

cause of the security reasons, as I had said, till March, 1986. This decision we had taken subject to clarification from the Home Ministry, and we shall be able to consider if we can start again.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Sir, the number of persons belonging to middle class and labour class going abroad has increased manifold now a days. We have seen that custom officials harass them a lot. As stated by the hon. Minister, custom duty is charged according to the standard price of their goods. But the position is not like that: The factual position is that the custom officials charge arbitrary rates of custom duty and do not exempt even the duty free goods. Thus, they are subjected to harassment there. I want to know whether Government have received any complaints in this regard and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, since the customs department is in our building, if any complaint of this sort which has not been attended to is brought to my notice, then I will forward it to the Finance Ministry.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD: The Indians living abroad, when they come to visit India, are harassed by the customs at the airport and again for the same thing at the railway stations. That way they are made to pay twice. I would like to know whether any complaints have been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister and whether any action has been taken or any thought has been given to rectify this.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: This relates to the customs again, Sir. I had already answered it previously.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Sir, the customs officials are requiring one day's notice for returning the articles which the foreign passengers want to take back. The foreign passengers find it difficult to give

one day's notice. Is there any rule which requires one day's notice for them to take back their articles? If they have deposited ornaments, they require one day's notice for returning them back.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: For not returning they don't need it.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Is there any rule which requires the customs officials to insist upon one day's notice?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: As far as my knowledge is concerned, there is no rule. They ask them...

MR. SPEAKER: You look into it.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Yes.

Steps to Improve Teaching of History

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*67. **SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:**
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor standard of teaching of History in schools and college in the country which is responsible for ignorance of youth of our ancient heritage;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the general decline of the standards in Indological research and teaching in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the remedial steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) University Grants Commission and NCERT have taken measures to raise the standard of teaching of History and promotion of knowledge and understanding of India's

heritage and culture. By associating distinguished historians, NCERT has prepared syllabi and textbooks of quality. In order to encourage pursuit of excellence in the study of History and promotion of research, the UGC has set up a Centre of Advanced Study in History in AMU and the Departments of Special Assistance in History in the Universities of Allahabad, Calcutta, M.S. University of Baroda, Patna and Mysore. Outside the formal university and school system, a number of organisations are being supported and strengthened for the promotion of research and teaching in Indology.

SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:

Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal of the Government to introduce History as a compulsory subject for all the students at University level and for other entrance and competitive examinations so that the students are attracted towards this subject?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : No, Sir.

SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK:

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government wants to create Indian Education Service on the recommendations of the reports of the two national Commissions on teachers? If so, the time limit for the creation of this Service.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It does not pertain to the question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :

Sir, this question as has been answered by the hon. Minister, to my observation, is out of the basic spirit of the Constitution. The question to which, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw your attention is about the steps to improve teaching in History. As you know education being in the Concurrent List, each State is entitled to prepare its syllabus at the primary level, secondary level and university and college levels.

The Minister is aware of the fact that in the post-graduate studies, history is divided into three distinct parts—Islamic history, ancient history and modern history.

History which is read in primary education and secondary education level is the most vital and important one.

Is the Minister aware of the fact that the history syllabus prepared by the Secondary Education Board in West Bengal was struck down by the Calcutta High Court since it was absolutely politically motivated to malign the concept of the national movement? If so, in view of the importance of national unity and national integration, will the Minister issue necessary instructions with regard to the history which is read at secondary and primary level? Categorical instructions should be there not to distort the history of the national struggle. In our State it has been done deliberately maligning Mahatma Gandhi to Netaji. It was struck down by the High Court.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will call a meeting of the State Education Ministers to precisely make guidelines so as to maintain the dignity and the spirit of national movement in this country.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Though the syllabus was struck down by the High Court, it has been upheld by the Supreme Court.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you the Minister-in-charge?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is replying, not you. When did you take the oath?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, there is no need for so much heat to be generated. The fact is that efforts have also been made to see that the teaching of history helps to promote India's culture and is not misused for promoting narrow sectarian biases. Evaluation of history text books has been undertaken throughout the country. With a view to ensuring that these text books do not contain anything which may be detrimental to the cause of national integration, attempts are being made increasingly to see that history cour-

ses reflect the advance in historical knowledge as well as new approaches to the study of history. So, the whole matter is constantly kept under review. If there is anything that is brought to my notice that there is any State which is violating the principles or guidelines, we will look into it. But there seems to be some controversy in regard to whether the High Court has struck it down or the Supreme Court has upheld it. I will look into it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am not raising any political controversy. I will ask a general question on the curriculum of history. (*Interruptions*) I have a straight question on the curriculum of history. The hon. Minister has said that something is being done by NCERT. But I want to ask a question. I think, the Minister must have known it that curriculum in history requires total overhaul or total review. I suggest one thing to him and I want his response. In history, throughout the country, the need is to have the core curriculum in which chapters like freedom struggle in India, was against imperialism must be taught in all schools of the country. Stories of national heroes should also be taught. As far as local cultures are concerned, local history is concerned all that can be woven into the curriculum.

For instance, in Maharashtra, they would like to read more about Shivaji; in Jammu & Kashmir, they would like to read about Sheik Mohammad Abdullah...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : That is national history. Shivaji is not a local history.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : You have not heard me fully. I want to say one thing. Apart from core curriculum which should be necessary throughout the country, there has to be some portion of local history in the curriculum. Now, will the hon. Minister take steps to upgrade and review the curriculum of history throughout the country and make core curriculum compulsory throughout the country? That is my point.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Prof. Soz very well knows that not only in regard to history but in regard to all subject, a core curriculum has been prepared by the NCERT. History is no exception. They have paid special attention to history. I may inform the House that in the NCERT scheme, India's struggle for freedom is a glorious part of India's history. The broad framework and national objectives and policies which India has followed her Independence and the values which have inspired her are the result of this heritage.

All these things are finding a place in the curriculum. The core curriculum is at the national level.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Many States have not accepted that. That is my point.

Primary Health Centres During Seventh Plan

*68. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres proposed to be set up in the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware that there will be shortage of doctors in the country to man these primary centres; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are proposed to be taken by Government in consultation with the State Governments to meet the shortage of doctors in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) A total number of 12,377 Primary Health Centres are proposed to be set up in the country during the VII Five Year Plan.

(b) At present the country is producing about 12,000 doctors per year. As such, no shortage is anticipated.