

QUESTION XX.

AKBAR, S. ALI.

1. Very unsatisfactory.
2. (a) Admitting all students of the backward classes fit for university education.
(b) Liberal financial assistance in the shape of freeships and bursaries.

AKSHAIBAR LAL.

2. At the university stage financial assistance and special tutorial coaching will do away with the need of any relaxation of standards.

ALI, SYED MEHDI.

2. No preferential treatment should be accorded.

ANDHRA TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

Backward classes of students have to be encouraged with stipends and scholarships to take to higher courses of university studies.

ASAF ALI, HIS EXCELLENCY.

The general state of education among the backward classes in Orissa is deplorably poor. Every effort, however, is being made to encourage education among them by offering free education and the grant of scholarships and other facilities. However, it is not true that by the time they are well equipped to reach the university they show any deficiency of intellect or talent and therefore the question of relaxing any standards at the university stage does not arise in my opinion.

BALAKRISHNAIYA, JUSTICE N.

The state of educationally backward classes had always been very poor. The advent of a foreign government had made them callous to the needs of democracy. A bureaucratic government found it easy to impart education among classes which were ready to absorb education, and they were satisfied as such men were required for services. The larger question of educating the mass of the people of India is a national question and any question of the backward classes is of a primary national cause and therefore every effort should be made to raise the level of education of the backward classes by giving them special facilities like scholarships, relaxation of standards of admission to the various technical courses and special provisions in Service Commissions to employ them.

BHATTACHARYA, K. K.

1. Unsatisfactory.
2. By giving scholarships to meritorious school boys after they pass their examinations, to enable them to join universities. Facilities for buying books should also be afforded.

BHASKARAN, R.

1. Progressing slowly.
2. Teachers should bestow special care on the students and help them with their work.

BHASYAM, K.

I can understand the terms used for either Harijans or other depressed classes. There are sub-sects of certain communities well off otherwise, who are backward in education not because they have not taken to education in colleges but because they employ themselves more profitably in agriculture, trade or commerce or crafts; to call these people backward is an abuse of the term. Any consideration shown should be confined to Harijans only. They must be given special facilities by way of state aids. I should make it clear that for showing concessions to certain communities, efficiency and standards should not be lowered; by doing so, we are doing injustice to the community at large. There is somehow an impression gaining ground that a member of the favoured class should be given admission even if he does not get the required marks; such persons demand promotion to the higher classes by concession marks. If they pass out, they get special treatment at the hands of the Government. This sense of dependence on concessions at every stage, if developed in the minds of the community, will sap the self-respect and the vigour of the community; standards must not be lowered but encouragement must be shown to any community backward on account of poverty and suffering for want of opportunities and special consideration given by way of scholarships, prizes, etc.

CALCUTTA, UNIVERSITY OF.

The backward classes in the University have the same facilities as other classes. Special scholarships and stipends are awarded both by the Central and Provincial Governments for the advancement of education among the backward classes.

DASANNACHARYA, DR. B.

1. Poor.
2. For a period of 5 years in the first instance they should be trained free of all charges including food.

DESHMUKH, DR. PANJABRAO.

Although the backward classes have been making a determined effort to get education, the state of affairs of education continues to be extremely unsatisfactory. The system of education or admission to

Government institutions continues to favour admission of only the higher caste boys with the result that the backward class boys are generally relegated to inferior institutions. On the one hand they are effectively denied better kind of education and then stamped as being less efficient and qualified than others. This ought to be stopped.

It is gratifying to know that the population basis is being accepted as a standard for many purposes. I would like this to be the case with admissions to Government institutions also not so much by divisions into castes but a somewhat elastic division of the whole population into 3 classes—Advanced, Intermediate, and Backward. This classification for purposes of recruitment to Government services is in vogue in the Bombay Presidency. The admissions should then be according to the population of each group. Otherwise those who have already received undue advantage continue to exploit education with which goes culture, higher standard of life as well as appointment to Government and other jobs.

For the maintenance of standards there may be competitive examinations for admissions from each group or they may be required to satisfy some requirements, *e.g.*, total of marks in Matriculation before enrolment. Over-education of certain communities, as was the case in the Madras Presidency continues unchecked in C.P. and Berar and Bombay Presidency. The Madras Government have taken steps to minimize the evil of this monopoly. Something in the nature of the steps taken by the Madras Government ought to be enforced wherever similar and worse circumstances obtain. There is of course an unholy shouting and clamour against the present Ministry in Madras in this respect. I for one feel that what is being done there is thoroughly justifiable on even humanitarian grounds.

DESHMUKH, R. M.

1. Very unsatisfactory. The term "backward classes" is also not clearly defined. The result is that certain educationally backward classes are neglected altogether and fall between the two stools of efficiency or merit on one hand, and preference and privilege on the other. Thus non-advanced class Hindus suffer and increasingly remain backward and get crowded out by preferences being restricted to Muslims, Scheduled Classes and the like. This system needs to be corrected in the interest of general advance of the country.

2. I would contemplate that relaxation of the standard of admission for all backward classes in a two-fold manner may be needed.

(i) In respect of admission being permitted of boys comparatively older than the average class.

(ii) For preference seats, by admission of boys into classes, who satisfy the minimum and not the absolute or highest standard. Once admission is secured there should, however, be no further differentiation. This if permitted makes the student a victim of an inferiority complex. This must be avoided.

DIWAKAR, HON'BLE R. R.

1. It is very poor, though recently special hostels and freeships are affording greater facilities.

2. To push up the more clever ones among them is the only way. But my own feeling is that backwardness based on caste should go. It should be based on backwardness as such, be the caste what it may.

DUBE, PT. K. L.

The number of successful candidates at the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of Nagpur University in the last 5 years was as follows, viz. :—

1944	...	...	...	...	11
1945	...	...	...	...	7
1946	...	...	...	...	14
1947	...	...	...	...	10
1948	...	...	...	...	7

2. Freeships, exemptions from payment of tuition fees and examination fees (in part, or whole) are already provided for them in this University.

Maintenance grants from Central funds may be continued for them for another 5 years.

DUTTA, DR. R. N.

1. The state of education among the backward classes, especially Harijan class, is wholly unsatisfactory in the province of Behar as the University does not provide all requisite facilities in respect of their education.

2. It should be the duty of the State to see that all students belonging to backward classes and Harijans, who have a taste for higher education should be provided with all possible facilities, and special attention should be paid to the fact that career of meritorious students may not stop on account of pecuniary and other difficulties. There should be reservation of seats in different Faculties for their education. I think State will be doing a lot for the backward classes and Harijans, if they do some constructive work in this direction. This was one aim of life of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation.

EAST PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

1. Unsatisfactory.

2. Recent scheme sanctioned by the Government for scholarships reserved for Harijans and backward Sikh classes should help to improve things.

GAUHATI UNIVERSITY.

2. More scholarships should be available for the students of backward classes.

IYA, DR. K. K.

1. Until recently in Mysore University the so-called backward class had the same opportunities for admission into universities as other classes with a certain percentage of seats reserved for them. However within the last few years, the situation has changed markedly. The admission of these candidates has been made even when the academic records did not warrant such admission. On academic plea of encouraging the education of backward classes deserving candidates of other communities have been denied admission in Government colleges and the admission of candidates is strictly based on communal considerations instead of merit.

2. (a) It is necessary to abolish all considerations of caste, creed or sex when admissions to the university are considered. It should be enforced that the "caste" "or community" of a student is not specified in either his application for admission or his answer books in an examination.

(b) Ample encouragement, financial and otherwise, should be given to poor students of any community at the High school and pre-High school stage and the performance of the candidates at the Matriculation should be the sole criterion for admission into the university if a high quality of student is to be our goal.

IYENGAR, T. S. RAJAGOPALA.

1. There are, no doubt, certain communities which are backward educationally. But they are also now rapidly taking to education and university education too.

But university being the place for higher learning and research, not all people of all strata could take to it and at the same time doing justice to it and fulfilling the aims of university education. Only select few who have an aptitude and ability for it must be given that higher education. Communal considerations should not weigh, lest real ability may suffer. Such loss and wastage of intelligence and ability would be a national loss.

2. If admissions are made with this prospect in view, many who are now flocking to university may not be entertained then. And if this view is taken both forward and backward classes may secure admission.

JUNG, NAWAB ALI YAWAR.

1 & 2. Special efforts have been made by the State to provide education for the tribals in the State and special text-books have been prepared in Gondi for the Gonds. There are special schools also for the Scheduled Castes. Work among the tribals is not more than five years old. As far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, very few seek admission to the colleges, though the numbers are constantly increasing. The standards for admission have to apply to all.

Scholarships would appear to be the best inducement, particularly as they are generally poor. The State has created a Trust of Rs. 1 crore for assistance of the Scheduled Castes and some scholarships are given out of that Trust to Scheduled Caste students.

KARIAPPA, S.

1. The education of the backward classes is at the lowest ebb in our part of the country.

2. Their education can be advanced in two ways. (1) By giving them financial aid by way of fee concessions and scholarships. (2) By making arrangements for giving special attention so far as their studies are concerned.

KRISHNAMURTI, K.

1. The state of education among backward classes is generally rather poor in spite of all efforts to give them every encouragement and advantage.

2. While all facilities, *e.g.*, preference in admission, free tuition, special stipends, general encouragement and special attention to their work and progress should be provided for the backward classes, the standards of the examinations must not be lowered for their sake.

LUCKNOW, UNIVERSITY OF.

1. A slight progress has been registered. Backward classes are very eager to receive education but their poverty stands in their way.

2. By granting maintenance allowances. Members of Scheduled Castes receive free tuition in universities of U.P. This concession should be extended to students of all the backward communities. Besides, poor students of these classes should receive maintenance grants as well, as a matter of course.

MADRAS, UNIVERSITY OF.

Education has yet to make up leeway among some of the backward classes, and certain special provisions have been made for the encouragement of such backward classes.

So long as persons who are qualified by the rules for admission are admitted to the University, there can be no question of lowering standards, and nobody who is not qualified will be admitted; nor is there any special relaxation for purposes of qualifying for a degree or other examinations.

MAHADEVAN, C.

1. Very backward.

2. By selecting really talented boys from the earliest classes and giving them free boarding, lodging and instruction.

MAHANTY, R. N.

1. More schools are now opened for them.
2. No relaxation of standards should be allowed.

MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI.

1. Really backward.
2. Some financial help to deserving students should be earmarked for backward classes only on non-denominational basis.

MIRASHI, V. V.

1. It is not satisfactory.
2. By adequate financial assistance.

MOHANTHY, G. C.

1. The backward classes should be given all facilities for studying and in employments.
2. Relaxation of the standard should not be effected in the interests of efficiency. Some other privileges in matter of examination fees, school fees, etc. may be given, but never in the intellectual attainment should there be any difference between the backward class and other men.

MUKHT, C. A.

1. Deplorable.
2. By helping financially deserving students from amongst the backward classes.

NAG, U. C.

1. Very unsatisfactory.
2. Equalise opportunities for sufficient stipends for such as are fit to receive higher education.

NAICKER, T. R. KANNAPPAN.

- (1) Very poor.
- (2) On the lines that the interests of the Depressed Classes and Untouchables are safeguarded in the Constitution.

PANDHARIPANDE, S. L.

1. They are slowly coming forward.
2. They should get stipends from the Government.

PANNIKAR, P. R. PARAMESWARA.

We find that members of the backward classes are able to reach the standards required by the University without any relaxation of standards. Financial assistance, however, is usually necessary, and is being given by the Government.

PARIKH, RAIKLAL S.

1. Not quite satisfactory.
2. A sort of propaganda of the great advantages of University education amongst them and by a provision of scholarships for deserving poor students.

PRADHAN, N. C.

1. Not very satisfactory.
2. Proper selection of students and liberal State aid throughout the Secondary stage should ensure for students of backward classes equal opportunity at the university stage.

PUTTAPPA, K. V.

1. It is very low.
2. Some concession to students of backward classes may be shown. For example in matters of admission to advanced courses and subjects some preference may be shown. This must, however, be a temporary arrangement, say for a period of 10 years. This arrangement will provide equal opportunities for the less advanced classes to enable them to come up to the level of the more advanced.

RAM, KUMARI S.

1. When there is free compulsory education for all there will be no backward classes, only backward individuals.

2. University stage will be provided for by scholarships.

RAMANUJAM, DR. S. G. MANAWALA.

1. It has already begun to spread among the backward classes.

2. By arranging for special tutorial assistance and providing financial assistance where necessary.

RAMASWAMY, P.

Among backward classes, education during recent times has been making rapid strides both in the High School and in the College stage. During recent times, there has been an unhealthy tendency to relax standards, but this is mistaken sympathy. It would be all right to encourage them by giving additional facilities for studies, but standards should on no account be relaxed.

RAO, A. G. RAMACHANDRA.

(a) Inadequate.

(b) Some scholarships may be earmarked for backward class students for a specified period, say, ten years. They must be awarded on consideration of merit only. The interference of non-academic bodies in the award of such scholarships must be stopped. On no account should a scholarship be awarded to an indifferent student.

RAO, P. RAMACHANDRA.

Backward classes must be abolished by a quick-paced introduction of socialism. A backward individual or class is a weak link in the national chain.

RAO, V. C. VESAVA.

A certain percentage of seats should be set apart for Scheduled Castes—even if a relatively low standard is kept for them ultimately it would not prove injurious.

SAHU, LAXMINARAYAN.

1. Very few.
2. Backward classes should be monetarily helped.

SASTRI, V. APPAYA.

1. Although education is slowly spreading among backward classes, still it is awfully in a backward condition.

2. It is impossible to relax standards since university education itself implies that it is meant only for persons who can come up to the university standards. If the standard is lowered it cannot be given the name 'university education'.

SEKHAR, INDU.

1. Not quite satisfactory.
2. Provision should be made by liberal grant of stipends and other facilities to deserving students of backward classes.

SHIVESHWARKAR, S. W.

1. Not sufficiently advanced.
2. Liberal stipends.

SIBAIYA, DR. L.

In spite of encouragement by special scholarships, etc., by Government, the state of education among backward classes has not advanced sufficiently. More of them should come up for Primary and Secondary education. Having been without education for generations, it is not advisable to push them all suddenly. But gradually their coming generations will certainly come up for university education. *Admission therefore to universities should be only by merit* and any consideration of transforming overnight the backward classes would defeat the very object of university education.

SINGH, GUPTA NATH.

1. Very poor. There are several classes in which very few persons are literate. Such is the state of affairs in Bihar. This is mostly due to poverty.

2. Special encouragement to and special arrangement for teaching should be made. It is a matter of experience that students of backward classes are as brilliant as students of advanced classes if they get adequate help and opportunities.

SINHA, SUHRIDCHANDRA.

1. Practically there is no distinction here.

2. Standards should not be touched, special concessions for the backward classes degrade the abilities and have adverse psychological effects on them.

SOULE, KUMARI ZILLAH.

1. Very poor.

2. Emphasise quality if backward class candidates are admitted.

SUNDARAM, P. S.

1. Pretty poor.

2. By making provision by way of scholarships, etc., but by insisting at the same time on the same standards for every body.

SWAMY, P. D.

1. Very poor.

2. The students from among the backward classes be made to attain the proper standards before they enter the university stage. I do not approve of any lowering of standard at the university stage for the purpose. Instead they may be given special attention by the teachers and if need there be extra classes may be arranged for them.

THOMAS, R. P.

1. Backward classes are generally poor. Much more financial help is immediately necessary for their education than what is being given at present. There are brains among them and these should be subsidized liberally and given enough facilities. More schools are necessary in the areas where they abound and the best kind of teachers should be employed in these schools. This will push the growth of university education among them.

VENKATACHARI, A. R.

Backward classes should be given facilities to build up their social and moral stature to the same level as other classes, but it is essential that they should not be a drag on other advanced classes and other lines of activities and in the building up of the nation which is the ultimate object. Naturally they should work harder and should not expect to be spoon-fed except to the extent that they are physically unable to help themselves.