

Introduction of New Elective Subjects in Kendriya Vidyalayas

*454. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association has been pressing for introduction of more and new elective subjects at plus two level in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

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). The All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers' Association has asked for introduction of more elective subjects such as Physical Education, Music, Drawing and Civics at plus two stage in the Kendriya Vidyalayas. Kendriya Vidyalayas cater to the educational needs of the children of Central Government employees who are transferable anywhere in India. Accordingly, it is necessary to have uniformity in courses throughout the country. Offering more subjects at plus two level uniformly in all Kendriya Vidyalayas would very substantially increase the requirement of funds for additional teachers and class-rooms. Keeping in view the constraints of resources the number of new elective subjects has to remain restricted.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: I emphasize the Government's inability to introduce more elective subjects in the KVs uniformly because of the requirement of more funds and classrooms. As the Government is aware, in the context of the Prime Minister's announcement that the Government's education policy is being changed, may I know from the hon. Minister whether—in the background of the fact that at least 750 KVs are covering the whole country and abroad, including our embassies and they are catering to the needs

of more than five lakh students—by not imposing and by not opening more elective subjects because of constraint of funds, we are restricting the future careers of more than five lakh students who are our children?

In view of this fact, will the Government study the possibilities of opening at least a few subjects for a beginning without the involvement of more funds? I would like to know whether the Government has met the Teachers Association which has taken pains to submit this memorandum so often in this regard.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: The Kendriya Vidyalayas are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, the CBSE. They appear for the All India Senior School Certificate examination of CBSE. The CBSE in pursuance of the new national policy on education 1986 had revised the scheme of study for classes 11 and 12. That is what is being followed at the present moment.

The question under consideration at the moment which the hon. Member has referred to, which comes from the demand of the All India Teachers' Association and Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers' Association which met the Chairman of the Kendriya Vidyalayas on 20.11.1988, is for certain new subjects. This essentially is in analogy of what is being followed specifically in one place, namely in Delhi Administration. The basic problem is, if this is introduced it will have to be introduced in all the schools. As the hon. Member pointed out, throughout the country there are 744, including three of them which are abroad, schools. It will mean appropriate teachers in each one of these schools for each one of these subjects. It will also mean an additionality in terms of expenditure on KVs. The question simply is, whether we can afford this at this stage. As it stands, sufficient number of subjects are offered for the students to choose from and it is a question of whether we can afford more money for this particular purpose. The question of priority—where money allocated by Government for education should go—will be decided in terms of a review of the Na-

tional Policy on Education, 1986 for which the modalities are being worked out.

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH: I would appreciate some of the difficulties faced because this is a very big organisation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as I put in my first supplementary—whether the Government will examine the feasibility of opening more subjects in areas where there are a cluster of Central schools like Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. Of course, the uniformity question will again arise. But in such cases where the funds will not be involved,—because already it is there—by utilising their services, if we could make a start in this regard, will the Government exercise its consideration on this and take a decision as early as possible?

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, as far as that aspect is concerned, I would like to say that the purpose of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools is to cater to the children of Central Government employees who are transferred. Therefore, it may happen that there is a Central Government employee, who has a child studying in Kendriya Vidyalaya School in Delhi. Some subjects are offered to that child here. If the Government servant is transferred to Hyderabad or Madras and if the same subject is not offered there, then the child will be in trouble. Therefore, there has to be a uniformity with regard to the subject offered in the total scheme. That is why, there is a uniform structure worked out through the CBSE which has been implemented. But if the teachers have and the hon. Member has any suggestion, that will certainly be taken note of in the review which is being conducted of the educational system as a whole, which will include major entities in secondary education, in fact in the school education, such as Kendriya Vidyalayas.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TASLIMUDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government the

percentage of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the rural areas and in the big cities respectively. It is the policy of the Government to establish Navodaya Vidyalayas/Kendriya Vidyalayas in the rural areas and backward areas. Does the Government propose to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in all blocks of the country?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: I would like to inform the House, through you, that we are dealing with—in the question asked by the hon. Member—two separate aspects—Kendriya Vidyalayas on the one hand and Navodhaya Vidyalayas on the other. As far as the Navodhaya Vidyalayas are concerned, the primary objective, as stated in the scheme, was to have pace-setting schools essentially in the rural areas, normally in the rural areas. That was what has been attempted to. But the Kendriya Vidyalayas which are for different purpose, were essentially meant to cater to, as I said earlier, the children of transferable Central Government servants and there is no use in opening them in the rural areas. Where there is no such transfer of Government servant, the scheme, in any case, would not serve the purpose. Therefore we opened them in all those areas in the country, where there are sufficient number of children who belong to this category. Therefore, it is opened essentially on the basis of the objective of opening such Kendriya Vidyalayas.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAUDAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the norms for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas. Despite 750 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, even today many districts, especially in Rajasthan, are lacking it. There are a large number of Central Government employees in the Bundi District in Rajasthan. Though a representation has been made to the hon. Minister by those people in this regard, no action has been taken to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya there. Will the hon. Minister see to it that a Kendriya Vidyalaya is opened there on a priority basis?

[English]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, I can certainly make available and I believe this was in the Annexure. There are conditions relating to availability of land, buildings, a certain number of students to be available for the school and also whether these are provided either by the State Government, Central Government, institutions, for example, public sector undertakings, certain institutions of higher learning, and so on.

So, the basic feature is that in order to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya, there are certain conditions so that we have land, temporary accommodation, sufficient number of students and these are offered by those who wish to sponsor. Once those conditions are fulfilled, then we open but subject to constraints on resources. The entire Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan scheme is based on non-Plan funds and there is a constraint on resources. We cannot, therefore, open them to the extent required.

But on the other hand, if these conditions are fulfilled, I will certainly be happy to look into any individual case which the hon. Member may be having in his mind and we can certainly open.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with reference to the hon. Minister's statement regarding the norms or opening Kendriya Vidyalayas, I would like to ask him whether he has received any complaints regarding the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas under political pressure, despite the non-availability of the required number of children belonging to Central Government employees.

[English]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, I am not aware of it at the present moment. I shall certainly look into it. I will be happy to receive the inputs from the hon. Member.

[Translation]

PROF. PRÉM KUMAR DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there is a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my constituency of Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh. Despite the fact that there are a large number of Government employees there, there is a heavy rush for admissions as not more than 35 students are admitted to each section. It is generally said that, a Member of Parliament can recommend the names of two students for admission. Considering the fact that the number of admission seekers run into thousands and only 35 seats are available in each class, is there any proposal under the consideration of the Central Government to increase the number of sections from one of three. Secondly, there is a place called Nalet in Dehru Tehsil of Kangra District in Himachal Pradesh. Last year, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan gave us an assurance that they would open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in that place, if we complete all the necessary formalities. Now that all the formalities have been completed, does the Government propose to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya there in this session itself?

[English]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas. I would like to assure him that if all the conditions which he has referred to are fulfilled, then certainly new schools can be opened and new sections can be opened.

As far as a particular one in Kangra is concerned, it is under active consideration. We will progress it in the current financial year.

I would like to take this opportunity to refer to the points made by the hon. Member where he said that there is an allocation of two Kendriya Vidyalaya seats for every M.P. And there are some who feel that there is an allocation also for Ministers. There is no such allocation. The position is that Kendriya

Vidyalayas have been opened for the children of transferable Government servants. Therefore, they have an optimum size of every section and children are admitted who fulfil these criteria. There may be in a section certain number of vacant seats which are then filled in on other basis too. Aspects like compassionate grounds like that of Armed Forces Offices who do not like to be in the field and so on should also be considered. But I do get very large number of requests for admission of those who do not fulfil this criteria of being children of Central Government servants who are transferable. It is not just possible to fulfil them for the very reason that there are no vacant seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a provision that the Kendriya Vidyalayas throughout the country should be made accountable. Some Management Committee should be constituted to make these schools accountable, especially regarding irregularities in admissions so that the interests of the parents/guardians are protected and admissions do not take place according to the whims and fancies of the Principals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is willing to consider the constitution of a Management Committee or anything else on similar lines with elected members on its board?

[English]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir as far as Kendriya Vidyalayas are concerned, there are structures at various development levels, namely, at the Central level, at the regional levels and at the local levels. These are essentially the Management Committee's instructions. But they are not based on elected structures. We can certainly consider as to how the management structure can be changed with time. If there are any complaints with regard to any particular institution, I will be happy to look into it, if the same will be brought to my notice.

Extraction Plant for Wild Marigold Oil in Himachal Pradesh

*455. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up an extraction plant for wild marigold oil in Himachal Pradesh is pending clearance with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR);

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing the project;

(c) whether CSIR explored the possibilities of producing perfume out of rose oil; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Research Council of CSIR Complex, Palampur has recommended that an extraction unit of large size for wild marigold oil should be set up and made available to the growers on cost basis. This proposal is currently under examination by CSIR. A small capacity distillation unit for extraction of marigold oil has been set up in CSIR Complex, Palampur in 1989. Modalities for financing and setting up of a larger unit would depend upon the response from Cooperative and Commercial Entrepreneurs and are being worked out.

(c) and (d). Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow has introduced a variety of rose from Bulgaria in Kashmir Valley, and has set up a semi-commercial pilot plant for processing