

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, July 23, 1986/Sravana
1, 1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Scholarship to SC/ST Students

*82. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :
Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the centrally sponsored scheme of giving scholarships to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments are required to pay monthly sum to such students for pursuing post-SC technical and commercial courses ;

(b) whether his attention has been drawn to a news report captioned "Scholarship racket busted" appearing in the Times of India (Delhi) dated 27th May, 1986 wherein it is stated that Government have been defrauded of several crores of rupees by payment of scholarships through bogus educational institutions in Gujarat ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) The scholarship money under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

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Tribes Students is paid to eligible students by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in accordance to the procedure laid down by them in this regard.

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Government of Gujarat, the allegations regarding drawl of scholarship by bogus organisations on the basis of false certificates was entrusted to Anti-corruption Bureau for enquiry. They have suggested to the State Government Complete hundred percent audit of the institutions before completing investigations.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : The allegations are very direct and not at all indirect. The report, as it came out in the Press says that 137 organisations were running bogus institutions and annually at least 3,000 students were drawing scholarships to the tune of about one thousand and odd rupees, or about Rs. 1,035 permonth. Even an honourable Member of Parliament, Shri R. Valiulla, has brought it to the notice of the Government that it has been shown that 1,700 students had drawn about 23 lakhs of rupees and he himself has inquired into it and found that only five students were getting education after passing the SSC Examination, and only five were thus getting the scholarship. So, after all these things, a reply has come. Of course, the inquiry is being done by the Government of Gujarat, I do not blame the Central Government. The Government of Gujarat have referred the case to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for inquiry and they have suggested cent per cent audit of all the institutions before they should start the investigations.

So, my question is, what is the fate of the direct charges made in the Press, regarding those 137 organisations. If you have to wait till the cent per cent audit is

complete, then what will happen to the inquiry ?

MR. SPEAKER : You do not argue, you put the question.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : My question is, whether the cases of seven hundred students getting scholarships of Rs. 1,035 have been proved. What action has been taken regarding those concrete cases ? At least one, two or three could have been investigated. If you want to have cent per cent investigation then the inquiry will never take place.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Narayan Choubey, how many times are you going to repeat that ?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : What has been done to complete at least one concrete inquiry ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He is making it more concrete.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He can ask the Minister whether she agrees with his speech or not.

SHRI ARUN NEHRU : He can respect his speech.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The Chief Minister of Gujarat has ordered an inquiry into the whole case. The Social Welfare Minister has also said that there is a *prima facie* case in this matter. And they found that there is some bungling somewhere. So, they are awaiting the audit report. The inquiry has been instituted ; it is not that the inquiry has been stopped till the audit report comes. In the meantime, other enquiries will also be going on. The Department of Social Welfare Gujarat has got the *prima facie* report. A detailed report they will be getting shortly. Then they will be taking action. The Gujarat Government has assured me that within a week they will be taking action.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : So the Government agrees that there is a *prima facie* case or there are some *prima facie* cases against some persons as per the report. As per Government rules, when-

ever Railway people go on strike they are removed from service by applying Article 311 (2)(c). After *prima facie* cases have been established that there has been some bungling, have some of these people been suspended or discharged from employment or not ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : That report has come only recently. Action will be taken on that without waiting for the detailed report. That I can assure you.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Throughout the country this kind of malpractice is going on while disbursing scholarships. The hon. Minister says that it is a State subject and all that. But this is a problem prevailing throughout the country. For instance, very recently in my State the same kind of racket had happened. Immediately my Government had issued instructions to issue scholarship cheques directly to students concerned. Therefore, I want that the Central Government should make a uniform law throughout the country in order to avoid such discrepancies as far as importing education particularly to weaker sections of the society, is concerned.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The disbursements of scholarship is left to the State Government as each Government has got some procedure. Some States have started giving this scholarship through cheques. I think this is the best method and other States should also follow that.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Is the Government of India adopting this method throughout the country ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : This has been decentralised so that scholarships can be disbursed smoothly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : So far as the question of giving scholarships to the Harijans and Adivasis concerned, there are a number of lacunae in it. Sir, the first is.....

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : The scholarships to the Harijan students are given not only in Gujarat but the other state too. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the scholarship for 1980 was received in 1984 and that for 1984 in 1986. This is how scholarships are being given. Since it is not being given in time, it is being grossly misused.

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I am putting the question. 75 per cent amount of the scholarship goes into the pockets of the officers. With a view to removing these lacunae, the hon. Minister.....

MR. SPEAKER : She is hon. lady Minister.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : What action has she taken in this regard? Will a commission be appointed or will the States be given some directions so that there lacunae could be removed?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Sir, with regard to the concern expressed by the hon. Member, I have to state that we had appointed a committee in March to be about improvements in the method of giving post-matric scholarships to the Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe students with Additional Secretary and some other officers as its members. They will go into this matter in depth and suggest ways as to how improvement could be brought about so that the poor students could get the scholarships in time and consumption could be removed, if there is any.

[English]

Sub-Contract for Photocopying and Typing of Secret Documents

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*83. **SHRI MANIK SANYAL :**
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Bharat Electronics

Ltd., Bangalore had given sub-contract for photocopying or typing secret defence documents although the company had typists and photocopying machines inside the factory ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this action ;

(c) where, when and at what level such a decision was taken ; and

(d) whether a review of the practice is proposed to be made soon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) It is not a fact that BEL Bangalore had given secret documents on sub contract for photocopying or typing. Only documents which were not of Secret nature were given on sub-contract for typing or photocopying.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Instructions have already been issued to discontinue the practice of giving even unclassified documents for typing or photocopying outside BEL premises.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Before dealing with my first Supplementary question I should say that the Minister concerned should direct the BEL Authority that secret documents are not given to sub-contractors. May I know why casual approach is being shown to Defence institution by the Government, particularly when foreign spies are very much active in our country? This is my first supplementary.

SHRI SUKH RAM : There is no casual approach at all. This instruction has been issued in order to avoid any complication in future. Otherwise, as far as this undertaking is concerned, it is of a greater repute and they have been dealing with all these things with care and precaution. This was a news given by the Chairman and the General Secretary of some union. This news was quite false and it was carried by the UNI, which