

munities and the country as a whole as also the rate of growth of population and death rate community wise.

MR. SPEAKER: Pandey ji, the original question is related to Maharashtra.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the question asked by the hon. Member does not relate to the original question which is related to Maharashtra, however, I would like to tell him that by and large the growth rate is almost the same in every community. Certainly in some districts and in some particular communities the growth rate is a little higher but by and large the growth rate in Maharashtra is same as in other parts of the country.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Family planning is a very important matter. We should have Half-an-Hour Discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is noted.

17-24 Health
Inquiry into Affairs of Yoga Institutes

*285. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had in 1987 appointed two commissions to enquire into alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds mismanagement and misuse of funds to three Government funded Yoga Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the findings of these enquiries; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD):

(a) No such commissions were appointed in the year 1987. However, two Enquiry Officers were appointed in the year 1986 to enquire into the alleged mis-management

and mis-use of funds by Shri Dhirendra Brahmachari in the three yoga institutions funded by the Government.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The findings of the Enquiry Officer who was appointed to look into the various irregularities in appointments and promotions in the Central Research Institute for Yoga (CRIY), Central Council and Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) and Vishwayatan Yogashram (VY) and the action taken thereon are as follows:

CCRYN:

The main findings of the Enquiry Officer related to non-compliance of instructions regarding reservations of vacancies for SCs/STs and irregularities in the appointment of two Class-I Officers and certain persons at lower posts including two daily wage-workers. In consultation with the Governing Body of the Institute, the Director was advised to advertise the senior posts and as a result one senior officer has already been appointed. The Director was also authorised to regularise the services of Jr. Officers.

CRIY:

The Major findings of the Enquiry Officer related to filing up of certain posts without obtaining particulars from Employment Exchange, non-compliance of instructions for reservation of post for SCs/STs, irregular promotions and appointments of certain staff members without following the proper procedure. The Governing Body regularised the appointments/promotions/upgradation of various groups of posts. It was decided that the vacancies reserved for SCs/STs may be carried forward in accordance with the instructions.

V.Y.

The major findings of the Enquiry Offi-

cer were that appointments to certain posts were made without consulting the Employment Exchange and reservation orders for SCs/STs were not strictly complied with.

The Ministry of Labour and Department of Personnel and Training who were consulted in the matter opined that it is not obligatory on the part of a private institution like V.Y. to follow the provisions relating to reservations of vacancies for SCs/STs and also to consult the Employment Exchange in the matter of appointment.

2. The position regarding findings of the Enquiry Officer appointment to look into the financial irregularities and accounts and the action taken thereon is as follows:

CCRYN:

The Enquiry Officer did not point out any major irregularity excepting that one officer was alleged to have charged commission from the Yoga and Naturopathy institution to which grants were released by this Institution. The Director of the Council looked deeply into this complaints and reported to the Ministry that there was no truth in the complaint.

CRIY:

The Enquiry Officer pointed out certain irregularities in purchase of certain equipments and articles e.g. Generating Set, and Camera including photographic articles. He also pointed out avoidable expenditure on account of Travelling Allowances paid to the staff and irregular drawal of loans and their re-payments. The Government Body appointed a Committee to look into these irregularities. The Committee agree to *ex-post facto* regularisation of the purchases and payment of T.A. etc. However, since a number of financial irregularities were involved, the Finance Ministry were also consulted. The Finance Ministry are of the view that the Managing Trustee and the Director should be held responsible for these irregularities and the Management of CRIY should be delinked from V.Y. To sort out the issues,

the Director was advised to call a meeting of the Governing Body but he has not done so despite repeated requests.

V.Y.

The irregularities mainly pertained to unauthorised diversion of funds, procedural lapses, irregular creation of posts and irregular and infructuous expenditure. The Managing Trustee of V.Y. was requested to place this report before the Board of Trustees in a meeting. The compliance has not been received so far.

From the above, it may be seen that out of the six reports, four have already been duly examined and settled, while the remaining two are awaiting final consideration by their respective Governing Body/Board of Trustees.

DR. ASIM BALA: When the Government Enquiry Officers pointed out some financial irregularities in the purchase of certain equipments and articles and other irregularities, why the Government has not taken any serious penal measure against the persons involved in the irregularities and malpractices?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Sir, the committee, which was appointed by the Governing Body had two aspects before it, to look into. First of all, it had to inquire into the wide spread mismanagement that was prevailing in these institutions and secondly, it had to look into the financial irregularities and other related issues. So far as administrative mismanagement was concerned, the committee did not find anything substantial against them. This committee was entrusted with the task of looking into the irregularities prevailing in three institutions viz: the Central Research Institute for Yoga, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and Vishwayatan Yogashram. If you permit, I shall present before the House the findings of the Committee on these three institutions.

MR SPEAKER Mr Minister, you kindly inform the House of the action taken against the guilty

[English]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD I am coming to that because it has not been recommended by the Enquiring Officer (*Interruptions*)

DR ASIM BALA Now-a-days Yoga is very useful for keeping good health and it is having world-wide acceptance. Why not Government expand its centres in different parts of the country and introduce Yoga especially in the rural areas

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, this question is regarding certain institutions like the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy which is wholly financed by Government. Government also provide financial assistance to it. We are providing financial assistance to Yoga Institutions all over the country and this assistance is not limited to Delhi based institutions only. The Central Research Institute for Yoga which is based in Delhi, too is a fully funded institution. The problem with this institution is that it has been provided in its rules that the Managing Trustee of the Vishwayatan Yogashram shall be the ex-officio Director of the institute. We won't be able to do anything in this regard, unless and until, this provision is changed

[English]

DR ASIM BALA Have Government any plans to introduce Yoga centres in the rural areas?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD We want to popularise yoga, but at present, we don't have any plans to introduce it in the rural areas

[English] २२

SHRI P K THUNGON From the answer given by the hon Minister, it appears that these are non-official organisations which are given grants by the Government of India. The Enquiry Officers who have made the recommendation have said that out of six recommendations, four have been already implemented. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether he has looked into any other non-official organisations to find out such irregularities which have been mentioned in the report before. If so, what action he is going to take in this regard? The hon Minister was very kind and active when asked to go with a broom to All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I would like to know from the hon Minister, with the same spirit whether he is prepared to encourage the Yoga system of health-care in this country. In that case, in such enquires, whatever matters are enquired into and whatever lapses are found, are they going to be eliminated? Are the other Yoga organisations going to be encouraged?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD I have already said that we provide assistance to the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy. Hence, no question of discouragement arises. Our encouragement is already there in the form of financial assistance which we provide to such institutions. Regarding the hon Member's reference to the complaints against these institutions, I would like to say that we have not received such complaints. As it is fully funded by the Government, there is no scope for such things

[English] २२

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA Will the hon Minister kindly state whether Yoga—as physiotherapy or psychotherapy, by whatever name it may be called in the Medical Institutes—has been recognised by the Government as such and has it been got approved by the ICMR?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD We provide funds

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon Minister the amount of financial assistance provided to three institutions viz—The Central Research Institute for Yoga, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy and Vishwayatan Yogashram from 1980 to 1985-1986, whether these funds were misused and diverted to set up gun factory, and if so, the details in this regard. I would also like to know from the hon Minister, the arrangements being made by the Government to safeguard the service interests of the employees of these institutions and also to ensure that yoga training would continue to be imparted

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD A separate notice is required for the queries raised by the hon Member, for it relates to the inquiry. Secondly I am in possession of the information regarding the amount of assistance provided to these institutions, but at present it is not with me. It shall be sent to the hon Member later on. So far as the question of the utilisation of funds is concerned, I would like to say that I am not aware whether the funds have been diverted towards setting up of Gun Factory or not.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA Is it there in the terms of reference of the inquiry committee?

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD I am not aware of it.

So far as the question of the services of the employees of the Central Research Institute for Yoga is concerned, it is pending in the court. The problem we face is that the Director of this Institute is Dharendra Brah-

machan, who was patronised by you and if we give him money, there are chances of his misusing it. Therefore, we asked to convene a meeting of the Governing Body, but he is not doing so. We filed an affidavit in the court, requesting it to appoint an Administrator to look after the affairs of this institution, because Government is not prepared to provide any financial assistance to Dharendra Brahmachari. This is a new Government and it doesn't intend to follow the footsteps of the previous Government in this regard. We have requested the court to appoint an Administrator. We will provide money to the Administrator so that he may distribute salaries to the employees. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Please sit down. I am not allowing you.

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SHRI MANDHATA SINGH The hon Minister referred to two committees in his answer, one to look into the administrative aspects and other to look into the financial aspects. They did not think it necessary to take any action on the administrative side but one was surprised to know that the Government does not propose to take any steps regarding the financial aspect just because the Enquiry Committee did not take any action or make any recommendation despite the fact that serious financial irregularities in these institution have been pointed out in the enquiry report. Why Government is hesitating take effective steps, just because the committee did not make any recommendation. I would like to know the reasons for this in action on the part of the Government.

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD The Government is not hesitating, but as I have told earlier, that the managing trustee of the Vishwayatan Yogashram is the ex-officio Director of the institute. Only he is empowered to convene a meeting. The Government has written to him in this regard, but he seems to be in no mood to convene a meeting. Therefore, we are thinking of calling a meeting, after appointing a new managing committee.