

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 26, 1990/Chaitra 5, 1912
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, I have given a notice under rule 388... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. Please take your seat.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, my notice is to suspend the Question Hour under rule 388.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed it. Please take your seat. Question No. 186. Dr. Mahadeepak Singh Shakya.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Uttar Pradesh

*186. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas opened in Uttar Pradesh under Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme;

(b) the number of schools which have started functioning; and

(c) whether district Etah in Uttar Pradesh has also been included in that plan?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). Thirty Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in Uttar Pradesh under Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme and all of them are functioning.

(c) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas which was introduced by the previous Government is pragmatic or it is just Mohammad Tughlak's fanciful flight of imagination? I would urge that education is the first step in the development of man and society and, as such, proper attention should be paid towards its development. The State of Uttar Pradesh, about which I have raised this question, has 54 backward districts, of which Etah is the most backward district. The hon. Minister has stated that 30 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened so far in Uttar Pradesh. But he has denied this facility to Etah which is the most backward district in a State which comprises 62 dis-

tricts. I would like to know why he has neglected Etah in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Singh, please take your seat, you have to put second question also.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: The Government has decided that for the time being it would run the existing Navodaya Vidyalayas and only after reviewing their performance, it would decide whether more Navodaya Vidyalayas should be opened or not. As regards, Etah district, to which the hon. Member has pointed out, we have received proposals from the Uttar Pradesh Government and we have also sent a team there to review the proposals. Shanta Navipur in district Etah has been selected as a site for opening a Navodaya Vidyalaya; but until the entire scheme is reviewed and it is decided that more Navodaya Vidyalayas are to be opened, it will not be possible for us to open it at the selected site in Etah.

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Hon. Minister has stated that a piece of land measuring 30 Bgms has been selected there whereas his reply to the main question is in the negative. Which of the two statements is correct?

MR. SPEAKER: What he has said now, is correct.. *

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Kindly let me know the time by which Government propose to complete this scheme. Newspapers have reported that this scheme has given rise to many controversies. So I would like the hon. Minister to clarify whether it is necessary that the Central leadership should play a role in every such scheme in the State?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: In all, 261 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened so far in the country. As I said earlier in my reply, out of these 261, 30 are in Uttar Pradesh. Only after conducting a review, we will decide whether more such schools are to be

opened or not. I had told you earlier also that it was not correct that we were not considering Etah district. When we decide to open more schools after reviewing the scheme, Etah will also be considered.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Janata Dal's education policy is that a uniform education should be provided to all and public schools should be done away with. Navodaya Vidyalaya is also in a way, a public school as more funds are spent in its running as compared to ordinary schools. I would like to know from the hon. Education Minister whether contrary to its education policy, the Government wants to continue with the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas or is it going to review the scheme? The Government should ensure a uniform standard of education throughout the country by closing down the Navodaya Vidyalayas. In case the Navodaya Vidyalayas are opened in the rural areas, they will command more attention from the Government and the officials and in this process, the ordinary schools, which are already in a very bad condition and suffer from lack of resources, as at some places, there are only 1-2 teachers for 4-5 classes and there are no proper arrangements for building etc. will be grossly neglected and their condition will deteriorate further. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government would close down the Navodaya schools scheme which was introduced by the previous Government and instead enforce a uniform system of education by raising the standard of all the schools?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: In the Navodaya Vidyalayas, we are having 78 per cent children from the rural areas and only 22 per cent from the urban areas. Apart from this, 19 per cent children are from the Scheduled Castes and 11 per cent from the Scheduled Tribes. 27 per cent of the children are girls. So I do not agree that they are like public schools. But I agree with the point raised by the hon. Member that a review should be conducted in this regard. That is why I had said in the beginning that we would conduct a review in this regard and only then

we would decide whether to continue with this scheme or not.

[*English*]

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Sir, how many Navodaya Vidyalayas are opened in Tamil Nadu and whether are they opened?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there are 20 districts, but there are no Navodaya Vidyalayas in any of them because as the hon. Member himself is aware, there are several States, namely, Assam, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which have not accepted the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalayas on account of differences they have on the language question. Therefore, none has been opened in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that they will review the whole issue of the Navodaya Schools. You are aware, Sir, that for the last 3-4 years the entire democratic movement of the country including the National Front was fighting against the elitist bias of the previous education policy which led them to take the decision of opening Navodaya schools. But still the Government is not in a position to say whether they have already reviewed it or not. I would like to know how long they will take. It is a question of mass education of the country and the approach to education should be mass education. From the elitist bias it should be changed to mass bias. It is the International Literacy Year. So I want to know (a) how much money has been spent per Navodaya School and what is the ratio of teacher and student in the Navodaya school and what is the average of that in other common schools; and (b) whether this Government today will announce how long they will take to review it and take a final decision. It is not proper to take such a long time to remove this elitist bias in our education and take a mass approach. So, we want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister as to when he is going to review and by which time they will take a decision. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, as far as the Navodaya Vidyalaya is concerned, the expenditure has been Rs. 7.28 crores in 1986-87, Rs. 71.87 crores in 1987-88, Rs. 75.41 crores in 1988-89 and Rs. 63.21 crores until the 15th of March, 1990. These are the actual figures of expenditure of setting up the total number of schools which I have referred to earlier.

The point made by the hon. Member refers to a very fundamental question and there, in answer I would like to say, Sir, that the Government have decided to review the National Education Policy of 1986 and the modalities for that are being worked out. The Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme is part of the National Education Policy of 1986. But, in addition there will be a separate review conducted of the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme itself on the basis of the experience of setting up the schools so far. I would like to inform the House that as far as this scheme is concerned, the children are admitted on the basis of the tests and special privileges are given to ensure that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as girls can be admitted. We also know the percentages of those below the poverty line as well as the first generation learners who have been admitted. The bias of these schools is essentially from the rural areas so that schools can be set up there which can be centres of excellence to ensure that the other parts of the country also come together. So, there are certain elements in it where we must ensure that we do not lose good parts of it. But, certainly we will conduct the review and ensure that the points raised by the hon. Member are taken care of.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in Rajasthan and whether Policy regarding the Navodaya Vidyalayas will also change once National Education Policy undergoes a change? Has a review of Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme been conducted?

so far and what are the achievements of this scheme?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in 21 out of 27 districts in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Sir, in view of the fact that this scheme was undertaken in order to ensure that the children from the rural areas would have special preference and on top of it, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes also would be given special attention, would my hon. friend assure the House that these objectives would be adhered to in the review that they are going to make and ensure further development of this scheme in those districts where these schools have not been started so far?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, the hon. Member has raised the question of those who are essentially disadvantaged, those who come from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and those who are below the poverty line. May I inform the House that 40 per cent of the children, who have been selected so far, come from the families which have income below the poverty line and 16 per cent of them are already first generation learners. We will certainly take note of this and ensure that this is even more so if the scheme is continued and enlarged.

Nehru Centenary Celebration

*187. **SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether Delhi School children who participated in the Bhartiya Programme organised by Nehru Centenary Celebration Committee at Jawaharlal Stadium in November, 1989 were given track suits and P.T. shoes as a token of their participation in the programme;

(b) whether Government are aware that

the school authorities are now demanding these items back; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The Delhi School children, who participated in the *Bhartiyam Programme*, were given costumes which were specially designed so as to be relevant to the themes of the programmes depicted by them. These costumes included gymnastic suits, track suits, dungarees and P.T. shoes.

(b) and (c). In view of the immense popularity of the programme, Deptt. of Education, Delhi Administration propose to put up another programme in the month of April 1990 after the school examinations are over. The costumes have, therefore, been taken back from the children to be cleaned and kept in good shape and to ensure that they do not get spoiled till the programme under contemplation is over. These costumes, however, will be returned to the children after the above programme is over.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like know as to why the track suits and P.T. shoes are being demanded back from the students?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: I have said in the reply that the track suits are being taken back from the students to be cleaned and kept in good shape as the Department of Education of Delhi Administration proposes to put up another programme in month of April. I can assure you that all these costumes will be returned to the students as