RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 4th December, 1964/the 13th Agrahayana, 1888 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OATH BY STUDENTS

1. Shri A. D. MANI:†

275. Shri JAGAT NARAIN

3. Shri KRISHAN DUTT:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board of Education at a meeting held in Bangalore on October 11th/12th recommended to the Central Government that every student in India should take an oath of loyalty to the institution every morning before the classes begin; and

(b) if so, what steps Central Government propose to the State Governments for implementation of this order?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (Shri M. C. CHAGLA): (a) The Board has recommended a pledge to be so taken—not an oath of loyalty to the Constitution.

(b) The Central Government expect the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to accept and to implement this recommendation.

Sir, I would like to read out the pledge. This is the form of the pledge:

"India is my country, all Indians are my brothers and sisters. I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage. I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect, and treat every one with courtesy.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their well-being and prosperity alone lies my happiness."

Shri A. D. MANI: Is this pledge going to be taken everyday by the students?

Shri M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, my attention was drawn by our Ambassador in the United States that in every American school students take a pledge every morning and I felt it was a good thing if our students started the day with this pledge which would make them conscious of their loyalty to the country and of the unity of the country. I have made a suggestion to the States that they should do so. I hope my friend, Mr. Mani, does not think there is anything wrong in that.

Shri A. D. MANI: What is the pledge which is generally taken in the American schools? I thought the Minister would have before him the text of the pledge which is taken in the American schools.

Shri M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, the text was sent to me by our Ambassador. That is, I think, loyalty to the Constitution. It is a much shorter pledge.

Shri OM MEHTA: I would like to know whether students in Kashmir are also going to take this pledge.

Shri M. C. CHAGLA: Kashmir is a part of India and I am sure students in Kashmir will take this pledge as much as students in other parts.

भी विमलकुमार मण्डलालझी धर्मदास : कथा श्रीमान् यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि अमरीका में प्लेट लेने के प्रसाद
SECONDARY SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

*376. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission and the Secondary Education Commission have spoken in strong terms of the beneful influence of the Secondary School Certificate Examination; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to replace this examination system?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) and (b) The Secondary Education Commission and the University Grants Commission referred to the limitations of the system of examinations and suggested improvements. For bringing about examination reform Evaluation Units have been established in 13 States on 100 per cent Central assistance basis in the Third Plan.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know the main defects pointed out by these two august bodies regarding these examinations?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The main defect is this: As we conduct our examinations today, the fate of the student depends upon one examination. He may be ill, he may be out of sorts, he may be temperamentally unsuited to examinations and, therefore, the suggestion is that the results should not depend merely upon one examination, but the work done by him throughout the year should also be taken into consideration. That is the meaning of evaluation.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know when these observations were received from these bodies and what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Sir, the Secondary Commission, as far back as