

Conference of Teachers to Drive out Illiteracy

*1. SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

to call a conference of teachers including school teachers to chalk out measures

(a) whether Government propose to drive out illiteracy from the country; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is not calling a conference of teachers to drive out illiteracy and what is the other programme to drive out illiteracy from the country.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: For driving out illiteracy from the country as a first step a National Board of Adult Education has been set up. As a second step, this has split itself up into several sub-committees and they are trying to develop certain strategies and it is proposed to approach the State Governments for setting up State Boards. We know that the teachers have to perform a major role in the implementation of the programme of removal of illiteracy so, at the appropriate time due consultation with the teachers will be held. In the meantime I am having discussion with the representatives of the different federations of teachers in this matter.

श्रीमती अहिल्या पी० रंगनेकर :

क्या आपने कंसल्टेटिव कमेटी की मीटिंग में यह नहीं कहा था कि टीचर्स

बगैरह की कॉन्फ्रेंस बुलाएंगे ? क्या आपसे 6 अक्टूबर को यूनिवर्सिटी टीचर्स फेडरेशन के बुमाइन्डे नहीं मिले थे और आपने उनसे यह नहीं कहा था कि उनकी एक कॉन्फ्रेंस बुलाएंगे ?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र: श्री कॉन्फ्रेंस बुलाने का वक्त नहीं है। जब प्राबलम की स्टडी हो जाएगी तभी इसका सवाल उठेगा। श्री स्ट्रेजी डवलप हो रही है। उसके डवलप होने के बाद ही कॉन्फ्रेंस बुलायी जाएगी।

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: As we all know, this problem of illiteracy in our country is not only colossal, but is also getting mounted up in terms of increasing numbers of illiterate people in the country. The Minister has already appointed an adult Education Board. Does that board contain adequate representation of teachers at all levels, and of social workers doing this work of adult education in different fields? My feeling is that the board is heavily represented in terms of ministers, and secretaries and bureaucrats, but not of teachers who are going to work. In view of this, will he assure the House and the nation that the government is very sincerely, earnestly and urgently looking into this matter of implementing the programme as early as possible, with the help of persons and instruments directly involved in this work, viz. teachers and social education and literacy workers?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I fully agree with the hon. Member that we should give the highest priority to this problem. But we wanted to make this board a small one, so that it is workable. If we have a very large board, it may not be possible for us to meet quite easily, and quite often. Moreover it is proposed that we should decentralise our activities and approach the State governments to set up State boards, where different voluntary agencies and teachers' organizations will be associated in a greater way.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: The increase in population is about 3 per cent, after the advent of the Janata government. This means that every year we are adding to our population about 1 crores and 80 lakhs of people. I want to know whether the Minister is in a position to educate all these people, in addition to eradicating illiteracy among the adults. If so, how much time does he need? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: The hon. Member thinks that the population has increased after the coming into power of the Janata government, i.e. within six months. How is it possible?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Obviously, the hon. Member's hypothesis cannot be accepted; but as regards the involvement of all sections of people for the eradication of this massive illiteracy, steps are being taken in a proper manner.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Is the government thinking in terms of any time-bound programme? If so, what are the special programmes? Does it propose to involve all literate people in this programme, apart from whatever teachers and government agencies might be able to do? Have any funds been set aside for a crash programme for the removal of illiteracy—which includes functional literacy?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: 5 years' time has been set before us, as the target date within which we should try to remove illiteracy from adults between the ages of 15 and 35 years. They will be nearly about 13 crores in number. And it would be a rather heavy task, no doubt. Therefore, we have approached the Planning Commission for the purpose of providing more funds for this purpose. A special sub-committee has been set up to deal with this very serious question. And

the Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Deputy Chairman Mr. Lakdawala both attended the inaugural meeting. And both of them kindly assured that they would give the highest priority to this particular problem and that adequate funds would be provided.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I also asked about functional literacy.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already asked.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: In view of the stupendous size of the problem and also of the fact that the work of removal of illiteracy will have to be undertaken in the States, has any plan been made to involve the State governments also actively in this work?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I have already assured the Houses that the State Governments will be involved, because State boards will be set up; and then we propose to go down even to the district level, so that district boards will be set up. I had called a meeting of the Ministers from different States and Union Territories. They have by and large accepted the urgency of this problem. The strategy is now in the stage of being worked out in detail. I shall come with a full programme after I place this matter before the Consultative Committee of Parliament for Education, i.e. after the whole strategy is chalked out in draft.

श्री रामजी लाल सुम्नत : अध्यक्ष जी यह एक महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है और सरकार के माध्यम से निरक्षरता का अन्त ही ऐसा दिखाई भी नहीं देता । तो मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि विद्यालयों और महाविद्यालयों में जो एन० एस० एस० का

कार्य चलता है क्या सरकार उसको प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कोई कारगर कदम उठाने वाली है ?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : एन० एस० एस० का इस काम में लगाने का सवाल है और हमने तय किया है कि एन० एस० एस० को इसमें लागू कर दिया जाएगा। फिर भी यह कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि एन० एस० एस० का काम हायर सेकेंड्री क्लास 2 स्टेज में भी लागू हो जाय जिससे और ज्यादा लड़के आ जाएंगे।

Development of Forests

*2. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology emphasised on the development of forests to create jobs at the seminar held in Delhi on or about 16th August, 1977; and

(b) if so, the plans of Government to develop forests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir. In a seminar held in New Delhi on 16th August, 1977, regarding "Optimum utilisation of wood resources" Secretary, Department of Science and Technology emphasised the need of optimum utilisation of country's natural resources including forestry. This will also help solve the unemployment problem of the country.

(b) Greater emphasis is being laid in the forestry sector on covering larger areas under plantation schemes both in the Centrally Sponsored and State Sector. The National Commission on Agriculture considered the acute shortage of fuelwood and small timber in the country and recommended inclusion of social forestry schemes in the 5th five year plan with the objective of providing fuelwood, small timber, fodder and fruits to the rural people. Accordingly, the Government of India included two Centrally Sponsored Social Forestry Schemes in the 5th Plan period with an outlay of Rs. 10 crores as central grant component. The provision for each of these schemes i.e. (i) Mixed Plantations on Waste lands and Panchayat lands etc. and (ii) Reforestation of Degraded Forests and Raising of Shelter Belts is Rs. 5 crores each. The pattern of central grant which was 75 per cent for mixed plantations and 50 per cent for forestation of degraded forests for 1976-77 has now been raised to 100 per cent grant limited to Rs. 1,000 per hectare for 1977-78. The schemes are under implementation from 1976-77. The table below shows the achievements made during 1976-77 and the likely programme for 1977-78 and 1978-79.