

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 4, 1988/
Shravana 13, 1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Urdu Encyclopaedia

*121. DR. SUDHIR ROY :
SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Newstime' dated 20 May, 1988 on uncertain fate of Urdu encyclopaedia wherein it has been stated that if the current pace of printing is maintained, the 12 volumes of this priceless encyclopaedia will not see the light of the day in this century;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the printing of the encyclopaedia; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to expedite the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manuscript of the Urdu Encyclopaedia prepared by Maulana Azad Oriental Research Institute needed checking and review as per the recommendation of Taraqui-e-Urdu Board. The Encyclopaedia is being prepared in 12 volumes and is therefore a stupendous task. The work of review could not be started in time as necessary staff could not be got sanctioned as originally contemplated due to ban on creation of posts, and due to time subsequently taken for the location and appointment of Consultants as per alternative arrangement approved.

(c) To accomplish the work quickly, two consultants have been appointed, one each for Humanities and Science Groups to review and revise four volumes. Work on first three volumes on Humanities side has been completed and work on Science side is in progress. Calligraphy of the reviewed material has also started. Appointment of more consultants to review and revise the balance of eight volumes simultaneously and appointment of more calligraphers are the other steps that are being taken.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir the Taraqui-e-Urdu Board was founded in 1970 and it took the ambitious project of publishing Encyclopaedia in 12 volumes. Now, I have been informed by the contributors that they contributed their share some 7 or 8 years ago and the Encyclopaedia was finished in November 1981. The work was started in May 1973. Seven years have already passed. The Minister assured us last year that the first five volumes would be out by March, 1988. But the pace of printing is so slow that it appears that it would see the light in the 21st century. I would like to know why there has been this delay and when the first volume of this Encyclopaedia would be published.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In the 21st Century.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : He agrees.

SHRI L. P. SHAHI : It is a fact that Maulana Azad Oriental Research Institute submitted the draft in 1981.

Thereafter, as stated earlier, the Anzuman Tariqui-e-Urdu Board decided that the work should be revised. Then the first attempt was to get some staff sanctioned for this purpose. But in the meantime there was a ban on the creation of new posts. Therefore, the Tariqui-e-Urdu Board decided to have some consultants to review the draft. Two consultants have already been appointed and they are on the work as stated earlier. But in view of the urgency of the work, it has been decided to engage more consultants so that the work is finished in time.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : But what is this 'in time' ? How much time will it take ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : I am sorry to submit that there is considerable delay. I have already taken a meeting in this regard. As the hon. member has been pleased to observe, it is true that as far back as in 1985-86, an undertaking was given in reply to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha that during that financial year efforts would be made to see that the copies of the first volume become press-worthy. It is rather unfortunate that it could not be done. I must make a clean breast of it. It seems to be a case where the procedural wranglings as also the policy of the Government in 1984 not to go in for new appointments might have impeded the whole work. It is not possible for me to specifically come out with the exact time as to when the work will be completed, but I would like to assure the hon. members that we will take all possible steps to see that that Encyclopaedia comes into the market as early as possible. It is sought to be put by the officers that it will take at least five years. That is what they have said. But I have already given instructions to speed up the matter and I shall see that it is done at the earliest. It is not possible for me to give the exact time as to when this can be completed.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, this only shows the lack of will on the part of the Government to develop other modern Indian languages except Hindi. More than five crores of people speak Urdu and this encyclopaedia is going to be a monumental work. Therefore, I would request the Minister to see that the volumes are published as early as possible.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I have already said that that would be done. I am sorry, I cannot agree with the hon. member. It is not correct to say that the Government is not particular to develop other languages except Hindi. But in this case, I am really sorry. That is why I have already submitted that I wanted to make a clean breast of it. Even in the answer itself we have said that there is delay. I never wanted to articulate something which might mislead the House. I thought it would be better to present the facts as they exist. This is one case where there seems to be something wrong. Of course, there are some explanations which are forthcoming. But those explanations have not convinced me and that is why I thought that I would say that there is delay on our part. As I already said, will make all efforts to see that it comes as early as possible. I have already given the necessary instructions.

MR. SPEAKER : You talk about the Urdu Encyclopedia. Is there any work going on Sanskrit Encyclopaedia ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I require a separate question Sir.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE Mr. Speaker, Sir, Urdu is not the language of one religious community but it is studied by other communities also and lakhs of people are getting education through this medium. You have kept this point in mind while giving your reply. In that connection you have stated that due to the ban on recruitment in Government services, considerable difficulties are arising in making new appointments and I think that it is due to the same reason that obstructions are being created in the preparation of the encyclopaedia. It is to be kept in mind

that this is creating difficulties not only for you but the hon. Minister of Railways will inform you that in many sensitive areas like accident control, safety measures etc., where appointments should have been made, vacancies are not being filled due to these orders. This is creating difficulties for every Ministry and every Department. Therefore, I want to know in clear terms whether a decision will be taken after due consultations with the Hon. Prime Minister for lifting the ban from at least the sensitive areas where recruitments are absolutely essential? If you take this decision, then the difficulties which you have mentioned in your statement can be removed.

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, have you also read Urdu ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I want to submit, so far as the question of recruitment is concerned...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Shiv Shanker, have you also studied Urdu ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER ; Yes, Sir. My early education was through that language.

MR. SPEAKER : It is very good.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I want to submit that so far as the question of recruitment is concerned, this ban was imposed in 1984 but subsequently, as the hon. Member has submitted, wherever it was felt necessary to make recruitments, we have been taking papers to the cabinet and the cabinet has been sanctioning such proposals. In this way all such posts have been sanctioned. This happened in 1984. Subsequently, a new way was found out that consultants would be appointed so that this matter can be settled at the earliest. As regards the suggestions of the hon. Member that the ban should be lifted in areas where it is very essential, we will keep this point in mind.

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker. Sir, my first question to the hon. Minister is regarding the preparation of encyclopaedia in Indian languages and in this connection, I want to know whether there is any encyclopaedia

sponsored by the Indian Government? My second question is that the hon. Member has stated that Government of India has no interest in any language other than Hindi. But I want to say that Government has not taken any interest in Hindi also and, therefore, the question of other languages does not arise. So far the Government has not taken any interest in any language except English. Therefore I want to urge that encyclopaedias should be available in Hindi, Urdu and in all our 15 languages and this should be the first task of independent India. I have the experience of having worked in various organisations and, therefore, I want to submit that it is not necessary to make Government recruitments here. This is the job of the scholars and not of the Government employees. It is beyond their capacity to prepare dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Only the language experts are capable of this task and therefore they should be entrusted with it. And if this is done, then there is no need for making recruitments, rather there is a need for grants. Hence, the question of recruitments does not arise. I want to know from the Government as to what action is being taken in this matter?

SHRI L. P. SHAHI : Sir, as it was stated earlier the Government officers are not being appointed but reputed scholars are being appointed as consultants for this purpose. As regards other languages also you should be aware that there is a separate Granth Academy for every regional language which was financed by the Central Government initially, and these Granth Academies are working for the promotion of the regional languages. So far as the hon. Member's view is concerned that Scholars are required for this task, there cannot be any two opinions about that. If the dictionaries and encyclopaedias are prepared, The Government will make efforts for their publication.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He wants to say that nationalist scholar should not be taken.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bala Sahib Vikhe Patil.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER : I also wanted to ask one question in this connection.

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN : I wanted to ask question.

MR. SPEAKER : 15 Minutes are over, the time has passed.

[English]

Increase in Expenditure of Delhi Milk Scheme

*125. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI RAM DHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the expenditure of the Delhi Milk Scheme over the years ;

(b) if so, the expenditure of the Delhi Milk Scheme during the last three years, year-wise, showing separately the extent of increase on account of salaries of the employees; and

(c) the increase in milk production during these years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

The table below shows the total expenditure of Delhi Milk Scheme, the expenditure on salaries and wages and production of milk during 1985-86 to 1987-88.

TABLE

Item	Year		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1. Delhi Milk Scheme expenditure (total) (Rs. in crores)	46.51	55.07	57.12
2. Expenditure on salaries and wages (Rs. in crores)	4.32	5.21	5.86
3. Milk production (Average lakh litres per day)	3.25	3.77	3.96

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Details have been given by the hon. Minister regarding the continuous increase in expenditure in the Delhi Milk Scheme. What are the reasons for the constant increase in expenditure in the Delhi

Milk Scheme ? For instance, there is some reference to loss of milk on account of breakage of half-a-litre bottles—which is not satisfying—amounting to Rs. 13.66 lakhs per year.