

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 4, 1982/Phalgun
13, 1903 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Seminar on Adult Education

*166. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL:
SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar was or-
ganised by the International Council
for Adult Education recently;

(b) if so, the names of the coun-
tries which took part in the Seminar;

(c) the suggestions made for Adult
Education Programme; and

(d) steps taken by Government in
that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTERIES OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WEL-
FARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) Yes, Sir. The German Founda-
tion for International Development,
Bonn; the International Council for
Adult Education, Toronto and the
Seva Mandir, Udaipur, three inter-
nationally known voluntary bodies
working in the field of Adult Educa-
tion, jointly organised an Inter-
national Seminar on "Campaigning
for Literacy" at Udaipur from 4-11
January, 1982.

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(b) Burma, Bangladesh, Botswana,
Cuba, Ethiopia, Federal Republic of
Germany, India, Iraq, Kenya, Nigeria,
Nicaragua, Somali, Sierra Leone,
Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam
and Zambia.

(c) The Government of India has
not so far received any report from
the organisers of the Seminar.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: The
number of uneducated is increasing
every year. In 1951 the number of
uneducated above 10 years was 20.65
crores. In 1961 it came to 21.53 crores.
In 1971 it came to 24.56 crore, while
in 1981 it became more than 30 crores.
In this way, it is increasing every
year. Naturally when new genera-
tions remain uneducated, the number
of uneducated adults is increasing.
According to our programme, only 10
lakh people are becoming educated
every year. The Directive Principles
provide for free and compulsory pri-
mary education. In view of this, I
would like to ask a specific question.
Whether the Government have any
concrete programme or plan to give
education to all the adults in the
country; if so details thereof? Is
the Government thinking of enforc-
ing compulsory primary education; if
so, from when?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The
hon. Member has enquired about the
adult education programme. The
adult education forms part of the
minimum needs programme for which
Rs. 128 crores—Rs. 60 crores under
the Central Plan and Rs. 68 crores
under the State Plan—have been
earmarked in the Sixth Five Year
Plan. There is a programme by the
Government for eradication of adult

[Shrimati Shiela Kaul]

illiteracy in the age group of 15 to 35 years.

Regarding enforcement of compulsory primary education, the Government has in its programme universalisation of elementary education right from the very beginning till the age of 14 years.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: Has any complaint been received by the Ministry regarding non-attendance of adult education centres by adults and utilisation of grants?—Nevertheless if so, what is the number of such centres and the amount of grants drawn by them?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: I would be able to furnish the information if the hon. Member mentions any particular centre. There are over one lakh centres and drop-outs are there in a number of centres. So, it is not very easy to give the number where drop-outs are there.

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that extreme poverty of the people is the main hindrance in making the adult education programme a success. In view of this, will the Government think of adding vocational training in this adult education scheme, if so, details thereof?

It is a fact that 70 per cent of the world illiterate people belong to 11 developing countries. Our country is one of them. If that is a fact, what was the suggestion given by our hon. Minister to the Adult Education Seminar? In what way and to what extent does the International Adult Education Council help us in implementing the adult education scheme? How much Government funds have been utilised by voluntary agencies on this scheme in the last five years? Was there any complaint regarding mis-utilisation of funds in Gujarat? If so, has the Government enquired into the matter or not?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: In Gujarat there are 111 centres that

are functioning. Earlier there were reports of a general nature and some screening took place. After that, this programme of adult education was stopped for some time. It has again been introduced. Voluntary agencies are welcome to ask for this programme provided they are sponsored by the respective State Governments.

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: My question has not been answered. My specific question was: How much fund has been utilised in Gujarat through voluntary agencies? Were there any complaints about utilisation of funds? If so, whether the Government has enquired into the matter or not. What was the suggestion given by the hon. Minister to the Adult Education Seminar?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The Seminar that was arranged in Udaipur was attended by me as a guest. I have explained to them how the Government of India is interested in adult education and how this programme should be carried out by different voluntary agencies as well. While the Government is carrying out some programme, we would like the voluntary agencies also to take part in it. This was my suggestion.

As to how much money has been spent right from the beginning, I would only be too glad to give the information provided notice is given.

SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: My specific question about vocational training has not been answered.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: They are going on all over India, not only in Gujarat; I require specific notice for giving information.

श्री दया राम शास्त्री : क्या सरकार को पता है कि अनिवार्य शिक्षा योजना के उपरांत भी देश में निरन्तर निरक्षरता बढ़ रही है। यह इस बात का द्योतक है कि इस योजना का क्रियान्वयन भली प्रकार नहीं हो रहा है। सरकार देश के सभी व्यक्तियों को प्राथमिक शिक्षा देने में समर्थ

नहीं है। सरकार यह जानते हुए भी कि धन का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है, प्रौढ़ शिक्षा पर खर्च कर रही है। क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी नीति अपनाएगी जिससे बच्चों को अनिवार्य शिक्षा का लाभ मिल सके और प्रौढ़ शिक्षा योजना भी भली प्रकार से लागू हो और धन का दुरुपयोग न हो ?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL:

The hon. Member has suggested that there should be more funds. Our problem is the growing population. I would request the hon. Member to find out ways and means to stop the population growth. Only then we can deal with this. It is a very serious problem. That is why we cannot cope with it.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी कि जिस प्रकार से आंकड़े दिए गए हैं, उनसे पता चलता है कि प्रौढ़ शिक्षा के होते हुए भी अशिक्षितों की संख्या बढ़ती चली जा रही है। आपने बताया है कि हर साल हजारों स्कूल खोले जा रहे हैं, इसका मतलब यह है कि प्रौढ़ शिक्षा पर लाखों रुपया खर्च किया जा रहा है और अशिक्षितों की संख्या बढ़ती चली जा रही है। इसका मतलब यह है कि हमें प्राइमरी शिक्षा पर विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए, ताकि बच्चों को शुरु से ही अनिवार्य शिक्षा का लाभ मिल सके। मजदूर आदि पिछड़े लोगों के बच्चे जो स्कूल नहीं जाते हैं, उन्हें प्रोत्साहन दिया जाना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने तो लेक्चर दे दिया।

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मैं बता रही हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बताने को नहीं पूछने की बात है।

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या सरकार बच्चों को प्राइमरी स्तर से अनिवार्य शिक्षा देने की योजना को सुचारू रूप से लागू करने पर विचार करेगी, ताकि देश में अशिक्षा कम हो सके।

श्रीमती शीला कौल : जवाब दूँ ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं। It is a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: Will all the hon. Members please help me in curtailing their supplementaries to a specified length? It is too much. You see, the length will take all the time.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The other day there were two questions on Agriculture which took 20 minutes each

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You allow us 377 and Calling Attention then we won't ask any supplementaries?

MR. SPEAKER: There are certain things which, for the general good of the public we have to do. But we have to do justice also to the Question Hour. You also took a long time. I remember everything.

(Interruptions):

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not the general good of the public.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: You cannot say that as Speaker.

Exchange of Photographs of Missing Defence Personnel

*167. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to exchange between India and Pakis-