

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: They will be available according to the arrangements worked out by the open universities. It will be appreciated that the University has just started. It has to finalise all these arrangements with the other universities. Not many other universities have yet been established.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the Indira Gandhi Open University was set up, it was supposed to be different from the conventional universities, but if it is to be run in cooperation with and on the pattern of other conventional universities, how it would be different from the rest. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it will be possible to keep this university free from the shortcomings that are seen in the conventional universities these days?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is with a view to removing the conventional shortcomings that a new pattern has been adopted. Some similarity between this university and other universities is bound to be there whether it is in teaching or in courses or syllabus. Not that we are doing something strange or totally new to the world. We shall have to coordinate with them because this new system in the form of an open university has been introduced with their cooperation.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : The Government has decided to set up an Indira Gandhi Open University at Nalanda in Bihar which had a university in olden times, but no work has been done there so far. Its office is still functioning at Patna. I would like to know when the work will start in Nalanda and by when the university will start functioning?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: If the hon. Member wants to have any information about that university, he can have it from the Bihar Government or else I will get it for him from there.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Parasram Bhardwaj. Absent.

Shri R.M. Bhoje. Absent.

Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Absent.

Autonomous Colleges

*465. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of colleges in the country which have been recognised as Autonomous Colleges;

(b) whether the college and University teachers have opposed the scheme of grant of autonomous status to the colleges; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision regarding autonomous colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The scheme of autonomous colleges was initiated during the 4th Plan on the recommendations of the Education Commission, 1964-66. Till 1986, 22 colleges were granted autonomous status under this scheme. The scheme was reviewed by the UGC as envisaged in the National Policy on Education and revised guidelines were issued in January, 1987. Till July, 1987, 36 more colleges have been approved by the concerned Universities, State Governments and the UGC for autonomous status.

(b) and (c). A section of teachers has been expressing the view that the scheme of autonomous colleges would generally divide colleges into different categories, promote elitism and lead to arbitrariness on the part of managements. The policy

having been finalised after extensive discussions and debate, the Government have no proposal to review the matter.

DR. SUDHIR ROY: The hon. Minister of Human Resource Development has nothing to do with the teachers because he is refusing to meet the teachers' leaders when they are on strike for 25 days. Anyway, I want to say that the only apex organisation of all India teachers, that is the AIFUTO has definitely refused the concept of autonomous colleges, because these autonomous colleges will lead to elitism and create some academic racketeers to start new colleges and charge capitation fees. Not only this: Then it will discriminate against the rural students. That is why we see the little progress made by autonomous colleges. Only 22 colleges have so far been established.

Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister they would give up the concept of autonomous colleges. Not a section of college teachers, almost all the teachers in higher education have rejected this concept of autonomous colleges. I would further like to know from the Minister the average expenditure incurred by the autonomous College, by the UGC or by Central Government, because in every State, the State Government has to spend nearly twenty to thirty lakhs of rupees for each of the College.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, as I have already stated, there is no proposal to give up the idea even before it has germinated or it has taken root. There are twenty two Colleges at the moment out of which, sixteen are in Tamil Nadu State alone. A very detailed survey conducted by the Madras University and the findings of that Survey are very very encouraging. They say that some of the Colleges have sincerely tried to upgrade restructure and provide extra courses of practical and skill oriented nature. The teachers and students were found to be adequately motivated to work out the autonomous status successfully, though some of them have a

feeling that they have to work more under the autonomous status. This seems to be the real bone of contention. They will have to work a little more if autonomy is to be ensured that is perhaps being objected to. The Colleges will have to hold examinations and declare results in time. This is one of the things, which cannot be said about all other Colleges and the Universities. Teachers are involved in framing the syllabi and there has been a considerable enthusiasm in making innovation. This is one of the important aspects jacket given by the Universities to all the Colleges whether they like it or not or whether it suits them or not. There is going to be a lot of flexibility, which has been shown in the Colleges already functioning.

Therefore, I do not think that there is any case for giving up the idea of autonomous colleges. The fear expressed by the teachers is that whatever authority the University now wields will be transferred to the Managements of the colleges. At the outset, I would like to dispel this impression that autonomy is in the matter of Management. No. Autonomy is not in the matter of management, autonomy is only in academic matters. They can have their own courses. They can have their own syllabi. They can create conditions wherein innovation is possible. Therefore, autonomy does not affect the management status that at present exists and the management will have no additional power flowing from autonomy. Their power of management will continue to be what it is today. The terms of service conditions and other matters will be governed by the relevant provisions of the University Acts. When the grievances redressal mechanism is established, as has been promised in the New Education Policy, they will provide additional protection to the teachers, as will happen in other Colleges and Universities. So, there is hardly any objection that could validly be taken to the idea of autonomous colleges. Therefore, they will continue.

DR. SUDHIR ROY: Sir, UGC now tries

for college autonomy. So far as the UGC guidelines are there, the management of an autonomous college will not include any elected representative of teachers, students or non-teaching employees. Sir, in many States now, the management consist of elected representatives of teachers, students and non-teaching employees. Therefore, the management could mainly consist of nominated and ex-officio heads, and I would like to point out that under the present system, the syllabi are set by the experts from the Colleges and the Universities. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they would provide for democratic management of the so-called autonomous colleges.

SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I think, the advent of autonomous colleges will have no effect one way or the other on the pattern of management that exists today. If the Managements have to be improved, they have to be improved across the board everywhere. So, this question will not arise particularly in connection with the autonomous colleges.

PROF. P.J.KURIEN: It is not correct to say that all the teachers are opposed to autonomous colleges. And further I understand that in autonomous colleges the teachers are more enthusiastic because they have more academic freedom and there is scope for innovation.

MR.DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You put the question.

PROF P.J. KURIEN: This scheme was envisaged by the Education Commission in 1964-65. Over this long period you have given autonomous status to 36 + 22 colleges only out of more than 5000 colleges. There are a number of colleges in the country which are well equipped to be conferred autonomous status. I would like to know whether you will proceed in that direction. You should have some machinery to monitor the autonomous colleges. How are you contemplating to do that?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: In regard

to the first question why there has been a small number of autonomous colleges in spite of the strong recommendation by the Kothari Commission, I have very little to say. The Kothari Commission gave us excellent recommendations. But most of the recommendations remained unimplemented for one reason or the other. This is one of them. In any case, there has been some reluctance. There is always some reluctance to anything new. And we know who are responsible for that reluctance. If there are any vested interests who do not want innovation, they will certainly oppose it. But this time at least this Parliament has given me a full mandate to go ahead with autonomous colleges as adumbrated in the Policy. We have decided to make 500 colleges autonomous during the Seventh Five Year Plan. We are going ahead with the plan. And we hope we will be able to complete the target within the Plan. So, far as the monitoring mechanism is concerned; the UGC has said that in every University there will be a monitoring mechanism. In every college there will be monitoring mechanism.

This is a new scheme. We cannot just start and leave it to itself. There will have to be monitoring. Those monitoring arrangements will be perfected in course of time.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: According to the scheme, is it necessary at this stage to recommend such colleges to become autonomous colleges? Or there are private colleges, Government-aided colleges, and those colleges have also applied to the UGC through the respective universities to become autonomous colleges. As such will the Minister tell me how many such private colleges leaving aside the colleges recommended by the Government of Orissa, have applied to the UGC to convert them into autonomous colleges? Specifically I would like to know whether one such college at Bhanjnagar in Ganjam District has applied to the UGC to convert it into an autonomous college? If so, what steps are being taken for that.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The method is this. There is a committee on which the State Government the university and the UGC are represented. They are incharge of going into all the details of a particular college which applies for autonomy. They will decide finally which college should be converted into autonomous colleges. This is the method. When an application comes, they go into all these things. The decision is taken and then the University itself gives autonomy to that college. It is not as if an autonomous college is simply breaking away from the university, because the degree ultimately has to be given by the University itself. The university recognises that whatever flexibility is being given to this autonomous college is acceptable to them and the product of that college they consider good enough to get a degree of the university. So that is the umbilical cord between the university and the autonomous college.

So far as the specific question raised by the hon. Member is concerned, I would like to have notice about that. I will get the information and send it.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Sir, North Bengal has a composite population. It is a multilingual area you can say. So, I would like to know whether the Minister has any plan to have an autonomous college in the North Bengal area.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, in particular universities what decisions have been taken, I am prepared to tell the hon. Members all the details. At the moment, in the list of colleges approved by UGC in 1987, so far as West Bengal is concerned, I do not have any. I have got the colleges only from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This is a continuing process. Therefore as the application come, they will be considered. I think Dr. Sudhir Roy should agree.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Sir, for the last three weeks there is an all-India teachers' strike and stalemate continues. Therefore, in order to avert such situations

and in order that the new educational policy is successfully implemented, will the Government take teachers into confidence in these matters? The teachers are objecting to the autonomous colleges not on the ground that they would have to work more but because they think that education being an energy, more potent than atomic energy, and being an instrument of social change, should not be allowed to be in the hands of private managements. Therefore, so long as the management restructuring of educational institutions is not undertaken, the experiment of autonomous colleges might not bear the desired fruits.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, as I have already submitted, the experience so far has been good. There has been no elitism reported, no differentiation reported. None of the things that had been apprehended has been reported so far. So, the experiment has succeeded even within the few institutions that have been taken up. Now we want to experiment on a larger scale. Naturally, the problems will be there. The problems will be more complex. We are really bracing ourselves to face those problems and see how we can make a success of the whole scheme. In regard to the motivation, why this is being objected to, Sir, we need not go into that. I do not consider that relevant at this point of time because the decision has been taken and we are pressing ahead with the decision.

decision.

Irrigation by Underground Water

*466. **DR. K. G. ADIYODI:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total area irrigated by utilising underground water during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed, State-wise, to irrigate annual crops and plantation crops during the current plan;

(c) which are the regions in the country