

18 hrs.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL TEACHERS OF ORISSA*

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi (Puri):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing a discussion today regarding the primary and secondary school teachers of Orissa.

The hon. Minister stated that during 1956-57, Rs. 3.99 lakhs and during 1957-58, Rs. 5.76 lakhs were sanctioned by way of Central assistance to Orissa to improve the pay of primary school teachers. But they are the lowest paid teachers in the country; they get only Rs. 40 per month and in some places only they get Rs. 2-3 besides, as house rent allowance. While speaking on the Demands of the Education Ministry, the hon. Minister had said that in ten out of fifteen States, the dearness allowance paid to primary school teachers is equal to that paid to the Government servants drawing the same salary. Orissa is one of the five States which had not yet implemented these measures.

Regarding secondary school teachers, in answer to a question he said that the State Government did not implement any scheme during all these years and in the Third Plan they are to make provisions in the State plans for such schemes. The Third Plan is almost finalised and what provisions have been made for increasing the salary and allowances of the secondary school teachers. It has been stated that in the 1961-62 Orissa Budget, a sum of Rs. 56 lakhs had been provided for increasing the remuneration of the primary teachers of Orissa. But it has not been clarified whether this is to increase the basic salary of the primary teachers of Orissa or it will be given as dearness allowance. What will be the total amount? Will the basic salary and the dearness allowance put together make at least about Rs. 70-80 during the Third Plan period? We

know the hon. Minister is keen to increase the salary of the teachers. During all these ten years the fate of the primary teachers in Orissa has not improved in any way. In the Third Plan at least, we hope that something would be done. In 1956-57 and 1957-58, more than Rs. 7 lakhs were sanctioned by the Government in the Centre but the emoluments have not been increased. During the Second Plan period the Government of India was prepared to assist the State Government but the State Government had not utilised whatever aid was given.

In answer to a question I had tabled, the following figures were given. I asked for the pay scales of the primary teachers in various States and also the corresponding dearness allowances. The hon. Minister's reply was this. In Andhra the dearness allowance ranged from Rs. 30 to Rs. 38; in Assam in Government schools it was 15 per cent of the basic pay plus 12½ per cent each allowance; in Bihar it was ranging between Rs. 17.50 to Rs. 25. In Gujerat it is Rs. 45 to Rs. 50, in Kerala it is Rs. 39, in Madras it is Rs. 30 and the dearness allowance in the secondary schools in Madras is Rs. 34. In Maharashtra the dearness allowance is Rs. 45 to Rs. 50. You will find from this list, Sir, that in the case of Orissa there is no dearness allowance offered to primary teachers. Therefore, they are the worst paid primary school teachers in the whole of India. I hope the hon. Minister will be pleased to do something for these primary school teachers at least in the coming years of the Third Plan so that they can get the benefit from planning.

In Orissa, the teachers in non-governmental schools do not get any dearness allowance. They only get a flat rate allowance of Rs. 5 per month in lieu of dearness allowance. Naturally it is too little. In other States also primary school teachers are given house rent allowance. In Orissa

the primary school teachers are offered only a house rent allowance of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3. You can well imagine, Sir, that in a city like Cuttack, Behrampur, Puri or some other urban areas you cannot get a good house to live in without paying Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per month. So, naturally, this house rent allowance of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per month is really a mockery, and it really the economic condition or the living condition of the primary teachers is to be improved the Government should at least raise the house rent allowance a little more.

Sir, the Madras Government has introduced a triple benefit scheme for the primary teachers which is proving a success. In Orissa there is no such provision for Provident Fund, Pension or Insurance, which the Government of Madras has implemented. We were told by the hon. Minister that all the State Government have accepted these proposals. I would like to know whether the Government of Orissa has accepted these recommendations or not. I would like to know whether they have done something to improve the condition of the teachers or to implement the triple benefit scheme for the primary school teachers and also for the secondary school teachers.

The Union Government has also requested the various State Governments for giving special financial assistance to the children of teachers at the pre-matriculation stage. But in Orissa you will find that the children of primary school teachers do not get any such facility nor do they get free education. I hope the hon. Minister will impress upon the State Government—now that the Centre is in charge of that State it can implement these measures—to implement these measures for improving the lot of the primary school teachers.

With regard to the law regarding compulsory education, a model law

was passed here and it has been introduced in Delhi. The hon. Minister has requested all State Governments to implement this. We do not know how far the Government of Orissa has agreed to expedite this measure so that it may be implemented in that State.

With these words, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to look to the conditions of the primary and secondary school teachers in the State of Orissa. They are the lowest paid teachers in the country and their conditions need immediate improvement.

The improvement effected in this direction during the last ten years is nothing. I would once again appeal to the hon. Minister so that in the coming years at least the lot of the primary and secondary teachers in the State of Orissa will improve.

Shri Supakar (Sambalpur): Sir, I want to put one or two questions. The Government has some definite policy regarding the case of primary school teachers and it gives aid to the different States to increase the emoluments of the primary school teachers. In the case of college teachers also there is a definite policy followed of asking the universities and the State Governments to increase the emoluments of college teachers. But so far as the teachers of secondary schools are concerned, I want to know what is the definite policy of the Government: whether they have recommended any fixed scale of pay for teachers of secondary schools with different qualifications, and what aid they give to the States for increasing their salary. I want to know this because there is no information regarding the aid that was given to the teachers of secondary schools in the case of Orissa. The figures that are given in that question relate to the emoluments of primary school teachers for two years, but no figure has been given as to what was the aid given by the Centre to help increase the emoluments of secondary school teachers. I want to know what was

[Shri Supakar]

the amount that was given by the Centre to the States for the increase of emoluments of secondary school teachers and the schemes which could not be implemented. I want to know if there is a definite policy followed in the case of States to fix a definite standard in respect of secondary school teachers with different qualifications. These are the two questions.

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): As far as the latter question which was raised by Shri Panigrahi is concerned, that is, with regard to the introduction of a model legislation, I may inform him that I propose to introduce a Bill, for free and compulsory education in Orissa, in Parliament very shortly. As far as the question of salaries is concerned, I agree with him that the total emoluments which the Orissa teachers were getting—dearness allowance plus the basic salary—were low. Probably he is right when he says that except for one or two States their pay in Orissa was the lowest. I think there is a great deal of force in the argument which he advanced: that there was no reason why the Government should discriminate between the dearness allowance which is given to Government servants and the dearness allowance that is given to primary school teachers. In my opinion, this was not fair. There have been difficulties in the way of the Orissa Government. In the past they were getting a dearness allowance of only Rs. 5, whereas those in Government service were getting a dearness allowance of Rs. 27 to Rs. 35. Though I know that there were financial problems before the Orissa Government, certainly the teachers have a grievance in this matter. I may inform the hon. Member that funds have been provided for 1961-62 to equalise the D.A. given to primary school teachers with that given to Government servants. Necessary provision is made in the budget. A policy decision has been taken in this matter and we have been in contact with the Orissa

Government. In fact, I was myself keen that the salary scales of teachers should be enhanced. There is no reason why there should be a difference between the dearness allowance given to the teachers and the dearness allowance given to Government servants. As soon as the budget is passed it will be equalised. The present dearness allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem will be raised to Rs. 27½ per mensem, and that will be a substantial gain to the teachers. As against Rs. 5, we give them a dearness allowance of Rs. 27½. The minimum emolument of teachers would thus be Rs. 67½. That is, a basic salary of Rs. 40 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 27½ will be given. As against Rs. 5, we are now giving them a dearness allowance of Rs. 27½. I hope that that would satisfy my hon. friend, Shri Panigrahi:

We have recommended to the State Governments that the minimum salary for untrained teachers should be Rs. 40 and for trained teachers Rs. 50. This recommendation was implemented by the Orissa Government. The difficulty arose only because there was a difference in the dearness allowance. We are going to equalise that also and that would give relief to the Orissa teachers.

With regard to the house rent allowance, that also is under consideration. So also the triple benefit scheme. With regard to facilities for free education of children, that is also a matter which we are considering.

I have made these two announcements—one is with regard to the introduction of free and compulsory education and I propose to introduce a Bill in Parliament very shortly for Orissa. Secondly, the dearness allowance will be equalised and from Rs. 5 the dearness allowance for teachers will be raised to Rs. 27½. I hope these two announcements will satisfy my hon. friend, Shri Panigrahi.

Shri Suparkar: What about the secondary school teachers?

Five Year Plan, as I announced the other day, we will give the higher priority to the question of teachers' salary.

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: I am afraid I do not have that information, but I may assure hon. Members that the question of teachers' salaries is receiving our highest consideration. We have been giving assistance to the State Governments and I can assure the hon. Member that in the Third

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The Lok Sabha adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 23, 1961/Chaitra 2, 1883 (Saka).

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