

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: The hon. Member said that the amount was inadequate. I wish to submit that the main expenditure in the project is only on the micro-processors and mini computers. What matters is the people who would be engaged on this project. It is not a question of spending crores of rupees on computers but of planning the things properly.

SHRIMATI VIJAYARAJE SCINDIA: I would like to say that since Sanskrit has been claimed to be a scientific language by people working on computer technology all over the world and in India, why more time is being taken by mixing it up with other languages? I would like to know the views of the hon. Minister on this issue.

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: I would like to first point out the technical aspects of this. Which is that we will first have to follow the roots of experimenting on the rules of grammar of Sanskrit which are well-established Paninian Grammar and then using these rules in other languages. Thereafter one can go on to see if Sanskrit itself can be used as a programme language. This is there for an area for significant research. One has embarked on it. I think we will make good progress because as the hon. Member Advaniji mentioned earlier, this is an area where we have specialised capabilities in the country and we ought to capitalise it; I hope you will agree with me.

Commercialisation in Education

*189. **SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective steps are contemplated by Government to immediately curb the growing menace of commercialisation in the system of education; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Central Government has been taking persuasive and preventive measures to curb commercialisation of education. It has urged upon the State Governments to take steps to prevent charging of capitation fees. The Central Government have enacted the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987. Under the Act, AICTE has been vested with statutory powers for the coordinated and integrated development of technical and professional education in the country and to prevent its commercialisation. Under the provisions of the Act all institutions of technical education, Government or private, will have to observe the norms, standards and guidelines prescribed by the AICTE in respect, inter alia, of fees, admissions, curriculum etc.

The University Grants Commission (Amendment) Act, 1984 (Act No. 59 of 1984) also empowers U.G.C. to lay down regulations in respect of fees to be charged and it also forbids a university/college to charge, directly or indirectly, any payment otherwise than by way of fees, or any donation or gift.

As regards medical education, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 provides for regulation of fees, deposits etc. payable by students. It also prohibits collection of capitation fee, donation etc. by Medical Colleges or persons in charge of their management. The Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee which submitted its report to the Parliament on 28th July, 1989.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI

(Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Education is an important department in our country as it is engaged not only in building the future of the country but also its development. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister whether the commercialisation of education is on the increase. Although the Government provides grants to a number of schools, yet as the management is in private hands, not only the teachers but the students are also exploited. The students have to pay thousands of rupees for admission to these schools and the teachers have also to pay for appointment. The management is thus indulging in loot. Is the Government considering the issue of nationalisation of education keeping in view the present tendency of commercialisation. To my knowledge the issue of nationalisation of education is under the consideration of the Government. How long will it take to decide about it?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As far as the Government is concerned, it is very clear from the answer that one is against commercialisation of education. In this respect it has been pointed that the University Grants Commission as well as the All India Council of Technical Education have taken measures. There are legislations in this regard. With regard to the medical area, the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill 1987, which is yet to come through, will provide for this area.

However, the question asked by the hon. Member which relates to the nationalisation of education and taking over of private institutions is a complex one. Because one must realise that there are Articles in our Constitution viz., Articles 19, 30 and 31—the right to form associations or unions, the right to form societies, to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business and Articles of the Constitution which give minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice which are self-supporting—which cannot be violated. Therefore the whole

question of taking over by the State or nationalising it is a far more complex one.

What we have to ensure, however,—and this is done by the provisions of UGC, All India Council of Technical Education Act, Indian Medical Council—is that through these provisions we should prevent institutions from taking what are called capitation fees and only charging what are normal fees and donations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just pointed out that the Constitution provides for the establishment of educational institutions by the religious organisations but they have not yielded good results. All such schools run with the help of foreign aid in Jammu & Kashmir are trying to brainwash the youth, organise anti-India propaganda and create in them a sense of hatred and aversion besides creating an atmosphere of terror. Same is true of Punjab. The educational institutions running with the help of foreign aid there have today posed a great threat to our national unity and integrity. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is taking effective steps for the closure of such foreign aided schools that work against our national interests. Today, there are a number of educational institutions run by religious organisations in our country.

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, May I read out a part in regard to Article 30 of the Constitution?

“All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice”.

So, there is a provision which we cannot violate as it stands. But with regard to the

question or foreign assistance, this is certainly a matter which can be gone into and I would like to give an assurance that this will be looked into and an answer provided.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is not the reply to my question. I had asked as to how many universities and other religious institutions are being run with the help of foreign aid.

MR. SPEAKER: No it is not related to this question. You may give a separate notice for that.

[*English*]

No. You can put a separate question Now, Shri Basheer.

SHRI T. BASHEER: Sir, the last paragraph of the statement made by the Minister is about medical education.

Sir, there are so many private medical colleges running in various parts of the country without recognition from the Indian Medical Council. These colleges collect huge capitation fees from the students and because of lack of recognition from the Council, their education is suffering a lot. It is reported in the newspapers that many private medical colleges are issuing—actually selling—fake degrees to the students. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government proposes to make the recognition from the Medical Council, a precondition for starting the medical colleges in the country and stop various practices which are going on in medical education.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, the hon. Member sitting behind had raised a question earlier about the matter of foreign inputs and money flowing into education. This is a matter which in principle, is controlled by the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act and is looked after by the Ministry of Home Affairs. (*Interruptions*) I am coming to your question.

Please allow me to complete.

But, I have given him an assurance that this matter will be looked into and I will come back to the House with a statement on the subject.

Now, may I go on to the point which is raised about the medical education?

As far as the medical education is concerned, the basic provisions will be covered by the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 which is likely to be taken up for consideration by Parliament during the current or its ensuing Session. It has been referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee which submitted its report in July 1989. In this, there are various provisions and I will not go into this in great detail except to say that Section 10(D) of it specifically provides for prohibition of collection of capitation fees, donations etc., in connection with the admission or transfer of the students to any course of study or training in medical colleges. This is not yet an Act. It is still to become an Act. It is going to come up during this Session or in the next Session. Therefore, once that is passed, I think, we will be able to have a greater control on the medical colleges and sort out the problems which the hon. Member has referred.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the linguistic and religious minorities have freedom to open their own educational institutions but no religious or linguistic education is imparted in such institutions and under its cover, elitist education is provided through the medium of English and exorbitant fees are charged, I would like to know whether there is any intention of setting up a committee for enquiring into the activities of such schools or whether such an exercise has already been undertaken?

[*English*]

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: Sir, may I, first

of all, state that about 40 per cent of the schools are run on a private basis? Secondly, if one was thinking of taking over the schools, it would cost a fairly large sum of money which would be more than Rs. 520 crore apart from matters which I referred to earlier, namely, prohibition of capitation fees.

I am now referring to schools which are run entirely on their own without aid from the Government. In these cases, there are certain difficulties with regard to fees they charge, etc. However, I can assure the Member that the points made by him are valid because we are opposed to commercialisation of education. Therefore, the matter would certainly be gone into.

Electronic Units in Kerala

*190. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop electronic units in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assistance provided to the State Government so far and likely to be given in 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c). Kerala has been covered under various programmes of the Department of Electronics, namely, Electronic Research and Development Centre (ERDC)

at Trivandrum, Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) at Trichur, Centre for Electronics Design Technology (CEDT) at Calicut and Electronics Regional Test Laboratory (ERTL) at Trivandrum. Assistance has been given for starting women's cooperatives in the rural areas, maintenance technology for medical electronics equipment, demonstration of the usage of agri-electronics equipment to the farmers and initial assistance for development of Imaging Technology. In addition, 59 Industrial Licences, 22 Letters of Intent and 62 registrations have been issued for manufacture of electronic products in the State.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I am happy that today, it is Prof. Menon's day. (*Interruptions*) That's why he is evading from the proper answer. He has given a statement without perhaps understanding the thrust of my question. I was asking the details of assistance provided to the State of Kerala as far as electronics industry is concerned. Well, he has not given the details. He has said that assistance has been given for starting women's cooperatives maintenance technology, etc., etc., but there are no details.

I would like to know what is the quantum of assistance given to the State of Kerala in these sectors and what is the number of employment generated so far due to all these investments. My last part of the question is about the proposal of investment for the year 1990-91 and the targetted employment generation. Actually, this is not a supplementary, but a part of my question.

PROF. M.G.K. MENON: As far as financial assistance is concerned, the Department of Electronics has provided Rs. 60 lakhs as loan to Keltron Power Devices Limited, Trichur and a loan of Rs. 35 lakhs to Keltron Rectifiers Limited in Trichu.

Apart from that, there has also been an