

Rs. 33. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in order to protect forest cover he proposes to take steps to ensure that the Government provides subsidy on the packing material other than the wooden cases and get the excise duty on this material waived off so that farmers can get packing cases at a concessional rate and the Himalayan forest cover is also duly protected.

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY: I agree with the hon. Member; this is a problem with Himachal Pradesh. Lots of fruit packets require wood and they are telling upon the forests. It has become a problem to the forest Department of the Himachal Government. They are making some other alternative arrangements like hard plastic cases etc. Whatever proposal or request comes from the Himachal Pradesh Government, we will certainly try to help them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The forest problem is enormous and this is related with the economy of our country. The State Government of West Bengal three years back submitted a proposal to the Central Government for the development of Ayodhya Hill in the District Purulia integrating all the programmes like IRDP and other rural development programmes. Poor people are felling the trees or cutting the trees because of their poor economic conditions. If some of the integrated programmes are adopted and taken, then the forest can be saved, the denudation of forest can be stopped. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal which was submitted three years back—the estimate was about three crores of rupees—to save the forest of Ayodhya Hills, will be taken into account and whether the Government proposes to assist in stopping the denudation of forest of Ayodhya Hills of Purulia District in West Bengal?

SHRINILAMANI ROURAY: Sir, I have no definite knowledge about the proposal which the hon. Member is mentioning. I will

certainly look into, if there is any such proposal; I will discuss and inform the hon. Member of what action has been taken and what action we are going to take. At the moment, I have no specific knowledge about this.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I will send you a copy of that proposal. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI D. AMAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the criminal felling and denudation of forest in some parts of Orissa, would the Government think in term so equipping the Forest Department with the power to 'shoot-at-sight' the offenders and also give them powers to seize and arrest the poachers?

SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY: Sir, this is a proposal, which we cannot agree. (*Interruptions*) We will instruct the State Government (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

### Education Policy

\*145. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to abolish the existing dual education policy in the country with a view to bring about uniformity in education throughout;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any action plan for making education employment-oriented; and

(c) if so, by what time the draft in this regard is likely to be prepared?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) to (c). Government are of the view that education should serve as an instrument for securing a status of equality for women, economically, socially, and educationally deprived sections of society, and minorities. As soon as possible, we should move towards provision of education of the same standard and type to all students. In keeping with this policy perspective, it is proposed to take a variety of measures towards achievement of the goal of Common School System. These measures will include the upgradation of standards of all schools particularly those in the disadvantaged localities so as to prevent making competitively advantageous education available only to the children of better off families. The possibility of making the mother tongue the only medium of instruction at least upto Class VIII is being examined. Consultations will be held with State Governments, Central Advisory Board of Education and other concerned people. Eventually we need to move towards the neighbourhood school concept which implies allowing children of the neighbourhood to study together in the school in their vicinity, and improvement of standards in these schools to such a level, that parents would not feel the need to send children to far away schools. The overall impact of all these measures is expected to lead to rectification of elitist aberrations in the educational system.

Education based on productive work helps to prepare students for remunerative work without necessarily having to go for higher education. The objective of vocationalisation of education is to enhance individual employability and reduce the mismatch between demand and supply of skilled manpower. Government proposes to give a work and employment orientation to the entire educational system.

Government have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurthi on 7.5.1990 to review the National Policy on Education, 1986 with a view to ensuring that the policy better conforms to

the social and economic goals of the country. The Committee is expected to submit its report in November, 1990.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister's reply to my question makes it clear that the Ministry of Human Resources is not only quite indifferent to Education, but also does not have any well framed policy. The content of my question was whether the Government proposes to bring about uniformity in the system of Education in the different States of the country? The syllabi and courses of study in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana and Maharashtra are different from one another, to say the least. How can the common cultural traits and thinking be inculcated into the coming generations in the absence of uniform system of education in the whole country? How will a feeling of national integration be infused in them from the level of primary education to the Higher Education in the country? I would like the hon. Minister to tell us about the stand of Government in this regard. It has been said that Acharya Ram Moorti Committee's Report will be submitted by the end of 1990. So I would like to know whether any interim report has been received as yet, if so, the details of the same and in case the report is received in 1990, consider to bring forward a Bill in the House in 1991, to implement the recommendations contained in the report.

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have to say much in regard to the comments made by the hon. Member but our reply itself will indicate how actively we are thinking over it and how much interest we are taking in it. There has been frequent discussion on the point of bringing uniformity in the system and pattern of education in the whole country and we too accept that opinion but to this date only 8 states have sent their replies to our frequent enquiries about it, since it is a state subject, we send them telegrams and telex messages. We write and talk...

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** What do you write after all?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Agnihotri ji, have another supplementary why are you losing your patience?

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** I can say only this much that it is the N.C.E.R.T. Syllabi which are being adopted by most of the states in the country with marginal deviations and every effort is being made in this respect. We have given them certain guidelines in this regard that the medium of instruction should be mother tongue at least upto the eighth standard. And then comes the three-language formula which we all have as it was envisaged by Pandit Nehru, but that too is to be implemented rationally as we have not framed any law about how to enforce the three-language formula and how to promote the three languages i.e. Hindi, English and the Regional languages.

There are other things also but I shall not take your time for those. So we are thinking and making efforts on these lines. As far as the Report of Acharya Ram Moorti Committee is concerned it is expected to be submitted two months before the end of this year i.e. on the 6th November and prior to that it is going to submit a perspective report on the 1st September. We think that this committee should finalise its report after ascertaining the views of various sections such as the Members of Parliament, teachers, students, parents and educationists. Acharya Ram Moorti Committee has set up six working groups, which cover all the three points on which members are concerned as also the issue of uniform pattern of education. Zonal meetings are also being conducted all over the country and to this date, they have held three such meetings. Earlier, we had asked them to submit an interim report but we were told that they would be giving the broad outlines of perspective policy so that we might give our opinions, sug-

gestions and instructions in writing and thereafter they would submit their final report on 6th November and it had also been stated that no further extension would be required for that. So we have given a deep thought and the Government has been quite active in this regard...

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister may be pleased to state whether the Government has laid down any priority for the State Governments with a view to introduce a uniform system of education and which of the State Governments have conveyed their agreement on that report and which of them have not replied as yet? Secondly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government, during the last one year of its coming to power, has prepared any draft regarding the employment oriented education, which has to be sent to the State Governments as the Janata Dal had obviously declared its policy of imparting such education in the country which will not make the youth to lead a life without job because that education system would be linked with different trades and also with the industrial and educational policy of the Government.

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are laying much emphasis on making our education job oriented for that we have consulted and discussed it many times with the Planning Commission. We have clearly stated that last year a sum of rupees 50 crore had been spent on the vocational education at 10 + 2 level. This year we have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 84 crore to be incurred under that head and we are spending it but we admit that this amount is quite insufficient to meet our requirements. If today we want to introduce vocational education even in 25 per cent of our schools at the level of 10 + 2, an amount of about Rs. 2500 crore would be required to achieve that end in a period of five years. Therefore, a dialogue with the Planning

Commission is quite essential. The Planning Commission has prepared an Approach Paper. There will be a detailed discussion on it when we will go deep into its details. We are also thinking about the engineering colleges also with a view to bringing about uniformity in these colleges, as a peculiar inequality prevails there which is not in the interest of the poor. The rich people have easy access to these institutions because they are in a position to pay capitation fees to get a seat there. Thus, the educational standard of these institutions is very poor. We are also trying to do away with that practice. The Prime Minister has also declared on the 15th August, that an amount of about Rs. 50 crore will set apart to be as loan to the poor students but it can not be utilised for the payment of capitation fees. All those institutions which have been charging capitation fees will be asked to adopt a centralised administrative system in order to meet their expenditure. The loan of Rs. 50 crore will also be helpful. Some more steps are proposed to be taken as in future there will be a provision of about Rs 120 crore for the purpose of loan to the educated persons seeking self-employment.

PROF. VJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has not spoken of any concrete measures except that he is thinking of looking into the matter. I would like to ask the hon. Minister a simple question as to what steps are being taken by the Government to bring to an end the dual education policy for which the Prime Minister and you had given assurance in the Janata Dal's manifesto. You have stated just now that it is a state subject, but what steps have you taken in Delhi, which is a Union Territory, and where your party is in power for the last nine months. No new ordinary schools, but only the Public Schools were setup. Even the Government aided schools are being converted into the Public Schools. They could have decided it earlier that there will be no new Public School. In 1966 the

Kothari Commission had made a recommendation in respect of neighbourhood school which will offer equal opportunities of education to the Prime Minister's son and to the son of a peon. The commission was of the view that son of a millionaire and a poor man's son should receive education in the same school. What steps have been taken by the Government in this direction during the last 9 months? No general school or no common school is being opened by the Government these days. Rather, only public schools are coming up. What steps have been taken by the Government to check this trend? The Ramamurthy Committee may take sometime in submitting its report and further action to implement the recommendations of the Committee will be taken only on receipt of the report. But in the meantime some steps should be taken to open new general schools.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: The hon. Member made a reference to dual policy. Curriculum is about uniformity of education. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Dual policy as explained in the reply to the question suggests two sets of education— one for the poor and one for the rich *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We do not adopt dual policy. I am taking of the dual system which is prevalent in the society. If it is there in the manifesto of the National Front Government, we will definitely implement this. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. VJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What are you going to do in this regard. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: The hon. Member made a mention of 9 months period. With reference to that, I would like to tell him that during these 9 months we have held

consultations a number of times. The Delhi Administration also does not come under the Ministry, Delhi being a Union Territory with a administration. They will have to be consulted, because it has got its own administrative jurisdiction. Talks are being held for this purpose. We are happy to note that all the hon. Members are supporting this proposal. We fully agree to the policy document of 1964. Deliberation should come to an end. We also want that the public school system should be abolished and there should be common schools for all. We are taking concrete steps in this direction. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: I believe, the question is whether the Government is going to end the dual system of education as was promised in the Janata Dal manifesto. You will agree, that we cannot attack the super structure alone and keep the base intact. The education system is the projection and reflection of the economic system that exists in our society, in our State. Unless the economic system changes, it is very difficult to remove the disparity between the rich and the poor. Will the Government consider to take a small step in this direction as being suggested by me? There are certain small colleges in the rural areas. We can have small mills for oil seeds, groundnut oil etc. and can tie up the farmers with them. These small mills can adopt these colleges. The students can thus learn as also earn in this process. This will go a long way and would be a step in the right direction. What is the reaction of the Government to this suggestion?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: This is a question of finding resources and alternative avenues; okay, that will be considered. About the dual policy, in the beginning small steps would be necessary. I can put it on record that we have discussed this question during

the last two months with the Delhi Administration, particularly the question of neighbourhood school concept, common school concept etc. The report has come and they are moving in the direction of action. At this moment, unless the whole plan is ready, I cannot announce it.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, in our country the people of rich and affluent society send their children to public school because they can afford to pay huge amount as fees but the poor class who even find it difficult to get a square meal send their children to Government schools which do not even have proper building. So, in our country two types of youngsters are brought up: one is the youngster for being taught in the public schools and the other to be taught in the Government schools where the quality of education is poor. So, my specific question to the Minister is what steps will be taken in consultation with the State Governments to improve the quality of education in Government schools so that the children who come out of them are on par with the public school children.

SHRICHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, I share the sentiments of the hon. Member and I agree that there are two standard of the children and there is disparity between the cities and the rural areas. We have collected a data and according to it there are 30 per cent of villages where there are no *pucca* school building and 28 per cent of schools are such where there is only one teacher. Therefore, they suffer the most and so we have to first think about these children. Simultaneously vertical improvement has to be done and more of the expansion work has to be taken. We are taking all the necessary steps. All the Education Ministers of different States are invited in the Central Board of Education meeting which is probably meeting next month. All these issues will be discussed in that meeting.

**SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV:** In order to overcome the disparity which is being caused by the education policy, the Government of India had passed Assam University Bill to protect the interests of the linguistic minorities of Assam. May I know what is the stand of the present Government on this issue? Are you going to implement it or not? A stand should be taken on it. I know, the Prime Minister has himself ceased of this particular problem. He knows the sentiments of both the regions and he is trying to come to a decision which will overcome the difficulties of both the regions. Will you please interact because it is coming in the newspapers that very soon you are going to visit Assam.

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Sir, it seems that Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is also in agreement that we should look to all the concerned people. Therefore, we have committed ourselves to what was done in the past. There will be a university in Assam and both the regions should be satisfied. We are discussing this issue. But there is no going back on the question of Assam University. That will be done. Moreover, We are giving an IIT to Assam which is going to cost Rs. 400 crores. We are committed to that. We had selected the land but then Government proposed another site. We are inspecting that. We are committed to the welfare of the Assam and also to the upgradation of the standard of education in Assam.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:** In 1987 a new university was installed in Tripura but in gross violation of the Tripura University Act so far the governing bodies of the Tripura University have not been set up. I am sure, the Minister is aware of this. I would like to know what is being done to set up the Governing bodies as soon as possible.

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** We will

look into this matter and rectify wherever there is delay.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to put a direct question to the hon. Minister as to whether the Government is taking any action to abolish the dual education system? The promise was also there in their election manifesto let us know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to have uniformity education. As regards the Delhi Administration the hon. Minister said that its administration is separate. But now-a-days, Delhi is under Governor's Rule and is therefore fully under Central Government. In public schools huge sums of money extending upto Rs. 1 lakh are being taken as donation from students, but the teachers are not being given any pay. In order to stop this type of exploitation, the Government should clarify. Whether it is in favour of dual education system or not?

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, We are against dual education system. We used to say this thing earlier and we are sticking to the same stand now also. What has not been done during the last 40 years will be done in these 5 years. I can say this much. (*Interruptions*) But you are against this. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Rahi, take your seat. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:** Sir, we are against the two systems. We want to abolish all the avenues of capitalism which even in the forty years you could not do. But we will do everything before our term is over.