

in India. There is no marking at all, but it is generally considered to be one of the finest institutions in the country.

As far as the question of allotment of funds is concerned, public funds are allotted only to the Government colleges. Private funds are raised by the promoters themselves either through fees or through trust and so on, and it is spent by them. As far as we are concerned, our policy is that Government money will be spent very largely on Government colleges.

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARAYAR: Percentage between private and public.

DR KARAN SINGH 17 and 83.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: May I know whether Government has any scheme to give grants to private medical colleges so that they may not collect any capitation fees, which is undesirable even according to the hon Minister ?

DR KARAN SINGH: This is the whole problem. If we start giving large grants to private colleges, then the funds that are available to us for the extension of our own health services becomes very much diminished. Therefore, there is no proposal at present. However, it is possible to make the Medical Council of India something of a parallel to the University Grants Commission, so that it not only lays down standards but perhaps can also give certain grants under certain circumstances. That is what we are considering in the amendment that is proposed.

Funds for Special Nutrition Programme in Orissa

*428. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned some money for Special Nutrition Programme in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the extent of money and the outlines regarding its programme urban slum feeding and tribal feeding centres and blocks covered by this programme in the State; and

(c) whether some money has also been sanctioned in favour of Applied Nutrition Programme Blocks for implementation of special schemes during the current year; and if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha

Statement

The Special Nutrition Programme was started in 1970-71 to provide supplemental nutrition to all vulnerable groups belonging to weaker sections of the needy in urban slums and tribal areas. In 1970-71 the supplemental feeding was limited to children of 0-3 years of age. In 1971-72, children up to 6 years of age and expectant and nursing mothers were also included in the programme. The supplemental nutrition provided under this programme is 200 calories and 8 to 10 grams protein to children in the age group of 0-1 year, 300 calories and 10 to 12 group of protein to children in the age group of 1-6 years, and 500 calories and 20 to 25 grams of protein to expectant and nursing mothers.

In the Fourth Plan, the scheme operated in the Central Sector. In the Fifth Plan, the expansion of the programme has been provided in the State Sector under the *Minimum Needs Programme*.

The Government of India released the following amounts to the Government of Orissa year-wise during the Fourth Plan period (1970-74 only) and in 1974-75, the first year of the Fifth Plan for supple-

| Year | Financial assistance | (iii) Post operational blocks of 1969-70 series at the rate of Rs. 15,000 | 1 | 15,000 |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | | | | <u>7,35,000</u> |
| | Rs. | | | |
| 1970-71 | 1,68,013 | | | |
| 1971-72 | 78,41,000 | | | |
| 1972-73 | 101,71,000 | | | |
| 1973-74 | 137,18,000 | | | |
| 1974-75 | 53,49,000 | | | |

(This amount is in addition to a provision of Rs. 123,00,000 approved by the Planning Commission in the State's Annual Plan for 1974-75 under the Minimum Needs Programme).

The details of the beneficiaries at the end of the Fourth Plan period are as under .

| | Urban Slums | Tribal areas |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Number of beneficiaries | 40,410 | 3,30,600 |
| Centres covered | 229 | 3,225 |
| Number of blocks | Not applicable | 143 |

The Government of Orissa are eligible to receive Central assistance of Rs. 7,35,000 for the implementation of the Applied Nutrition Programme for all categories of blocks in accordance with the prescribed pattern of assistance as indicated below .

| Category of blocks | No. of blocks | Assistance Rs. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| (i) New blocks allotted during 1974-75 at the rate of Rs. 30,000 per block per year | 5 | 1,50,000 |
| (ii) On going blocks from 1970-71 to 1973-74 series at the rate of Rs. 30,000 | 19 | 5,70,000 |

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : It is a matter of gratification to all of us that Government is taking care to provide supplemental nutrition to the vulnerable sections of the society. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since 65 per cent of the total population of Orissa comes from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society, the percentage of the population that is likely to be covered by this special nutrition programme. Since the responsibility of the Central Government is of serving the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people, I would like to know what specific steps they have taken to see that these nutrition programmes are implemented so that they benefit the people for whom they are meant

DR. KARAN SINGH : The special nutrition programmes are to benefit the age group 1 to 6 years. I am not sure what the percentage of the total is, but it is a fairly large percentage. What we are trying to do is to cover the pregnant mothers, lactating mothers and the children from 0 to 6 years. In order to achieve this, there are a number of programmes which are at present in operation. There is the Mid-day Meals Programme under the Ministry of Irrigation. There is the Applied Nutrition Programme under the Ministry of Agriculture. There are various other such programmes run by the different Ministries. What we are trying to see is essentially to get to the children as early as possible through the club centres and through the Balvadis, because it has now been proved medically that the first five or six years of a child's life are absolutely crucial. If the nutritional inputs are not given at that time, then this physical and mental development will be retarded or distorted. So, we are trying to get to those children.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : It is reported time and again in the newspapers that especially the children belonging to the weaker sections of the society go blind between the ages of 5 and 10. So, may I know what specific steps Government have taken to see that this blindness is reduced through supply of Vitamin "A", the lack of which is causing this blindness ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is unfortunately and tragically true that 15 to 20 thousand children every year, it is estimated, go blind due to vitamin deficiency. This is a very terrible state of affairs. So, we have developed a highly concentrated Vitamin "A" syrup and tablets. When a single spoonful of that syrup, equal to two lakh international units of Vitamin "A", is given to a child twice a year, every six months, that is stored in the liver and it is gradually released over six months.

If any of the hon. members would like to have a sample of this, I will supply it with my compliments.

MR. SPEAKER : When you are elected, you must know in what vitamins you are deficient so that for five years they can be given to you !

DR. KAILAS : The minister has said that the programme of nutrition is run through the Education Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry and the Health Ministry. Is there any proposal with the Health Ministry—if not, will he move in this matter—to see that all the programmes come under one ministry, i.e. Health Ministry? Either there is duplication of work or the monies given to different ministries are not fully utilised.

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is true there is a multiplicity of ministries dealing with it, partly for historical reasons. I am inclined to agree that if they come under the same ambit, it would be better. However, without going into the question of redistribution, we are trying to have a committee which would coordinate it. Education Ministry is involved because the Department of Social Welfare is under it.

DR. KAILAS : Social Welfare Department itself should come under the Health Ministry.

DR. KARAN SINGH : That is a suggestion for action.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि उड़ीसा में बच्चों के लिए बड़ी मात्रा में पीस्टिक साहार दिया जाता है। क्या वह सही है कि बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में बच्चों के लिए जो पीस्टिक साहार दिया जाता है, वह बच्चों को प्राण नहीं होता है, वह ठीक समय पर नहीं पहुँचता है और काले बाजार में बिकता है, जिस से इस का पूरा लाभ नहीं होता है? क्या सही तरीक़ा इस बारे में कोई जांच करवाये?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : ऐसी कोई जानकारी हमारे सामने तो नहीं आई है। अगर ज़ानकारी सदस्य के पास कोई जानकारी हो, तो वह हमें भेज दें।

SHRI JAGDISH BHATTACHARYYA : May I know in which regard this nutrition programme which is financed by the Union Government is an improvement on the similar programmes carried on in the States ?

DR. KARAN SINGH : It is really not a question of improvement but a question of supplementing the activities of the State Governments. The Government of India, through these various central programmes, supplements the activities of the Central Government. It is not one against the other, but both together.

SHRI D. BASUMATARI : May I know from the hon. minister the number of blind children among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, because when I go round the villages, I see a number of blind children among scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

DR. KARAN SINGH : I do not have the separate figures. But it is true that because of the fact that scheduled castes

and scheduled tribes are economically under-privileged, the incidence of malnutrition, vitamin deficiency and, hence blindness tends to be higher among them.

policy of the United States in this matter is reversed? In the absence of the Minister, was the meeting held on the 13th and 14th March at Washington?

Foreign Minister's proposed visit to U.S.A.

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*429. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR :
SHRI S. A. MURGANANTHAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he proposes to visit the United States soon for personal dialogue with U.S. political and official leaders on various matters regarding Indo-US relations;

(b) if so, when and the broad outlines of subjects likely to come up for discussion; and

(c) if not, the reasons for postponing or cancelling the U.S. visit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) to (c) In the context of the situation arising out of the decision of the U.S. Government to lift the embargo on arms supply to Pakistan, it was announced on 26 February that in the present circumstances Foreign Minister would not be able to go to Washington for the Indo-US Joint Commission meeting that was scheduled to be held on 13-14 March. Since then, there have not been any new developments.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : The Minister says in his reply "in the present circumstances Foreign Minister would not be able to go to Washington". May I know why such mild language is used? Was no effective protest lodged, saying that the Minister will not go for certain reasons? Secondly, he said this decision of the Minister not to go was "in the present circumstances". Does it mean that the decision will remain valid till the

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : Firstly, that meeting was not held on those dates. Secondly, we will certainly not take lessons from Shri Mavalankar regarding use of language. Thirdly, the circumstances in which this decision was taken, those circumstances have not changed. Unless they are changed, that decision remains and the Foreign Minister would not go to that meeting

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR : The Minister in his original answer says, "Since then, there have not been any new developments." Is it not a fact that after this decision, the United States Ambassador, Mr. Saxbe, delayed his arrival in India by staying in Thailand for some time? On his arrival here, was he called at the External Affairs Ministry or was he told of the Government of India's strong views in the matter? Then, there was a report in yesterday's *Statesman* on the front page that President Ford is likely to drop the Deigo Garcia project. Does it not mean that the President and the Congress in the United States are not on good terms, as the press reports tell us? What is the Government of India's attitude with regard to these new developments? Are they telling the Washington State Department of the exact mind of the Government of India and the people of India on this important matter?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS : The arrival of Ambassador Saxbe has not brought about any change in the situation. We have certainly conveyed our strong feeling about this matter. Secondly, we are not guided by the press reports always. Thirdly, the situation created by arms supply to Pakistan is not the same as the question of Deigo Garcia. The press report is about Deigo Garcia only.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : From the recent activities of the United States it is apparent that though they are