

[*Translation*]

(viii) Need to complete the construction of Bansagar Inter-State Irrigation Project

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the foundation stone of the Bansagar Inter-State Irrigation Project was laid in May, 1978 by the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai. After having consultations with the senior engineers and experts of the irrigation department the then Prime Minister had announced that the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will start getting the benefits of this project after 6 years and the project will generate hydro-electricity at the cheapest rate in the world. It would help in spreading industrial network and providing jobs to youths in order to remove unemployment among them.

Twelve years have passed since the foundation stone was laid, but so far the construction of the dam has not been completed. The farmers are not getting water for irrigation. In Rewa division, only 3 per cent of land is irrigated whereas the national average is 35 per cent. In 1978, the estimated cost of this project was Rs. 423 crores and now it has escalated to Rs. 1200 crores. The more it is delayed, the more will be the escalation in its cost.

The construction work on this dam was totally stopped in October, 1989. Consequently, ten thousand labourers have been rendered jobless. The amount of money so far spent on this project has not been yielding any results. The inflation is rising.

I would, therefore, like to request the Central Government to complete the work of construction on Bansagar Project and its

canals and start generation of electricity by 1992.

GENERAL BUDGET—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Ministry of Human Resource Development—Contd.

13.32 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we will take up Discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Shri N. Tombi Singh was on his legs. He may please continue his speech.

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to continue.

Yesterday I tried to impress upon the hon. House and the Government about the regional imbalances in the matter of human resource development, which should be removed.

The main criticism against our education policy so far, which is now being reviewed, has been that we have too many priorities. When we have many priorities, it is as good as having no priority. When the different aspects of our education, different aspects of our human resource development have to be given priority, the emphasis should be on the need for employment-oriented education all over the country.

Then, the standard should be as far as possible uniform all over the country taking into consideration, the backward areas where the infrastructure is less developed. Those

[Prof. N. Tombi Singh]

areas should be given special attention. The commercialisation of education of professional studies as well as general education beginning with elementary and nursery schools also has to be stopped. The new education policy that may come up after the review should take care of this aspect also.

I would like to mention a few subjects which come under the human resource development. Coming to the development of languages, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore is to develop tribal languages and other backward languages so as to come up to the status of other developed languages. But for the last few years, it has been noticed that the approach to the development of tribal languages has been very casual. The attention of the previous Government and previous Ministers and even the officers concerned has been drawn to certain lacunae and from time to time in the absence of special caution being given to this institution, nothing is likely to come out. I will cite one instance. I happen to belong to a community which is known as Manipuri. I am not raising my status by not being a tribal. Somehow, those of us in Manipur, are invited and are not spared to every meeting concerned with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes development. We are invited very quietly and we give our consideration. Somehow, we the Manipuri community, in spite of its backwardness, are not a Scheduled Tribe. Everybody will ask me "Are you not a Scheduled Tribe?" The language we speak is a developed language. This language is taken as a Scheduled Tribe language by the Institute in Mysore and we have to point out that this is not a tribal language because the community is not a tribal community. This language is one of the most developed languages and it is in the List of the Sahitya Kala Academy. It is not only that. This has been the language of sovereign State before the merger with the Union of India in 1949. It was the language of the sovereign State and it is the medium of education in the University where

the thesis is written in Manipuri and Central Universities have opened classes in that. This is the medium of instruction and examination up to secondary education. It is the official language of the State. It is waiting to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The peculiarity of this language will be, once it is included in the Eighth Schedule, this will be No.1 Mangoloid language to find its place in the Eighth schedule of the constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already spoken for 20 minutes.

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH: If it is agreeable to you, I might like to take a little more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already spoken for 20 minutes. I have a very long List given by the Congress party. At the end they press for opportunity to speak here. It becomes very difficult. You please bear it in your mind.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: This language is waiting inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. If the Minister of Human Resource Development treats this developed language even by mistake as backward, the House can imagine the sentiment and also the other aspects the community would feel. This is one aspect. Inclusion of this language in the Eighth Schedule would concern the Home Ministry and a Constitution Amendment has to be made.

I would like to mention another aspect which is the burning issue even today, the development of Youth and Sports. The Government is expected to consider the deterioration standards of sports seriously in most of the items. So far as Olympic standard is concerned, we are not having any position. As an instance, I would like to mention the case of hockey. I wanted to raise it in the Zero Hour for I know that I would be specking on this. The Hockey Federation is manned by those who do not know the technicalities of hockey and they are going to spoil the atmosphere of hockey.

[English]

They have invited hockey players from all over the country for an open trial to prepare themselves for the coming Asiad and other international tournaments. This will mean wounding the sentiments of the senior players who have already got the Indira Gandhi Gold medal at Lucknow. Some 14 senior players have reportedly been axed. They had earned laurels in this field and they had, I understand, submitted their representation to the President of the Hockey Federation for certain clarifications and to put an end to the present confusion that has been created by the open trial that has been started this morning. I think it will continue till 19th and I am told that all the State players of lesser significance have all come and there is a crowd of hockey players now gathering in the Nehru Stadium for this open trial. I do not know whether the Hockey Federation of India would like to take up this important item of our games for consideration. This is our prestigious game. The deterioration of standard has been engaging our attention all these years.

Coming to the cultural activities in the Department of Culture, as the House is already aware, the Manipuri Classical Dance is one of the recognised Classical Dances of India. Somehow it was rooted in the temples of this particular region. Naturally when it is going to be staged in the metropolitan cities and big cities and all over the country, there is a vast scope for misrepresentation and distortion. Those who are not at all competent and authorised to do the teaching of this dance are claiming themselves exponents and they are manipulating and distorting this art. Therefore, we have suggested that the Sangeet Natak Akademi which is running the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Akademi, which had the blessings of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru years ago, should take steps to preserve this dance style nurtured in this backward region. This dance should be preserved. This is the only organisation which can do this job. I had suggested earlier and also there has been a demand from certain quarters that the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri

Dance Akademi should be treated as a Deemed University so that this would be able to control the standard of this particular dance all over the country, for that matter in the whole world. What happens at present is in the name of Manipuri Dance, there are distortions and the name of this Manipuri Dance has gone down. Only distortions are rampant now.

Another point which I would like to make is that in the field of sports there should be rural games. I have suggested already that through the rural sports we should develop and promote a number of indigenous games. These indigenous games are available in all the States more or less. So far, States like Maharashtra and others have been able to push up their indigenous games to the status of national games. Some of them have also become international games. Similarly, in the North-Eastern areas there are beautiful and very significant items of indigenous games. They could be developed first into national games and then international games. Trials had been made in certain international meets. Some items had already been presented on the basis of a demonstration. Therefore, these indigenous games should be given due promotion and development. If this is done I think we can develop not only the youngsters in the rural areas but also most of these indigenous games which deserve our support.

With these few words, I would like to conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to speak. Your party has got one hour and thirty minutes. And I have a list of about nine Members from your party. Please bear this in mind and adjust your speech because when other Members press for the time, it becomes very difficult for me.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, without according due priority to education, neither it is possible to ensure the development

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of human resources, nor the hurdles coming in the way of social changes can be removed and goals laid down in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution can be achieved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the formation of the new Government, there was hope throughout the country that there would be revolutionary changes in the field of education and distortions so far created would be removed. For this, the first and foremost requirement is that maximum funds should be provided for education. I am distressed to say that after the formation of the National Front Government, this aspiration has not been fulfilled. The National Front in its election manifesto had declared that 10 per cent of the plan expenditure and 6 per cent of the national income is to be spent on education, but that aspiration has not been fulfilled. In the current Budget; out of the total plan expenditure of Rs. 39324 crores, Rs. 855 crores, i.e. only 2.2 per cent of the total has been provided for education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is more distressing that last year this amount was 2.45 per cent. Instead of removing this anomaly, the Government provided only 2.2 per cent of the total provision for education this year. They could have raised the allocation from 2.45 per cent to 10 per cent in five years and fulfilled the commitment they had made in their election manifesto. In this way, we are moving backwards in the field of education whereas we should have marched forward.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the First five Year Plan, 4.9 per cent of the total plan outlay was spent on education and this year it is only 2.2 per cent. If we continue to spend less and less amount year after year on education, how can we make desired achievements in education? Sir, there are also no indications that the Government will accord priority to education and this is a matter of concern for me. Without Showing any disrespect to Shri Menon, I would like to point out that the Ministry is still in the hands

of the hon. Prime Minister and no Cabinet Minister has so far been appointed to head this Ministry. There is no Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, no Vice-Chairman of the U.G.C. and no Director of the N.C.E.R.T. Similarly, posts of several heads of educational institutions are lying vacant and work is being managed on ad-hoc basis. It pains me a lot to see that the Government to which we are giving our support is not serious about education and is not according any priority to it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the ruling party had also made a commitment in its election manifesto that they would effect necessary changes and make re-appraisal of the old education policy which is being followed for the last 40 years. But nothing has been spelt out clearly as to the direction in which this change would be made. No indication to this effect was ever given either by the hon. President or the hon. Prime Minister in their addresses since the present Government came to power. One thing that I would like to say in particular is that the Government had promised that the dual policy of education would be done away with the fact which was also mentioned in the manifesto of the ruling party. The entire system of education has fallen in the grip of the affluent sections of the society and there is no scope for education for the poor people living in the villages. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while on the one hand, people receive education at Doon school, Swiss School and other public schools, on the other hand primary education is not available to 3 crores of children.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that only 23 per cent of children in this country are able to receive education upto 8th class in schools. There is only one teacher in 64 per cent of primary schools in the country which are supposed to have 3-4 classes. Fifty per cent schools either do not have buildings or mats or drinking water. I do not see any provision in this Budget which could remove these shortcomings. Now, who will remove these shortcomings? 80 per cent of the students who reach higher secondary and college levels

come from top 20 per cent population. The remaining children either do not get the opportunity to join schools or will have to satisfy themselves with sub-standard education. For how long this double standard will continue in the country? Why does not the Government pay attention to do away with this system? I demand that the Kothari Commission Report which was received by the Government in 1966 and which suggests the concept of neighborhood school should be implemented without delay so that the children of the Prime Minister and the class IV Government servants could receive their education in one school in their neighborhood and sons of a millionaire and a poor person could receive education together in the same school. Under the prevailing system, after receiving education in public schools, children of a particular section become I.A.S. officers or join high commissioned ranks in the armed forces and on the other hand village children receive sub-standard education as a result of which they get only petty jobs. If we want uniform education, there is no need of any Navodaya Vidyalaya. You will have to do away with the practice of opening autonomous colleges, Navodaya Vidyalayas and public schools. But I find that the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas is increasing. Secondly, I would like to suggest that arrangements be made to provide education in Indian languages upto higher secondary level. Today the rural children cannot appear in any competitive examination because the papers are not set in Indian languages. That is the main reason why rural children are logging behind. The education has been unadvised. The higher education is imparted in English medium only which is beneficial to only 10 per cent children and the rest 90 per cent rural and poor children are deprived of its benefits. They are lagging behind not only in the matter of employment but also in the matter of development. Therefore in our education policy, we should adopt Indian languages as the medium of instruction. People have been agitating for quite a long time for the inclusion of Indian languages in UPSC examinations. The entrance examinations for 11T and Medical colleges are also conducted in English medium.

Consequently, the children are forced to go on agitation. I would like to say that Indian languages should get their right place in the country and the Government should take steps in this direction immediately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are several aspects of history and it can be viewed from different angles, but it is unfortunate that in our country, all the children are thought history from a particular viewpoint and these is no arrangement of teaching it from any other point of view. That viewpoint is Marxist and text books have been prepared accordingly which misrepresent our culture and history. In my opinion any approach to take the children away from the Hindu culture is a wrong approach. The Government needs to pay attention towards this also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, books are of great importance but they have become very costly now a days. The paper and publication have become so costly that no one can read books by purchasing them. Therefore, I would demand that the Government should formulate a scheme under which books could be made available to the people at cheap rates so that they could get benefits of these books. Besides, a network of libraries should be spread all over the country. At present libraries all over the country are being closed because adequate funds are not being provided for them. It has adversely affected the publication work also.

In the Budget, very small amount has been allocated for education and more stress has been given on distance education. Instead of formal education, distance education is being encouraged. In my opinion, distance education cannot become an alternative to the formal education. If at all Government want to encourage the distance education, it should improve its quality, only then it can be made more popular.

One more thing that I would like to mention here is the need for national unity. The need of the hour is to cultivate the feeling of national unity among the people. Through

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education. Today the growing trend of caution, regionalism and communalism is posing serious threat to our national unity and the only reason for that is the lack of sense of national unity among the children. So it is very essential to cultivate the feeling of national unity among the children and that can be done through education only. We have to teach them that we are one nation and our culture is one. But here you can see that a meagre amount of Rs. two crores have been provided in this year's budget for national integration. We have a Budget of Rs. One lakh crores out of which only Rs. two crores have been earmarked for national integration. How can national integration be brought about with such a meagre amount? In a country having a population of 80 crores and facing so many disruptive forces, how this meagre amount will meet the requirement of maintaining national unity. It is necessary to root out the problem of communalism and for this purpose more funds should be made available.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Article 30 of the constitution, has given right to the minority communities to establish their own educational institutions. I have no objection to it and for that matter no one should have any objection to it. If they want to run their own educational institution they are free to do so but all people know as to how these educational institutions are being misused, how they are exploiting our society and how they are fanning the communalism. Therefore, I would like to say that the syllabus and the service conditions of the teachers and employees etc. working in the educational institution run by the religious minorities, should be identical to the other educational institutions. Keeping their activities in mind, I do not hesitate in saying that they are propagating communalism. The selections and admissions in these institutions should be regulated by the same code of conduct as for the rest of the institutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, teachers of Schools and colleges in Delhi have been

agitating for quite a long time and their long standing demands have not been fulfilled. College teachers should be given reader's grade and hostel and housing facilities should also be provided to them. Double standard in their service conditions should be done away with. Chattopadhaya Commission was set up to go into the demands of school teachers and it has submitted its report to the Government but its recommendations have not been implemented till now. You can imagine their condition from the fact that only Rs. 15/- per month is being paid to them as medical allowance whereas the Chattopadhaya Commission has recommended 7.5 per cent of the basic pay as medical allowance. Therefore, I request the Government that the recommendations of the Chattopadhaya Commission should be implemented immediately.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say few words about Sanskrit language also Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages but at present its condition is very pitiable. The countries all over the world are thinking in terms of encouraging Sanskrit language. Other countries are opening Sanskrit Universities and including Sanskrit in their courses of study but in our country from where the language originated it is being eliminated or attempts are being made to eliminate it. Sir, it is a matter of regret that the previous Government had dropped Sanskrit from the syllabus and 100 marks paper of Sanskrit was reduced to merely 20 marks paper. Some people went to the supreme court against this decision and obtained a stay order. But it is a matter of great regret that instead of rectifying the mistake committed by the previous Government and granting right place to Sanskrit language, the present Government have sent 8-9 advocates to the Supreme Court to get the stay order vacated. Why is it so? Why are the people forced to go to the Supreme Court for Sanskrit? We cannot even imagine the existence of this country without Sanskrit. Without Sanskrit, we cannot think about our cultural heritage, but that Sanskrit is being dropped from the syllabus and under the cover of three language formula attempts

are being made to eliminate it but such attempts will not succeed. If such attempts are not stopped it would lead to an unprecedented agitation. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should make a suo moto Statement in the Supreme court that it will restore the earlier status of Sanskrit so that the people may not have to go to the court.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say a few words about sports. The previous speaker who spoke just before me, has rightly said that our position in the field of sports is very pitiable. Our country, having 80 crore people, cannot win even a Singh medal in the Olympic Games whereas small countries with very less population have marched for ahead in sports. The small country like Korea with merely four crore population wins ten gold medals in the Olympic Games. Similarly Germany, with a population of just 1.5 crore occupies top position in the world games. In our country.

14.00 hrs.

We discuss a lot about the Olympic Games. After the defeat, postmortem is done. We express our concern over the report but we do not make adequate provision for the sports and games. Last year, about Rs. 74 crores were allocated in the Revised Estimates, but this year, only Rs. 68 crores have been allocated for sports and youth welfare and still we expect gold medals from our sportsmen. So long as we do not provide adequate funds for providing facilities, equipment and training to our sportsmen, how can they compete with the sportsmen of other countries. We expect medals from them but we do not provide those facilities to them which are provided by East Germany to her sportsmen. In East Germany every second village has a Coaching Centre where training is given to the sportsmen. Similarly we compare ourself with Holland. In Holland there are about 300 turf grounds for hockey, whereas in India we have only 2-3 turf grounds. In Russia, Wrestling mats are available in every city and every village but in our country we have 8 to 10 wrestling mats

only. Not even a single university in our country has astro turt, tartare track, swimming pool or other facilities of international standard. Most of the schools in our country do not have even a play ground.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: **What-**ever facilities you have got in Delhi, even these are not utilised properly.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are not being utilised because these facilities are not being made available to the people. Mere construction of big stadia is not enough. Today in Delhi, there are not even 10 per cent playgrounds of the total requirement. We are spending a lot of money on the construction of big stadia. If the Government really intends to do something to encourage the sports in the country, financial assistance should be provided to the schools and clubs. If you succeed in bringing atleast 10 per cent of the population to the play-grounds that would give a great fillip to the sports. Spending only a small amount of money on sports cannot promote its cause. Here, I would also like to make one or two points more. In National Front' election Manifesto there has been a great emphasis on the universalisation of Education which is one of our directive Principles of the State Policy. It, has been stated in the Directive Principles that the children between the age group of 8 to 14 years will be given compulsory education. Forty years have passed and instead of fulfilling our promise, our position in this regard has further deteriorated. The National Front Government have envisaged that it would not only introduce compulsory education by 1995 but make an arrangement to provide compulsory education to every child. It is a very good objective but the way the Government is functioning, this objective cannot be realised by 1995. 23 per cent of the children reach upto fourth standard only whereas the rest of them drop out even earlier. Therefore, my submission is that the amount of allocation for education

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should be increased. If we make more allocation for the Education, I think we shall be able to provide primary education all over the country. Education should be considered as the basic pre-requisite for development. I hope that since a period of five months has already elapsed, the National Front Government would give due priority to the education.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhagey, two hours and 30 minutes have been allotted to your party and today, there are 12 names on the list of speakers. This number can increase further tomorrow. So taking all these facts in my mind, you shall be allowed to make your submission.

[English]

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN (Mayurbhanj): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity you have given me. At the outset, I would like to say that on the 15th when our Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh paid glowing tributes to Mahatma Hansraji, an educationist and founder of the DAV movement, he said that people were getting three kinds of education in our country. The first was education for rural people under the trees, the second was in smaller towns with little facilities and the third was in special schools in urban areas. There could not have been a better description of the state of education in our country. Schools of various categories cater to children of different economic strata in urban areas.

Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of this House to a number of provisions in the education policy of 1986 which our Government is going to revise or review shortly and bring out a new education policy. But before entering into that aspect, I would like to say that I am one of the Members in this House who come from a backward region of Orissa. And therefore, whatever I say is on behalf of the people of all backward

regions particularly the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes. We have been talking so much about language and language development and universalisation of primary education. But sir, during the last 40 years, I do not think that much has been done as far as these backward communities are concerned. I am saying so because when we analyse the figures of State-wise percentage literacy achieved, in accordance with the 1981 census, we can find that the States where the population I am just taking a specific example of Scheduled Tribes is less, the percentage of literacy there is comparatively higher than the other States. The States which are having a higher concentration of Scheduled Tribes, have less percentage of literacy. What I mean to say is that there is something wrong with the very approach towards primary education particularly of Scheduled Tribes.

14.09 hrs.

[SHRI JASWANT SINGH *in the Chair*]

Why I am laying such an emphasis on primary education is because unless we give to children a very good primary education, it will be very difficult for their secondary and university education to succeed. I am speaking in the context of Scheduled Tribes. Today our people have to learn in languages which are different from our own. As a result of that, right from the beginning, we find that the learning process of our children is started. This is because there is a communication gap between the teachers and the taught. I would, therefore, insist that Article 350-A of the Constitution of India which has remained in spirit only in the Constitution should be implemented. You would recall that in the report of the Working Group on the welfare of the scheduled tribes for the Seventh Plan period, there was a specific recommendation with regard to the provisions contained in Article 350-A, that is the State Government or the local Government should make available facilities so that the linguistic minority groups can educate their children through their respective mother-tongue at least at the primary levels. That does not

mean that I am against other State Languages or the languages which are in the 8th Schedule. We will certainly be using these languages, we will certainly be learning the link languages, we shall certainly be learning the Hindi language, but in order that our people get better education, their beginning must be good. Unless they are taught through their respective mother tongue at the primary level to make rearing reassuring easier it is not going to happen. In that very Article, there is a provision that the President may give direction to the State Governments to that level. So, I urge upon the Government of India to accordingly issue directions to all those States, wherever tribals are there, so that the tribals come up to the standards on par with others.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:
Up to which standard?

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: In the Constitution, it has been stated at the primary stage of education I do not want to go beyond that. The change-over can come after that. If the children feel that their learning process is all right, they can prosper and grow.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development is a vast Ministry. I do not know whether I would be able to cover all the points, but even then I would say that the priorities which have been indicated earlier perhaps would continue this year also till a New Education Policy is adopted. That means universalization of elementary education, functional skill development in adult education, vocationalization of school education, consolidation of higher education, modernization of technical education, language development etc. etc. get priority. Here also, it has been envisaged that target groups or the groups which deserve foremost attention are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, women, those living in backward areas in general, urban slums, border and desert areas and educationally backward minorities and the handicapped. I will just rush through some of the points.

I just want to take up the question of the handicapped, in the country. These are the children who are not getting proper attention and I do not find much for them in our Budget also. Therefore, I would request our Government that in the years to come more and more attention should be paid to them. Recently, one gentleman named Sir Brian Rix the Chairman of the Royal Society for mentally handicapped children and adults (MENCAP) was delivering some lectures in our country. According to him, in England a new Education Act has been enacted. The beauty of this Act is that the education or the schooling of the handicapped children should also go along with—it should be in the same surroundings and same school—the normal children. This is very important. Now, as far as handicap children are concerned, there is only one out of 10 schools in rural areas, although eight out of ten handicapped children are in rural areas in our country this disparity must disappear and we must make efforts towards such programmes so that these handicapped children get proper place and proper schooling so that they may become responsible citizens of our country.

One Hon. Member from BJP was commenting about the paucity of funds allocated for different departments of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Sir, I have no difference with him. The distortions which have taken place in the last 40 years, How can these be undone within such a short time? In the manifesto of National Front it was clearly mentioned that 6 per cent of the total National Income will be spent towards the efforts and activities in Human Resource Development because development of human beings is a key to the development. So, it is important that the allocation for this Ministry should be increased. There is no doubt about it. Sir, I believe strongly that in the years to come that is going to happen and this Government is definitely going to do it because it has committed itself to bring about a new policy where education in roots knowledge and self reliance I will not say that the degrees or diplomas are meant only to get jobs. On the 15th April itself although not very explicitly stated the Prime Minister

[Sh. Bhagey Gobardhan]

observed that the education should be such that one becomes knowledgeable or one acquire real knowledge should aim at giving courage, self confidence and capacity to every one to take care of oneself and others. That should be the objective of education. Otherwise if the objective is just to get a job, I think such type of education we don't need. That is why we are saying that our education system should be so oriented that those who come out of schools or colleges or technical institutions should have courage and self confidence, if they get jobs then it is all right but if they do not get jobs then they can self employ themselves. That is why too much emphasis has been given on vocationalisation of education.

Sir, in the earlier education policy of 1986, it was ..

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I have to caution you about the time.

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Sir, this is the first time I am speaking. I would just like your indulgence otherwise I will cut short and sit down if you like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is customary.

SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Thank you, Sir. So, vocationalisation of education must continue. Earlier it was programmed that by 1990, 10 per cent of the schools will be covered. If this is the rate of progress we are aiming at, I don't think we will be in a position to tackle the unemployment problem. That is why, Sir, this vocationalisation—there are as many as 600 trades—should be done in such a manner that within a next few years some of these trades, depending upon the requirements locality and situation, should be introduced in almost all the Higher Secondary schools so that most of the students who get out of these schools will be in a position to depend upon themselves. They will not be depending on others. They may not even like to pursue higher education

also. There is no point in pursuing higher education unless the objective is academic attainment and scholarship I do not think it is necessary in every case. Because, if we give them self-confidence, if we given them courage and if they create confidence in themselves that they can take care of themselves and others, then even education upto higher secondary they should be treated good enough for any job, any competition anywhere in the country. That is why, I would say, vocationalisation of education should have a pride of place in the New Education Policy which is going to be enunciated shortly.

I would like to say a few words about youth and sports and mass literacy programmes. Right now, we are having about 60 per cent illiterates in our country, including children. If we want to do away with this magnitude of illiteracy, a mass movement has to be pursued on a war-footing. The mobilisation has to be such that it will be completed within next five or ten years. Otherwise, we shall be entering the next Century, I think with double the number of illiterates. Many people believe why unnecessarily spend money on this programme of mass adult literacy. That is important. Why in the backward areas, most of the poverty alleviation programme have not succeeded as they should have? It is because, the people, for whom these programmes have been intended have not been in a position to assimilate them. That is why education of masses is necessary—whether it is formal or informal. That is why, the Government should make such a programme so that there can be mass mobilisation as far as this mass literacy efforts one concerned. That is possible, if all of us—the students the teachers, the officers, the volunteers willingly for the vital cause—combine together. I do not think, it would be difficult for us to achieve the objective.

As far as sports are concerned there is vast scope for improve went, Only day before yesterday I was going through a paper wherein something regarding Archery competition was mentioned. A particular Organisation was conducting an Archery competi-

tion. The Prime Minister has gone there to inaugurate that Archery Tournament. There, a mention has been made about the Archers from Rajasthan, and Himachal Pradesh. But I am sorry to note that no Archer from amongst tribes of—Bihar, Bengal and other places—were repeatedly participating. Archery has been a part of our religious participating. Archery has been a part of our religious life. Bows and arrows are integral part of our rituals. Right from the beginning, when a son is born, the bow and arrow are placed, just under or near of boy child the head. So, my point is that, our sports policy is such, that the areas from where you can get really good archers, athletes or sportsmen, are being ignored those areas. That is why I would say that the sports policy should be so formulated that all the people who are having natural talents, should be roped in, trained and exposed to national and international competitions. I am giving you one example of my State—Orissa. I come from Mayurbhanj. Mayurbhanj used to produce excellent footballers and athletes—long distance runners. Sundergarh, today also takes pride in very good hockey players. But how many players from these areas would you find in the national and international meets? Hardly a few who have risen upto competitive positions with their own efforts. Otherwise, the efforts on the part of Government has been lacking. So, I like to say that it will be good if we can train up people from Sundergarh district, or the adjoining district of Ranchi, as far as hockey is concerned. You know the name of late Mr. Jaipal Singh who was also at one time a member of this House. Such players could be produced. There is no doubt about it. But our policy has not included these things aspects of talent hurting and training people from backward areas.

A few more words about culture. Of course, we are backward, and economically poor. But we are not lacking as far as culture is concerned. Therefore, I would say that as far as tribal culture is concerned, these things must be preserved. In that context, therefore, I am saying that our tribal languages must also be preserved. In that context,

therefore, I am saying that our tribal languages must also be preserved. If you want to preserve them, if the Government wants to preserve them, then these languages must be used in schools, for teaching at least at the primary stage. Otherwise, these languages will die down. There is no doubt about it. It is for the Administration to see how these things can be done. It is not our look-out. That is why I was telling our hon. Minister Mr. Menon that it who for the Administration to find out ways and means. It is none of our business. I want that these languages should be preserved. I want that this heritage should be preserved. People want it, and this must be done—because our population in India is not insignificant it is 5 crores odd. So, I would request the Government, through you, Sir that these languages must be given impetus encouragement and pride of place in the whole arrangement for human resource development, so that national integration can be really achieved, and thought of in the most laudable terms.

Lastly, I am coming to ICDS. This is one of the most important, I should say, and beautiful programmes. There is no doubt about it. Of course, there are certain working difficulties. But this programme should now cover, I should say, the entire country. Why I am saying this is because in our country, due to lack of vitamin 'A' lack of immunization, many children die every year. Many children go blind every year. Many children suffer from cancer every year. Newspapers a couple of weeks ago said that as many as 50,000 children contracted or developed cancer of the Leukaemia type every year in India.

This is the magnitude of the problem. Children are our future citizens. Therefore, for their development, as well as the well-being of expectant and nursing mothers, if this scheme can be put through well, implemented well, and the entire remaining area of the country is also covered, I think it is going to pay rich dividends. There is no doubt about it.

As far as the immunization part is con-

[Sh. Bhagey Gobardhan]

cerned, as far as my experience is concerned I have been touring blocks and this is one of the schemes I have always looked into the progress is very satisfactory. Only in certain items like nutrition programme, food etc., there is some *golmaal*. I think that also can be checked sorted out if proper supervision is ensured.

I have taken a long time; I have perhaps provoked some of my friends. But I have pertinent points. So, I do not like to take more time. With these words, I conclude. But before concluding, I would thank the officers of the Ministry of Human Resource Development who have been kind enough to supply me with the data necessary for this purpose.

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): I am thankful to you for giving me the chance to speak. But I have not been supplied with any material. I would like to depend on what I have learnt in the last ten years in my parliamentary life and also on our Parliamentary Library which has always supplied materials.

The speakers who have spoken from the Treasury Benches and those who are supporting them, they are trying to drag a point before the House that the education policy which was followed by the previous Government was not to the satisfaction of the country's need. There may be a debate on it. But I will urge upon the hon. Minister that, when the new policy is being followed by the Government in future, they do not look at the previous policy from the political angle; they should judge it from the point of view of what are we today, what has it achieved during the last 42 years in the university education, in the secondary education, in the middle school education and in the primary education. The previous government had a programme of "Operation Black Board". The purpose of that education was to solve many of the problems which are being raised now by the hon. Members from BJP and JD. Those schools were without adequate number of teachers. The buildings were not

properly built; benches and desks were not there. Where it was a need of two teachers, only one teacher was there. But the fact remains that, when this money was given by the Central Government—Education is in the Concurrent List—the implementation at the State level might not have been in the same manner as should have been done. Nobody will object to the universalisation of the primary education. This is most welcome. But to say that today's education system is for the elites and thereby you are saying that Navodaya Vidyalayas should not be there, I think you will not do justice to the people who are in the remote villages, in poor families with good merit, which many of our children have got in the city area. The idea of Navodaya Vidyalaya was to catch those talents from the villages. A Carpenter's son may have the I. Q. to go to a school where now children of the big people are getting education and are becoming IAS, IPS and so on. They are the cream of the society. In spite of the fact that a boy has I.Q., he cannot enter the government service or he cannot start any business or he cannot become an engineer or he cannot become a doctor, because he has been born in a poor family. With this idea, a thrust was given to Navodaya Vidyalaya that every State must have at least one Navodaya Vidyalaya; not only that, those children who study in the Navodaya Vidyalayas, they will be picked up not only from the same district but also from other districts and other provinces; and there will be a national integration in this Navodaya Vidyalaya. It will have sports activities; it will also have cultural activities; it will also have study facilities; there will be a minimum fee for the children who are studying there; dresses will also be supplied to them and all that.

The other day, when you replied to a question in this House, you said that there will be no further Navodaya Vidyalaya; and those who were studying there already, their cases would be looked into and steps would be taken to see what could be done about them. I welcome that decision of yours. As I said, do not look at it politically. Now we are saying, Doon School, this school, that school

and so on. I do not want to go into them. Many of your Ministers, who are there are also from Convent Schools; many of you may be from there. If you try to compare them in this manner—now it is only Allahabad school; it is only Allahabad University—you will feel the pinch of it. If you come from the Allahabad University, you can become a Cabinet Secretary; if you come from a particular cadre, you can become this and that and so on. I am not going into it. You have to think about it from the national point of view. I hope that will help you.

Sir, Mr. Malhotra is very rightly saying that university education now, which has spread all over the country, is facing acute financial problems. We expected when this Government that they would increase the allocation in the Budget for Education. But, in fact, after providing Rs. 855 crores as a member rightly said in the First Five Year Plan now this government has reduced the allocation by 2.2 per per cent. It is very bad. And not only that: In all spheres, as very rightly said by so many members, even for sports while it was Rs. 73 crores last year it is now only Rs. 68 crores.

Now, my point is that we have to build up a society which can face the eventualities of life whether a man comes from a poor family or a rich family and the basic need is good education, whether it is primary level, whether it is the secondary level or whether it is the university level. Now all the educational institutions which are in the State sector as well as in the Central Government sector are facing acute inadequacy of funds. The salaries of teachers and professors are very meagre. Why? They go on strike just before the examinations are to be held. Then only their salaries are being increased. But what about the other facilities which are basically needed in a educational institution? A good library, a good sports stadium, a science laboratory properly equipped are essential. These are to be looked into.

I was the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar, and whenever the Board of

Governors met, out of 30 agenda items 25 used to be only about the staff problems. Nobody cares about Education or problems relating to Education these days, whether they have been able to give the correct education to the students in an institution. That part of Education is being neglected. So, I will request you to look into this problem and I will also particularly request you to look into this New Policy from a perspective out of political but of the real need of the country today.

Now I should not mention any particular university. But many of the universities in this country are now converted into Golden Temples. In my State the University has become a place when they are harboring terrorists. One Mr. Jalan was kept inside it. The DG, Police wanted to enter the university but he was not allowed. And ultimately, what happened? People who were kept they fled away. Fortunately the Governor was an ex-Chief Justice. Not only an ex-Chief Justice but he is now acting as the Governor. When he called the Home Minister and the DG Police, they said that they could not enter the University. He said that with his little Knowledge of law, he could say that in an emergency even without permission they could enter the University. It has happened in Calcutta, in Shri Jyoti Basu's time when there was a dispute between the Vice-Chancellor and the students. The Police did enter the University campus and Jyoti Babu on the floor of the Assembly, said that under the circumstances Police had no other alternative. It is, of course, desirable that the Police should take prior permission. But if the situation goes to the extent that it is necessary, then the bar for taking permission will not be there. What I am telling is in order to enlighten you the situation which is prevailing should be judged and if necessary Police should enter the University.

I visited Punjab. I went to Amritsar and I met the administration there, I talked to some of the Professors and also some journalists. I have also seen that the University campus is also calm. The climate in the villages in Punjab is very cordial as far as the

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

relations between the Hindus and Sikhs are concerned. There is no difference of opinion. But if you go to a university which the cultural centre, educational centre, it is found that the students of other communities are being threatened by the students of a particular community to leave the institution and to go away from there. This is what is happening. This is not desirable. Why? Unfortunately some of the professors and the teaching staff have got involved in parochial politics and the students also got into them. That is the reason why the educational atmosphere is being very much affected.

Next I come to adult education. This is one area which should not be neglected. I am glad that in Kerala the Government have started complete eradication of illiteracy and they want to make it cent per cent. It is a welcome step. Kerala, I think, is the highest educated State in the country. When I was a Minister, I saw about fifty Adult Education Centres in my area. I was happy that the village ladies had taken up the schemes so nicely that it had achieved a very good purpose. But, unfortunately there is a caucus in your Ministry. Some of these sanctions are given to certain voluntary organisations. They do not use the funds for which they are given. So, there should be more monitoring by your Ministry to see that the funds which are given to a good purpose is not misused.

Previous speakers have spoken about sports. I myself am a sportsman. I was an international referee. I was Assam Tennis Champion. I played cricket for my University. I have no blood pressure inspite of all political prospects. But I get blood pressure when India loses in hockey and cricket and I feel humiliated. I cannot understand why a country, which is having eighty crores of people, could not produce some good talents. The main reason is that it has become a profession for the people in most of the Sports organisations to go outside the country in the name of sports. Again, selection of the people is done on a quota basis and not on a regular merit basis. I fully agree with Mr. Malhotra

when he said that sports have to be seen not only from the angle of developing talents of our young people but also to project our country in the international arena in a better manner. When I was in Defence Ministry, I went to Kashmir and happened to meet one Colonel on the front. He said that six years back he was posted to that front. There was a conflict at that time. He captured one of the posts. The Colonel, who left that post, told him: "You have beaten me in this play. But in hockey I have beaten you". My blood pressure went up when India lost to Pakistan in the World Cup Hockey. This is the feeling people get. This is a sports battle and in this sports battle, we are going down day by day. So, I would request you to pick up certain teams of sports, which we can develop in the international arena, we should specially catch young people from the down bottom, in the villages, in the small towns; and also see that proper training is given to them.

Lastly, I will say one issue, about which I had personally met the present Prime Minister, yourself and to the Home Minister. I am not trying to warn anybody. I am telling on behalf of twenty-five lakhs of people of Barrack valley. All the parties, CPM, CPI, BJP, Janata, Congress-I, Forward Bloc -I do not know what is the position in my valley we are one on this issue; we are united on this issue. In Rajya Sabha, the Assam University Bill was passed on 5.5.1989. It was passed subsequently in Lok Sabha on 15.5.89. The President of India gave his assent to this bill on 23.5.89. Also a budget provision of Rs. 70.18 crores was made. Out of that, Rs. 50.85 crores was non-recurring; and Rs. 19.33 crores was recurring. When it was passed.

Mr, Chairman, you were in the other House and you had also participated in the discussion. Now you are in the Chair. I do not want to mention anything. When it was passed, there was opposition from certain quarters. There was qualified support from certain quarters. It is also a fact that the Government of Assam did not like the idea. I would not keep anything away from the House because it is a new Government and

now Minister. The fact remains that it was passed, it was given assent by the President. Subsequently, Mr. L.P. Shahi wrote a letter to the Government of Assam for a piece of land measuring 400 acres. It was followed by another letter from the Joint Secretary or the Deputy Secretary level. This was also followed by a letter by me on January 17, 1990 to the present Prime Minister. Previously I wrote a letter to the previous Prime Minister when Assam government refused to give land and a particular donor wanted to give 400 acres of land free of cost for this university. Even now the people of Barrack valley are prepared to buy the land. Assam government is saying that land is not available. We will go from house to house in Barrack Valley and raise subscription or donation for the cost of the land which the Government of India is not agreeable to pay. But this university we want for our survival. Assam has got two universities Dibrugarh and Gauhati. And both have reached the saturation point from the point of view of giving admission to the people from all over the State. We want a university for reasons of our security even. Unfortunately, whenever any trouble takes place in Assam, the victims are our boys in Gauhati and Dibrugarh universities. Who does it, why do they do it, I do not want to go into that. In this august House, on behalf of Barrack Valley people, I would like to say that we shall wait for another month or two. If it is not done, we shall have to take the path of agitation and that agitation which the Central Government understands. That will be the path of agitation because the students are agitated. As I see it, in Barrack Valley, there is no political difference on this issue. The BJP delegation is coming and meeting the Government. The CPI and CPM delegation is going to come and meet the Government. This is the decision of all parties. Our delegation has come and met. I shall urge upon the Minister not to neglect it.

At the same time, I must also tell that the desperation of the people of Upper Assam and Lower Assam and Lower Assam should also be met. When our Government was there, from the Congress Party, we, the then

MPs, requested the then Prime Minister and the then Education Minister that since the Assam Government as well as the people of Upper Assam and Lower Assam are very much touchy over this particular thing, either the Dibrugarh University or the Gauhati University may be taken over as a central university. I personally talked to the Chief Minister. He said: "If the proposal comes from the Central Government, I think, it will be a good solution, But for me as a Chief Minister to tell, take Gauhati or Dibrugarh University is a bit difficult." I talked about this to the Members of AGP in Rajya Sabha. They are also agreeable to this. So it should be looked into from the point of view of not confrontation but conciliation and how it can be soived. I request you to look into this problem from that point of view; other wise, our students are going out of our control. And students of all political parties are getting together and they are going to start an agitation. Already in Assam, there is ULFA agitation, k autonomous district council agitation and so on. Do not say that Barrack Valley has always been turned as an island of peace. Let peace be there in Barrack Valley. I hope you will solve this problem.

I am grateful to you for giving me this time to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh):
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I think that as per the modern concept of a nation, the people living in a particular geographical territory with a common language and culture are called a nation. But even after independence, our country has not been able to booster a structural and cultural unity. It has not been promoted in a way as it should have been. The main characteristic of our Constitution and National life is the cultural, linguistic and religious trait of unity in diversity. There are different languages, castes and regions in our country and amidst all these diversities, there is an element of

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unity. Unfortunately, after independence, efforts have been made to divide them instead of uniting them and I think that the main problem we are facing today is the crisis of values in life. There has been a degeneration of values in our country and it has gone deep to such an extent that it has become difficult to revive them. You can construct roads, high palaces but if you do not build up the character of a man, he will destroy all these things. The foremost thing is the building up of individual character of man. In the later stage, of our freedom struggle, Swami Vivekanand while warning the nation, had said that he needed only perfect men, stout, enthusiastic and devoted youngmen and everything else would be developed by them. He said that he needed iron body and steel nerves of his children who should have iron will, strength, manhood, heroic and Brahm tej. He wanted to build up the persons of strong character. But that is not there. Education is a means to build up that strength of character of an individual. I do not think that the existing Education System can do that. Some one has rightly said that he considered Lord Macaulay as the greater enemy of this country than Lord Clive. Lord Clive had forcibly occupied the territory of this country but Lord Macaulay had destroyed its culture. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that in this country, we do not have a national language of our own. Hind, Sanskrit and regional languages like Oriya, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada etc. which are the languages of our country are not spoken by the people of this country. Instead English is dominating everywhere. I am not against English language but we should just think over that if we continue to speak in English, where does our self respect and national pride stand? I would also like to request the hon. Members that they cannot save the country until feeling of self respect is inculcated among the people of this country. Today, why communal riots are taking place in the country. In our country words are misinterpreted and history has been distorted. Here the word 'Sampradayik' was earlier used or the divergent ways of worship. The word sect or Sampradaya was

related to Gurukuls such as sect of Vallabhacharyaji sect of Ramanujacharya. These were the sects of divine knowledge and the word sect, had nothing to do with the ways of worship. The word religion has also been misinterpreted. The word secularism is itself of wrong word. No religion can afford to be indifferent. Religion is a very vast term. Sir, the words 'Dharma Chakra Pravartnay' have been inscribed there on the wall just above your chair which means that this House is meant to keep the Dharma Chakra in constant motion but we have called this House as Secular. Religion is a very vast thing and it is not only the ways of worship. Similarly, Hinduism has also been dragged into the communal fray whereas a Hindu can never be communal, it is a very vast thing. In this country, there are different panths and castes who have 33 crores of gods and different ways of worship. I do not want to go in to its details as we are short of time. Much more can be said about it. However, today we need to think over it. I would like to request that we should have a uniform system and syllabus of education all over the country. Medium of instruction can be different but out link language should be one. As it has been pointed out by the earlier speakers that some children study in convent schools and public schools whereas the children living in rural areas study in schools which do not have even buildings, teachers, mats, lack-boards, chalk sticks etc. and both of them are asked to appear at the I.A.S. examination, how can the rural child compete with the child who has received his education in a public schools. So, there should be one syllabus of study all over the country. The Education Policy should be framed on the lines indicated in the Kothari Commission's report. Today, we are lacking in national character and we can go ahead in that direction if we adopt a uniform education policy.

Civilization and culture have become the subjects of a Department. Afterall, where do we have missed out culture? That has been destroyed. Here we are quarrelling with one another because we think that only the way of worship is religion. Here that was not

the real meaning of religion. Rise of civilization took place in our country. The renowned Hindi poet Mahakavi Prasad had rightly, said that:

"Jage ham, lage jagane, vishwa lok
main faila phir aalok,
vyom, tam, punj hua tab nash, akhil
Sansriti ho uthee Ashok."

It was here that we lighted the torch of civilization and took it on to the other countries of the world. Sanghamitra and Mahendra, the daughter and son of king Ashoka went out to foreign countries to propagate our religion and culture. The real problem is that we do not know about our language and culture which we have inherited, from our past. I was going through a book issued by the Ministry of Human Resources Development in which it has been stated that Government was working for the welfare of women. Someone had demanded that women should be given a status equal to that of man and various steps are being taken by the Government to give equal status to women. In this regard, I would like to say that only a small amount has been earmarked in the Budget for this purpose. Earlier, there was no such question of equality, we had given a very high status to the women. Our history bears the testimony of the fact and it has been stated in our Shastras that-Yatra naryastu pujiyante, ramante itra devata—which means that where women are respected, gods live there. But today the miserable condition of the women in our country is known to you very well. Previous Government had raised much hue and cry over the act of Sati committed by Rupmati Kunwar in Rajasthan. Efforts were made to malign our culture and philosophy. A law was enacted against it to mean that anyone who encourages sati would be awarded the death sentence. But what was sati, why she had done so, how this practice came into existence and what were the earlier traditions and customs, all these things were not taken into account. It is correct that women should be respected. Even today, several dowry death cases are taking place every day. The laws enacted for this purpose are not being imple-

mented. Therefore, I would like to say that more stringent laws should be enacted and implemented strictly.

AN HON. MEMBER: The law has been enacted but it is not being obeyed.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Who is to obey a law? It is the responsibility of the society to ensure that all laws in force are obeyed and accordingly a social awareness must be erected. Development of women in this country and the progress of our culture and civilization is not possible within the constraints laid down by this budget. Therefore, more funds should be provided.

Sir, the condition of sports and games in our country is also very bad. I was just going through the disciplines in which India wins Gold Medals. Everybody knows the number of medals won by India at the last Asian Games. The Asiad held in Delhi was well-organised but India's performance was very poor. Why does India lose in hockey? The performance of our sportsman in foreign countries is very poor. If games and sports are confined to just a few city centres in the country, there will not be any progress, Sports should be taken to the countryside. Rural talent should be spotted and nurtured. The sportsmen must possess a lot of stamina but Indian sportsmen do not have this quality. Opportunities to participate in sports and games are provided only to those who have a say among the authorities who are few and far matter. Sports facilities like sport centres and playgrounds should be provided in villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time will you take? The hon. Home Minister will make a statement at 3.00 p.m. If you can wind up in a minute or two, well and good, otherwise you may continue afterwards if you want to speak for 5-7 minutes... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: For the development of sports we must tap the potential in rural areas. Tournaments should be organised at the village level to bring out

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the promising sports talent in villages. I have noted that most of the medal winning sportsmen in Korea, China and Japan have their origins in villages. So, I would request the Government, through you to take steps in this direction and look for talented sportsmen in the country's rural areas. I feel that the funds set aside for this purpose in the budget are very meagre. These funds are not sufficient for the development of sports in the country.

MR CHAIRMAN You can continue afterwards. Now the hon. Home Minister will make a statement.

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15.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Incidents of major fire at Vigyan
Bhawan and Sadar Bazar on 16.4.1990**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) I wish to apprise the Hon. ble Members of this august House about the two major incidents of fire in Delhi—one at Vigyan Bhawan and the other at Sadar Bazaar on 16.4.90.

At about 3.50 p.m., a call was received at the Control Room of Delhi Fire Service that a fire had broken out on the second floor of Vigyan Bhawan. Immediately fire-fighting vehicles including turn-table ladder and hydraulic platform etc. were rushed to the spot. Initially, the fire was considered medium, but subsequently it was declared serious and further reinforcements were rushed to Vigyan Bhawan.

At about 1.40 AM the fire was declared a major fire and more number of pumping units were pressed into service. The fire was finally got under control at about 8.30 AM on 17.4.90.

The fire had originated from the Committee Room "H" on the second floor in Vigyan Bhawan. It spread rapidly because of the synthetic and wooden material used in insulation, furniture, panelling etc. as also the water-proofing on the roof through coal-tar. The smoke and the fire appears to have spread through the air-conditioning ducts causing further complication.

In the fire-fighting operation at Vigyan Bhawan 7 Delhi Fire Service personnel and 1 civilian were injured. Two personnel of the Fire Service has been admitted to hospital while the remaining six were discharged after first-aid.

During the fire-fighting, normal water supply was maintained through underground water storage in the vicinity. Lt. Governor, Delhi as well as senior officers of Delhi Administration, Police Commissioner were on the spot for supervising and coordinating the operation.

The Lt. Governor, Delhi has set up a high level Committee consisting of Shri P.N. Mehrotra, former Fire Adviser to the Government of India with two other Members namely S/Shri N.K. Singhal, IPS, former DGP and Shri B.B. Nanda, Chief Engineer, MCD, Delhi. The Committee has been asked to inquire into the cause of fire, promptness and effectiveness of the Delhi Fire Service in tackling the situation, adequacy of fire prevention measures in Vigyan Bhawan and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee has been asked to submit its Report to the L.G. within a month.

At this stage I would not like to express any opinion about the cause of fire as this has to be investigated by the Committee set up by the Lt. Governor of Delhi. However from the statement of witnesses who were inside Vigyan Bhawan at the time of fire, it appears that a short-circuit in the electrical system might have started the fire. So far there is no evidence of the fire having been started as a result of sabotage.

Another report of a fire was received at