hon. Member may please listen to me first and afterwards ask for clarifications. As I was saying, in the entire Indian Railway system there are 684 schools run by the railways and 48 by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. Hence, there are a total of 732 schools which are part of Indian Railways and the Government wants to bring uniformity in all of them. (*Interruptions*) I have noted the hon. Member's point and if

something is amiss at any stage the Government will do the needful.

The hon. Member asked a question regarding admissions. The Government would like to set a common standard for all schools. The hon. Member talked of opening a school in Kharagpur. The matter relating to the college in Kharagpur has been noted down and further action will be taken after a survey has been carried out.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir firstly I want to say with utmost politeness that the railways spend very little on the welfare of its employees. The salary and bonus may be good but very little money is spent on welfare activities. May I ask the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to open more schools for the employees of Indian railways, and whether there is any proposal to run these schools on the pattern of Central Schools? Will the Government consider granting the status of Kendriya Vidyalayas to railway schools and linking them with the Central Education System instead of the State Education System?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall take one minute only. Nearly 40,000-50,000 employees work in the Jamalpur under the Eastern Railway. Yet there is no Intermediate college there, let alone a degree college.

The second thing I want to say relates to the transfer of railway employees from one State to another. The curriculum of study in each State is different. So efforts should be made to frame a standard curriculum at the secondary, higher secondary, intermediate and degree levels, so that students moving from State to another State do not suffer from discontinuity in the study process. The plight of the railway employees is a pitiable one. It is said that they have to look for other sources of income to supplement their meagre earnings. There are so many other things too, but I do not want to get into them. Drivers, ticket-collectors, ticket-checkers and sweepers are some of the many employees whose life revolves around the railways. They spend an entire life-time travelling on trains. They are

cut-off from their home-life for long stretches of time. These people cannot spare the time to see to the education of their children. The least that can be done is to provide proper education to their children, so that these people can be happy in the feeling that their offspring are following the right path. Once upon a time railway schools enjoyed a big reputation, specially in the sport of football. Promising players of football used to emerge from the railway schools of Bihar and West Bengal. That traditional is now a thing of the past. If students fail to get admission elsewhere, they turn to railway schools. So I urge the hon. Minister to set a high standard for railway schools and keep this standard uniform throughout the country. Intermediate and degree colleges should be opened wherever the number of railway employees is very large.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : In fact, the hon. Minister was replaying to the earlier questions in a very high tone! I was wondering for a moment whether the hon. Minister was a participant or we are participants. Who is the Minister? We are the Minister or you are the Minister? In any case, your enthusiasm is appreciable.

I would just like to know one point. In the answer which has been given to the question by Mr. Narayan Choubey, the original one, there it has been said that "railway schools generally follow the curriculum prescribed by the State Government where there they are located in CBSE affiliated." Generally, in the sense, whether there are other schools where local curriculum is not made applicable or whether schools where local State Government curriculum is applicable and whether there are other schools where this is not applicable

In reply to the second part of Shri Narayan Choubey, it has been stated that "the pattern prescribed by the Department of Education for Centrally-administered schools is adopted for railway school teachers." Now if you are following State curriculum for students, why are you for Central pattern for teachers? What is the status of the schools? I want to know

whether our new education policy has anything to do with these schools administered by the railways. Has your Ministry approached the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the purpose of any specific guidelines to be issued with respect to schools managed by railways or your schools have nothing to do with our educational policy?

It appears so from this Report that we should have schools managed by railways. Are our students who are in the railway schools completely aloof from the National Policy? Please state.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD : Mr. Chirman, Sir, our hon. learned Member Shri Harish Rawat asked whether railway employees are getting a raw deal. I would like to inform him that Rs. 262.14 crores are spent by the railways on welfare amenities and Rs. 20.65 crores on educational facilities. Perhaps Shri Rawat did not hear my reply. I have replied that the railway administration spends a lot of money on the welfare of railway employees. So the hon. Member should be satisfied to know that both the Central Government and the railway administration are alive to the needs of railway employees.

Our respected colleague Dr. G. S. Rajhans raised a question pertaining to the transfer of railway employees. It is true that transfers are a normal feature in the railways. But, as I said in reply to Shri Choubey's query, Kendriya Vidyalayas all over the country have one and the same curriculum. This common curriculum fully serves the needs of railway employees affected by transfers. I had clarified earlier that the schools in five places *i.e.* Bilaspur, Bhusaval, Jharipani, Gorakhpur and Itarsi are of uniform status. So employees on transfer are not allowed to suffer in any way. Uniformity is adopted only for the salaried classes which is a Central pattern.

Our learned colleague from Goa, Shri Shantaram Naik, who was perhaps a Minister there. (*Interruptions*). I want to assure him that my voice does not lack in strength. I have talked in this voice to

[Shri Mahabir Prasad]

lakhs of people I want to tell him what I told Shri Choubey who is not present at the moment. That all his suggestions have been noted and I will certainly consider them.

With these words I conclude the half-hour discussion.

18.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday April 4, 1988/Chaitra 15, 1910 (Saka)