

MR. SPEAKER : I should say this to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. From this side also Members were called. Mr. Bhandare and others were called. In spite of that some gentleman gets up from this side and goes on saying things they were saying a few minutes before. This is going on since the last four or five days. He must ask them not to behave like this. I have seen the list of Members allowed from this side. In spite of that they behave like this.

Scholarships, Fellowships etc. granted by various foreign institutions

*426. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various scholarships and fellowships granted to us by various foreign institutions and/or Governments have occasionally lapsed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the extent of such lapses during the year 1968-69 amounted to Rs. 2.50 lakhs;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the above lapses; and

(d) whether his Ministry proposed to take effective steps to avoid such lapses in future, and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount owing to unutilised scholarships during 1968-69 was approximately Rs. 3.15 lacs.

(c) Unutilised scholarships are primarily due to the last minute inability of scholars to leave India for personal, domestic reasons such as sudden illness, death of parents, unforeseen family difficulties, that are unavoidable. Subsidiary reasons are: Lack of proficiency in a foreign language and difficulty in meeting passage costs where these have not been covered by the scheme.

(d) Prospective scholars have been strongly advised to utilise their awards by all possible means including ensuring proficiency in the

relevant foreign language. Reserve Lists are maintained of candidates who may replace nominees if the latter fall out for unavoidable reasons. The Government makes grants under its "Needy and Deserving" scheme to those scholars who satisfy the economic condition for such assistance.

SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : May I know whether it is due to the late advertising and whether the Government notifies the concerned persons in time so that applications could be sent and examined by an impartial body ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : Advertisements are issued well in time. All the scholarships are advertised through newspapers and notices are sent to the universities. All facilities are given to those interested to apply and when the applications are received they are screened and those possessing the requisite qualifications are examined by a committee consisting of a non-official chairman, representative of the ministry of education, ministry of external affairs and some experts of the particular field for which the scholarship is given and also someone from the donor country or institution.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : In view of these lapses, would the Government like to request the foreign institutions to review the scholarships ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : No, that is not possible.

श्री राम चरण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन फौरन-स्कालरशिप्स में जहाँ तक शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स का ताल्लुक है, जो 12 स्कालरशिप भारत सरकार की तरफ से उनके लिये निर्धारित हैं, उनमें ही स्थान मिलता है, लेकिन जो स्कालरशिप्स विदेशी संस्थाओं की तरफ से दिये जाते हैं, उनमें इनके लिये कोई रिजर्वेशन नहीं होता। जैसा कन्सलटेटिव कमेटी में भी मैंने पूछा था कि क्या इन फौरन-स्कालरशिप्स में भी उनको कोई रिजर्वेशन देने के लिये तैयार हैं ? यदि नहीं देना चाहते हैं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : The Ministry deals with nine external scholarships of Scheduled Castes and Tribes under the National Scholarship Scheme. We shall consider the suggestion of the Member.

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या मंत्री महोदय को ज्ञात है कि जो विदेशी छात्रवृत्तियाँ विद्यार्थियों को दी जाती हैं उसमें अधिकांश रूप में बड़े-बड़े अधिकारियों के सम्बन्धी और लड़के होते हैं ? क्या सरकार पिछले तीन वर्षों में, इस प्रकार की जो छात्रवृत्तियाँ दी गई हैं उसकी लिस्ट सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेगी ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is whether the scholarships lapse or not, what is the amount.

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार : जो स्कालरशिप्स होती हैं वह बड़े अधिकारियों के सम्बन्धियों और लड़कों को ही मिलती हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसमें लड़कों का सवाल कहां आ गया ।

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : I regret that the reply of the Minister does not indicate that Government appreciates the needs of the situation. After all, the country concerned is India where we know that public funds are not sufficient to support individually in the cause of education. There are two points on which I would like to have an answer. One is that of passage costs. Knowing fully well that Indians by and large cannot afford passage cost, is the Government having a machinery which encourages deserving people to get passage costs speedily ? Secondly, where the language difficulty arises, why is not the situation anticipated at the time of screening to find out if the language has been learnt ? Is there any provision in the Ministry by which assessment is made of the learning and assistance is given for learning the language ? After all, acquiring a language is in the interests of the country.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : As for the passage cost, I have already said that there is a scheme under which passage cost is provided. There is a "Needy and Deserving Scheme" under

which, to meet the economic situation, certain assistance is stipulated. When we calculate the passage cost, the annual income of the candidate is taken into account, and if those men cannot afford it and if they merit it, they are given these scholarships.

The second point is about the proficiency in language. As I have said, scholarships are given purely on merit. After that, the final decision on the scholarship is taken by the donor country or the donor institution. They probably find that the proficiency of the students who apply is not up to the standard required.

SHRI M. L. SONDDHI : What about the screening committee ? Does it consider the language requirements ? After all, so much money is lost to our country.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : Yes, Sir. It does. When they apply, they say, and the students that we choose usually do have it, but the final decision is left to the donor country, and if it is a foreign country they may feel that the standard of the language is not up to the standard required by the institution to which they are going.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the scholarship amount earmarked for the foreign students of Indian origin is being cut down year after year and, further, I want to know whether the amount earmarked for the same scholarships was not at all given, or that the total amount was not spent in the last two or three years.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : These scholarships that we are dealing with now are those that are offered by other countries.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : About our scholarships.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : It is not relevant.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : May I know the names of those countries and institutions where such scholarships have lapsed ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : There is a long list of them. If you desire, I shall place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes; it may be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI R. K. AMIN : May I know from the Minister whether this lapse of the scholarships given by the foreign countries is due to the non-requirement of that sort of training in our country, because, so many people went abroad taking advantage of such scholarships and when they came back to our country they did not get any job; it was inadequate and because of that so many people cannot take advantage of this. Is it because that the Government does not look to our requirements and fix up the scholarships with the foreign countries.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : The majority of students who apply for these scholarships are usually sponsored by some institution or university. So, when they come back they are usually absorbed in those institutions.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : May I know how many scholarships have lapsed on account of the language difficulty and on account of the scholarships being available only to those people who are proficient in such languages in which sufficient facility for training is not available in our country ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : All this is given in the statement.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मन्त्री महोदय ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि छात्रों की योग्यता को देख कर ही उनको स्कालरशिप दी जाती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन-कौन सी योग्यताओं को देखकर स्कालरशिप दी जाती है ? तथा उन योग्यताओं को आपने निर्धारित किया है या कि जो देश छात्रवृत्ति देते हैं वही उसको तय करते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त जो देश छात्रवृत्ति देते हैं क्या उनसे हमारा कोई समझौता है जिसके हिसाब से छात्रवृत्तियाँ दी जाती हैं ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : All these qualifications are laid down by the donor countries.

SHRI S. KUNDU : I would like to know whether these scholarships are also avail-

able to officers of government. Then, is it a fact that one of the reasons why these scholarships lapse is that the processing of applications is done by the other Ministries and not by the Education Ministry alone which result in delay ?

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : No, Sir, they do not lapse because of any delay. One reason is that the people to whom they are given at the last minute are not able to take advantage of the scholarships.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Because you are late in informing the candidates. I know many such instances.

SHRI S. KUNDU : For years no intimation is given and when we telephone it starts working.

SHRI PILOO MODY : They wait till the last minute and then give it to their brother-in-law.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : We would be very happy if the hon. Members give the details of such instances so that we could go into them.

SHRI KRTIK ORAON : I want to know the terms and conditions of the scholarships and fellowships etc. granted by the foreign institutions, the total number of scholarships and fellowships availed by the government and the reasons why the others were not availed of.

MR. SPEAKER : This is too detailed a question for which he should give notice.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : All this is contained in the statement. I will lay it on the Table.

Asian Highway Project undertaken by
ECAFE

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*429. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR
SINGH :
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :
SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI :
SHRI J. M. BISWAS :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress so far made in regard to the Asian Highway Project undertaken