

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL REPORT

Wednesday, 24th July, 1996

The House met at 2.30 p.m.

[*Mr. Speaker in the Chair*]

PRAYERS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Question No.448

PRESUMPTIVE TAX ON FARM PRODUCE

Mr. Mathenge asked the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing:-

(a) whether he is aware that the re-introduction of presumptive tax on farm produce and the recent lowering of producer milk prices without correspondence decreases in the costs of fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, spares and veterinary medicines has adversely affected farmers countrywide; and,

(b) what plans he has to assist farmers improve their income and the agricultural productivity of their farms.

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Mr. Maundu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

I am aware that the re-introduction of presumptive tax has adversely affected farmers countrywide in terms of their levels of income. However, the objective of this particular tax was to raise revenue to enable the Government improve on the infrastructural facilities to enable greater agricultural activities and marketing.

With the introduction of the economic reforms the marketing of various agricultural commodities such as milk and agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and spares parts were liberalised and the farmers therefore, are free to determine where they sell their produce and also where to buy the inputs.

The objective of liberalisation of the agricultural sector was to ensure that the farmers operated efficiently so as to survive in the competitive environment. Presumptive tax only affects cash crop farmers whose marketing of produce is formalised through existing marketing institutions. Members may wish to recall that the Minister for Finance, during his Budget Speech, lowered duty on a number of items and equipment used by the farmers. Owing to the importance of agriculture in Kenya's economy, the Government is taking deliberate intervention measures so that the targeted growth rate of five per cent per annum for the economy is achieved. This will also improve farmers' productivity. Under the proposed Agricultural Sector Investment Programme, the following interventions will be undertaken. One, implementation in output and input markets through increased market information, including forecasting and early warning systems and infrastructure development especially roads. Two, provision of credit facilities to promote private sector-based marketing institutions and facilities especially storage and credit programmes. Three, intensification of extension services in order to ensure better use and management of available resources.

Mr. Mathenge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Assistant Minister for his comprehensive answer to my question. Is the Assistant Minister aware that agriculture to this country is the backbone of the economy and the biggest employer of all types of people and is he further aware that delayed payments to the farmers, like the milk producers, the coffee producers and the others, and high interest bank rates all eat into the profit margins of the farmers? If so, is the Assistant Minister going to make sure that farmers are not left to fend for themselves when they expect their Government to come to their rescue?

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have outlined in this answer, the Government is very much concerned about the plight of farmers in this country and several measures have been taken to make sure that institutions that are directly serving the farmers are properly managed and supervised, to make sure that farmers do not suffer as a result thereof, particularly the Kenya Co-operative Creameries. You will recall two weeks ago,

the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing met the Chairman and the Directors of this particular institution, and of course, they are now enjoying the autonomy that they deserve and we expect that, farmers will benefit as a result thereof.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister says that due to liberalisation, the Government does not intend to take any measures to protect the farmers and that the Government is leaving it entirely to the market forces to regulate the resource allocation in this sector.

Many developed countries in Europe and United States actually do take measures to protect their farmers.

In a situation of extreme corruption, like in this country, tariff protection alone cannot work effectively to protect the farmers. Would the Government, therefore, take action to restrict or ban importation of certain agricultural products, as a way of protecting the farmers in this country?

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very important question, but as you realise, due to liberalisation and privatisation, there are no immediate plans to give protection in the old known formula. But the Government is serious to make sure that farmers who produce products like coffee, tea, milk and others are well secured, so that they are not threatened by imported products that are sub-standard; but due to this privatisation, they may be affected. You recall, recently, we had a meeting about dumping, where important points were raised and the Government is trying its best to make sure that there is no dumping that will affect farmers in this country.

Mr. Moiben: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the production of food in this country is becoming very expensive. In view of that, can the Government consider withdrawing the presumptive tax especially on maize seeds because the cost of input is going up day by day and the cost of output is going down day by day? Can the Government consider for once, saving the farmers from presumptive tax?

Mr. Maundu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the presumptive tax that has been put in place is basically meant to improve certain facilities within the farming industries such as roads and other facilities. For the time being, we consider that the 2 per cent presumptive tax is not punitive to the farmer and it is something that the farmer can handle, in view of the enhanced development envisaged within the farming community.

Question No.279

PAYMENT OF MR. GIKONYO'S TERMINAL DUES

Mr. Speaker: Is Mr. Gichuki here? We will leave his Question until the end then. Let us move on to the next Question.

Question No. 253

REVIEW OF COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES

Mr. Mutani asked the Minister for Local Government:-

- (a) whether he is aware that councillors in Kenya are getting very low allowances;
- (b) whether he is further aware that councillors are overburdened by attending to the immediate public needs like burial arrangements, school fees, sicknesses, fund raising, etc due to their close vicinity with wananchi; and,
- (c) whether he could, therefore, consider revising their salaries and pay them a reasonable salary to avoid financially weak councils straining to meet their salaries.

The Assistant Minister for Local Government (Dr. Wameyo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

- (a) I am not aware.
- (b) Yes, I am aware.
- (c) Councillors do not earn salaries.

Mr. Mutani: Mr. Speaker, Sir, arising from that sad reply by the Assistant Minister, a commission to find out the possibility of revising the salaries of the councillors was established headed by Mr. Omamo. Does he want to tell the House that this is the outcome of that commission?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the outcome of that commission. We are still awaiting the report of the commission.

Mr. Ndilinge: Thank you, Mr. Speakers, Sir. The Minister should take what I am going to say seriously because I was once a councillor. Councillors have been selling public utilities because their salaries are too low.

The salaries of the councillors should be reviewed---

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Ndilinge! I appreciate the fact that you were once a councillor, but now you are a Member of Parliament. So, ask your question.

Mr. Ndilinge: Can the Assistant Minister assure the House that he is going to appoint a very serious Ministerial Committee to look into the councillors allowances because these are the people attending to problems of the local people?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a commission was set and I said that we are awaiting the report of the commission.

Mr. Maore: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Assistant Minister in order to state that the Omamo Commission was supposed to review the allowances of the councillors when it was only supposed to upgrade towns in the country?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the Assistant Minister for Local Government and I have said that we are awaiting the report of the commission.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, given the fact that the allowances for councillors have not been reviewed for a long time; and given the fact that under the current economic realities, councillors cannot survive and operate on the allowances they are getting; and given the fact that most of these councils are economically unviable because they cannot raise enough money to even carry out their services, could the Central Government consider ceding a portion of the taxation they receive to the local authorities so that they are able to serve wananchi and also to pay the councillors their allowances?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very good suggestion, but let us await the report of the commission.

Mr. Wamae: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important Question. An Allowance of Kshs3,000 per month is a very small amount of money for a councillor who is responsible for a location or a ward. Would the Government consider the question of increasing this allowance as a matter of urgency to alleviate the problem of councillors who are crossing over to KANU because of poverty?

Dr. Wameyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that people cross over to KANU because of poverty, but all the same, I wish to plead with the hon. Members to await the report of the commission and then, we will look into the problem of the allowances of the councillors. It is true that it may not be enough.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question, Mr. Ndilinge

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I do not have a written answer, may I ask Question No.689.

Question No. 689

PERMANENT GRADER FOR KILOME CONSTITUENCY

Mr. Ndilinge asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing:-

(a) what arrangements the Ministry has to station, on permanent basis, a grader to serve Kilome Constituency; and,

(b) when the roads in Kilome Constituency will be graded since they are almost impassable.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the hon. Member does not have a written answer and this is because my reply is not yet ready. By the time I left the office, it was not ready.

Mr. Speaker: But Mr. Mwamzandi, it is just last week that I advised Members to take seriously the business of the House. Why is it not ready? It is not a Question by Private Notice!

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not ready because it is not ready. As soon as it is available in our offices, we will answer the Question. So, it is not ready yet.

Mr. Nyagah: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I think this House is now being taken for a ride. The Chair has said on many occasions that Ministers must be responsible and bring answers to Questions asked. We can see the answers they are bringing and the seriousness in which they are taking you.

I do not want to guide the Chair on how to go about issues, but is it not high time, with due respect, you kicked one of these Ministers out of the House so that they can know that you are serious in what you are saying, because they do not take you seriously?

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I have already indicated the Chair's displeasure at Questions not being answered. I think I am talking on behalf of the House. So, we will leave that Question at that.

Mr. Ndilinge: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I do not think this Minister is taking the Questions from the Members seriously. Maybe they are thinking that Kambas are only out for relief food. Roads in Ukambani are impassable and it is high time Ministries---

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndilinge, may I ask you one question: What have Kambas and relief food got to do with the Minister's failure to answer a Question?

Mr. Ndilinge: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some Ministers who think that when Kambas are given relief food, that is all. It is high time they took us seriously.

Most of the roads in Ukambani are impassable and they think that we are out for relief food only.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order! I think I have made myself clear. The Question is deferred to next week.

(Question deferred)

Question No. 680

GRADING OF NAROK-MAASAI MARA ROAD

Mr. Leshore asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing:-

(a) whether he is aware that the road from Narok to Maasai Mara is in a deplorable condition; and,

(b) what urgent action he is taking to ensure that motorists to the park drive safely to their destination.

The Assistant Minister for Public Works and Housing (Mr. Mwamzandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am aware that the road from Narok to Maasai Mara has developed potholes. (b) The contract for repairing and resealing the road has been awarded, and repair work is going on.

Mr. Leshore: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maasai Mara is one of the biggest parks in Kenya. It earns this country a lot of revenue from tourism. I would like to ask the Assistant Minister to equally think of the road linking Samburu National Park because it is in a very bad shape. Could the Assistant Minister tell this House, how much money has been allocated in that contract? When will the contract end?

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this project was given to Messrs. Highway Engineering Construction Company at a cost of Kshs349,270,892. The contracted project began on 24th February, 1996, and we expect it to be completed by 24th September, 1997.

Mr. Farah: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can the Assistant Minister tell us how many kilometres are involved in that contract?

Mr. Mwamzandi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the road in question is 141 kilometres long.

Question No. 726

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER IN TSAVO EAST PARK

Mr. D. Mbela asked the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife:-

(a) whether he is aware that some thirty (30) or so years back, a certain chemical was aerially sprayed over parts of Tsavo East National Park which has since seriously affected the vegetation of this once rich and dense scrubland and rendered the area bare; and,

(b) if the answer to "a" above is in the affirmative, what action he is proposing to take, to reverse a looming ecological disaster which has devastated the flora and fauna of this area and threatens the park with complete desertification.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife (Mr. Sing'aru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) I am not aware that 30 or so years back, a certain chemical was aerially sprayed over the park.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As you have said many times before, the question of relevance between the Question and the responsible Ministry is very important. This Question is talking about a chemical which has destroyed vegetation. In my view, the Question should be directed to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. This is because the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife will not know about chemicals destroying fauna. With due respect, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think this can be rectified to make the House work much easier.

An hon. Member: It is not only fauna!

Mr. Speaker: Order! May I say this: The Question was approved and set out. Can we hear what the Assistant Minister has to say.

The Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife (Mr. Sing'aru): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

(a) I am not aware that some 30 or so years back, a certain chemical was aerially sprayed over a part of Tsavo East National Park.

(b) In view of the answer given above, part (b) of the Question does not arise.

Mr. D. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not surprised that the Assistant Minister is not aware. My information is that this is a closely guarded secret of the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS). I have tried for many years to find out what really went wrong, but I have not been able to break through. It now appears that even the Ministry is not able to break through. Arising from that answer, could the Assistant Minister explain to this House, how come that an area of over 4000 square metres---

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Will you give others a chance?

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important.

Mr. Speaker: What is it?

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife does not have the facilities to do an analysis of the chemical affecting the fauna there. That is why I am suggesting that the Question should be directed to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. I think it is a reasonable request.

Mr. Speaker: Who are you telling?

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am addressing the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: Well, the Chair did not frame the Question. It was done by hon. Mbela.

Hon. Members: Why did you not talk to him! Why did you not guide him! You are supposed to give him guidance!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Mbela, will you finish your question?

Mr. D. Mbela: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the way I asked the Question. This is because there was a reason for asking it. I have just said that a whole area, measuring over 4,000 square kilometres of very rich range land stretching from Mtito Andei, all the way to Mackinon Road on the eastern side of Mombasa Road and Nairobi-Mombasa Railway line, has completely dried up.

Mr. Speaker: Could you put your question? You are taking too much of everybody's time.

Mr. D. Mbela: I am just explaining why the Question came about. This is because there are no trees growing there and all water holes have dried up; the good baobab tree has dried up, even rocks are drying up. They are not productive. Rocks---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, hon. Mbela! If you do not want to put your question, I will go to the next Question.

Mr. D. Mbela: My question is: Can the Assistant Minister explain how come that, that whole stretch of land has just changed completely over the last few years, into a total arid dry land? It has nothing to do with the weather because next door, there is a grassland and trees all over the place, except that particular stretch. Can the Assistant Minister explain the circumstances which brought this about?

Mr. Sing'aru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of what the hon. Member is asking. But the Ministry would like to say that there are major changes in bush density in both Tsavo East and Tsavo West. This is due to human settlement and desertification in all areas that surround the park. Elephants are left to concentrate on a smaller area, thus exerting pressure on available woody vegetation which they prefer as their food. That is the reason why the hon. Member has raised this issue.

(Dr. Kituyi stood up)

Mr. Raila: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What is it Dr. Kituyi? I gave you the Floor and not hon. Raila.

Dr. Kituyi: I was just going to sit!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Were you on a point of order, Dr. Kituyi?

Dr. Kituyi: No, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, proceed, hon. Raila.

Mr. Raila: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter, indeed. This is because the hon. Member is talking about over 4,000 square kilometres that is involved. If the hon. Member is correct, then this matter needs

immediate and urgent attention. The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife does not have the capability or the technical expertise to do environmental impact assessment. Can I, therefore, suggest that, in line with what Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo was suggesting, this Question be deferred and that it be attended to by the relevant Ministry, which is the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sing'aru, do you have the facilities?

Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Sing'aru, do you have the facilities to check on environmental degradation? Do you?

Mr. Sing'aru: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry does not have the facilities.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, I will then see what will be done to the Question, and where it will be directed.

(Question deferred)

Next Question, Mr. Ndicho.

Question No. 209

IMMINENT DISMISSAL OF DEL-MONTE CASUALS

Mr. Ndicho asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development:-

(a) whether he is aware that over 2,000 casual employees of Del-Monte (Kenya Cannery) of Thika may be dismissed due to some misunderstanding between them and the management over payment of very low wages;

(b) whether he is satisfied that Kshs48 per day the casual workers get is in line with the minimum wage guidelines issued by the Ministry; and,

(c) what action he is taking to resolve the crisis.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Ali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware.

(b) The matter was resolved last year. The

casuals are now being paid Kshs58 per day, and not Kshs48 as alleged. The payment is above the statutory requirements.

(c) There is, therefore, no crisis at all.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked this Question about one and a half years ago. The 2,000 casuals were already sacked and the Assistant Minister is talking about completely new casuals. The Assistant Minister has said the casuals are being paid Kshs58 a day and yet, the cost of food commodities is as follows: Sugar Kshs50 per kilogramme, Unga Kshs48 per packet, sukuma wiki Kshs10 per bunch, salt Kshs15 for a 20-gram packet and the 50 grams of Kimbo cooking fat costs Kshs65.

Mr. Speaker: Order, hon. Members! I would like to encourage hon. Members that, when they ask their questions, they should have the interests of other hon. Members at heart. We all know that we must go to the Committee of Supply at 3.30 pm., and we still have quite a number of Questions, including Questions by Private Notice, unanswered. We are taking away a lot of time because hon. Members are becoming very wordy and circumspect in asking questions. Could hon. Members try as much as possible to be direct in their questions, so that we can give more hon. Members time to participate in the Questions and also have time for all hon. Members' Questions to be answered? Mr. Ndicho, please keep your words to the minimum.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was only saying that the casuals are being paid at Kshs58 per day while the cost of preparing one Ugali meal is Kshs188. Is the Assistant Minister satisfied that casuals not only in M/s Del Monte Kenya Ltd, Thika, but also in Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu and all other places in the country are not being badly underpaid? Is the Ministry satisfied that these foreigners are paying our people adequately?

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these casuals are in the agricultural sector and the statutory rate for Thika Municipality is Kshs58 per day. There is very little the Ministry can do. Everything depends on the Wages Council.

Mr. Icharia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, does the Assistant Minister not feel ashamed when he says that casuals are paid Kshs58 per day 30 years after Independence? Can he bring regulations in this House so that we raise the

minimum wages? These people, being paid at a meagre rate almost equivalent to one US Dollar per day, are working as slaves!

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Icharia, you have made your point. Can you put the question?

Mr. Icharia: Yes, Sir. Can he bring regulations here so that we can review the whole question of minimum wages for our workers? We do not want them to continue working as slaves in their own country!

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Wages Council is comprised of the employers, employees and the Government. So, it is the tripartite agreement body, which decides the wages guidelines.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, casual workers in this country are really very badly exploited. Can the Assistant Minister tell the House what provisions he has in place to protect casual workers of all types, and what arrangements he is making to ensure that those provisions are enforced, so that employers do not take advantage of our people who are suffering from unemployment?

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Ministry is concerned, it will ensure that wages are paid in accordance with the law.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Speaker, Sir, can the Ministry investigate what is happening at the M/s De Monte Kenya Ltd, Thika. The management is changing from calling workers "casuals" to calling them "seasonals". A "seasonal" is neither a casual nor a permanently employed person. He works for 30 years and when he attains the age of 55 years, he is just shown the gate. Can the Ministry investigate this practice? Our people have been used by these people and then dumped like garbage!

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a very different question but in the interests of the workers, we would undertake to investigate the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Lwali-Oyondi's Question.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I ask Question No. 097, I wish to inform you that I have not even got the answer to it, despite the fact that it is a very old Question as you can see from its number.

Question No. 097

SACKING OF NAKURU'S FLOUR MILLS WORKERS

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi asked the Minister for Labour and Manpower Development:-

(a) whether he is aware that the following employees of Nakuru Flour Mills were sacked without payment of their terminal benefits: Messrs Samuel Cuchambo Kirisi (worked for 13 years); Kaitano Akala Amitola and Enock Apoko (worked for 13 years) while Humphrey Kaduka Imbalo (Worked for 18 years);

(b) whether he is further aware that Mr. Humphrey M. Imbalo was assaulted before his sacking; and,

(c) if the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, what action he has taken to redress the grievances of these employees.

The Assistant Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Ali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) Yes, I am aware that the four employees were paid their terminal benefits.

(b) No, I am not aware. The person assaulted was Mr. Samuel Lusamba Sisili, whose matter was referred to the police.

(c) Appropriate action has been taken in accordance with the law.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the Assistant Minister that this particular management in the---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Dr. Lwali-Oyondi, I gave you time to ask a question and not to inform. There are rules in this House: When you stand up during Question Time, you are seeking to ask a supplementary question. If you wish to inform, you must stand in your place and claim that you wish to inform.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware that a man in the management who is called Dumania is a very rude person? He sacks workers, and beats them at times, after they have worked for a long time in order to avoid paying them any terminal benefits!

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of the beating of the workers by the management. But should there be such a case, it should be referred to the police.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister has said that these workers were paid their terminal benefits, while the hon. Questioner says that they were not paid. Could the Assistant Minister give

evidence to the House of the terminal benefits paid to these workers?

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Lusamba had a net pay of Kshs1,058, Mr. Kaitano had Kshs1,911.65 after all the deductions and---

Mr. Anyona: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. As far as I understand, the words "terminal benefits" refer to a lump sum amount resulting from many items. How can you have someone who has been working for many years paid terminal benefits of Kshs1,000? Is the Assistant Minister talking about terminal benefits or something else?

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers involved were not qualified for terminal benefits. Their cases were of a disciplinary nature.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, do you not think that the Assistant Minister is joking around with this House? He is reading out terminal benefits and at the same time telling the House that these workers were not qualified for terminal benefits. In any case, can he really protect workers in this country? How can a man who has worked for 13 or 18 years be paid only Kshs1,000 and yet he cannot live on this amount?

Mr. Ali: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terminal benefits I mentioned about, were pro-rata leave and the days worked and also the cases concerned, were of dismissal nature.

Question No.376

NUMBER OF WOMEN GROUPS IN DAGORETTI

Mr. Kamuyu asked the Minister for Culture and Social Services:-

(a) how many women group organizations have been registered in Dagoretti Constituency to date; and,

(b) of the above registered groups, how many have been allocated plots and issued with title deeds in the last 25 years.

The Minister of State, Office of the President (Mr. Kalweo): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Minister for Culture and Social Services, I beg to reply.

The number of registered women groups in Dagoretti Constituency as at 30th April, 1996 was 313. The Ministry, therefore, does not keep any records of the women groups that have been allocated with plots anywhere.

Mr. Kamuyu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, indeed, 313 women groups out of which 100 have been deregistered in the last three years--- Because they have developed plots, these plots have been reallocated and plot No.425 in Ruthimitu has been allocated to the area D.O, Mr. Simon Rotich. As a result, I am very surprised the Minister says that he is not aware at all about this allocation of plots, because the two are related.

Women groups buy or are allocated plots for use as their bases of operation. Now, could the Minister tell this House whether he is also aware that out of the 313 women groups, 100 of them have been deregistered and that, apart from these 425 women groups, also a plot for Muungano Women Group has also been allocated to the local administration by themselves?

Mr. Kalweo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of land ownership should be directed to the Ministry of Lands and Settlement because the Ministry of Culture and Social Services has nothing to do with plots allocation. Again, I do not have any record to show that they have been deregistered. If the DO is messing up those women groups, the question should be directed to the relevant Ministries.

Mr. Kamuyu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this Minister was a woman, he would have the feeling. But I thought for a moment that hon. Mwendwa was the one to answer this Question, but nonetheless--- I am also lucky because this Minister is in charge of the DOs. Could he tell this House whether his Ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Culture and Social Services and the Ministry of Lands and Settlement, could send an officer back to Dagoretti to confirm that this is the position on the ground? Because, today in the morning I had a meeting there with the PC about this matter because there is rising tension and there is likelihood of a major revolution and bloodshed against KANU there.

Mr. Kalweo: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the other hand in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility, I will ask my DOs to look into the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Question No.279, for the second time!

Question No.279

PAYMENT OF MR. GIKONYO'S TERMINAL BENEFITS

Mr. Githiomi, on behalf of **Mr. Gichuki**, asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation why Mr. Suleiman K. Gikonyo, who was an employee of Iranian Embassy, has not been paid his dues after leaving employment with the Embassy.

Mr. Speaker: Are you instructed?

Mr. Githiomi: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The first time I called this Question, were you seated there?

Mr. Githiomi: I thought he would come because he said if he does not come to ask the Question, I can go ahead and ask it on his behalf.

The Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation (Mr. Muchilwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

The Iranian Embassy has informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation that Mr. Suleiman K. Gikonyo was paid all his dues on leaving employment with the Embassy as certified in a document he signed at the Embassy on 17th October, 1995.

Mr. Githiomi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have a letter attached to the answer and the letter is dated 17th October, 1995, which says that Suleiman K. Gikonyo was paid his dues. But, Gikonyo's employment was terminated on 1st July, 1994. Could the Assistant Minister tell the House whether Mr. Suleiman K. Gikonyo was paid interest which had accrued due to lateness in payment of his dues?

Mr. Muchilwa: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry's concern was to ensure that Gikonyo was paid all his dues and in the letter that the hon. Member has quoted, Mr. Gikonyo himself has stated that he was paid all his dues by the Embassy and that he was not going to have any other claims against the Embassy.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can hear now we are complaining about Embassies. Earlier on, Members were complaining about multi-nationals---

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Mr. Nyanja! There is no Motion against Embassies here. There is a Question about a particular employee of a particular Embassy.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that we are talking about this particular foreign Embassy representing a foreign country, is the Ministry considering--- When our Government is talking, it talks about Kenya being a sovereign State. Now Kenyans have been ridiculed, they have to get visas to go to UK. What is the Government policy in retaliation against Britons coming to Kenya?

Mr. Speaker; Order! Order, Mr. Nyanja! That question is totally irrelevant! Questions by Private Notice!

QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

SUPPLY OF LINEN TO KERUGOYA HOSPITAL

Mr. Mbui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that in-patients at Kerugoya Hospital are forced to buy blankets on admission, while the poor sleep without covering themselves?

(b) Since the lives of the poor patients are at stake due to cold in addition to sickness, what urgent measures is the Minister taking to ensure that patients at Kerugoya Hospital are supplied with blankets?

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

Patients are not forced to bring blankets but sometimes especially now during the cold weather, relatives may bring additional blankets and sheets.

My Ministry has taken action as follows:-

The Hospital Management Board met on 23rd of June and allocated a total of Kshs300,000 to purchase linen as follows: 300 blankets, 300 large sheets and 80 sheets for children's cots.

An order has already been made to the Supplies Branch, Nyeri, and as soon as these supplies are ready, they will be delivered.

On 19th of July, the following items were received at that hospital from the Medical Stores of Nyeri:-

- (i) 50 cot blankets
- (ii) 70 cot sheets
- (iii) 10 large sheets
- (iv) 640 metres of patients' uniform, and also 480 metres.

(iv) Uniform for psychiatric patients: blue 440 metres and green 120 metres.

My Ministry is sending out quotations this week for purchase of additional patients uniform and bed linen among other hospital supplies.

Mr. Mbui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister's acceptance that some patients are sometimes asked to buy blankets is admission that there are no blankets there. Personally, I bought a blanket for a patient in that hospital. Last week I was there and there were no blankets. Could the Minister now accept to accompany me to that District Hospital at my cost together with the MP for Mwea and the MP for Gichugu to prove that he is wrong and he is really misleading this House?

Mr. Angatia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I never said that the patients are not asked to bring blankets. But if the hon. Member was listening carefully, I have told him when I supplied the supplies that I have just read. About him inviting me, I thank him very much, but it is him to accompany me when I am visiting because that is my institution and I will be visiting it soon.

Ms Karua: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. It appears that the Minister and his team met and decided to make supplies to Kerugoya District Hospital after its plight was highlighted in the Press in the month of June. Could the Minister assure this House that there is a mechanism in his Ministry of monitoring the state of district hospitals to ensure that in future, his Ministry does not wait until the Press or the hon. Members of Parliament highlight problems within the district hospitals? And having said that, the hon. Members can only accompany the Minister to visit this institution. Could he then tell this House whether he has plans to visit Kerugoya District Hospital so that we may accompany him since it is in dire need of the supplies, medicines and the items highlighted in the Question?

Mr. Angatia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have announced that I am already implementing; things like linen, uniforms and so on, should not be supplied by Afya House. These are things that should be supplied on site, and that is why the Board of this Hospital decided to make these orders to Nyeri. I have just read the orders that they have made. They themselves are capable of sitting and deciding how much and what they will buy. I have just said that tenders are going out this week and more supplies will be coming, but it is not correct that there is any hospital in this country today that does not have enough drugs I am aware that there are enough drugs in all hospitals, and if they are short, they should go to Nyeri and collect their share of drugs which must be lying there.

Mr. Mbui: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that the Minister has said that we should accompany him, can he say when he is going to visit Kerugoya District Hospital so that we may accompany him and probably offer him lunch?

(Laughter)

Mr. Angatia: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hospital is capable of feeding me. When we go on recess, I will be visiting a number of hospitals. I will let them know when the programme comes out when I will be visiting Kerugoya District Hospital.

WITHDRAWAL OF DOCTORS FROM
KAKAMEGA HOSPITAL

Mr. Shamalla: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to ask the Minister for Health the following Question by Private Notice.

- (a) Why have the six doctors recently posted to the Kakamega Provincial Hospital been withdrawn?
- (b) Why are the four doctors sent to replace them still operating from the Kenyatta National Hospital?
- (c) Will the Minister assure the people of Western Province that the unsatisfactory staffing situation of doctors at the hospital will soon be rectified so that the hospital is at par with other provincial hospitals in the country?

The Assistant Minister for Health (Mr. Criticos): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to reply.

(a) The posting order for deployment of six doctors to Kakamega Provincial Hospital is still in force and has not been withdrawn by the Ministry.

(b) Out of the six doctors posted to Kakamega, three have reported. However, the remaining three have not reported to the station because of lack of accommodation. Every effort is being made to get a suitable housing accommodation suitable for all the six senior officers.

(c) I wish to assure the people of Western Province that the anomaly of the staffing situation for doctors at

Kakamega Hospital would be rectified as soon as the problem of housing accommodation has been sorted.

Mr. Shamalla: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to have that answer from the Assistant Minister who together with his Minister must know that the serious situation of Kakamega Provincial Hospital which double officers at district hospital has been around for more than a year. The Assistant Minister will remember that he, his Minister, his then Permanent Secretary and I, did carry two traffic accident patients to that hospital and that we had to wait for 15 good minutes before these patients were attended to.

Today, we are being told of a housing situation. What is the problem with housing? Is it hiring? Is it constructing? The KEFINCO programme in Kakamega that is just over---

Mr. Ruhii: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order! Hon. Members, there is only one speaker, and that is me!

Mr. Shamalla: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why can the Ministry not think of making use of the housing that has been left behind by KEFINCO?

Mr. Speaker: Very well, Mr. Shamalla, you are taking all your time to yourself!

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem is not so complex. It is just a matter of finding suitable accommodation for senior officers which I am sure in two weeks' time the matter would be rectified. I cannot see any problem, three doctors have already reported there and the other three would be reporting. So, we have an additional of extra six doctors which three have reported and three in the next two weeks. They will have accommodation. It is so simple.

Mr. Magwaga: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I ask the Assistant Minister to tell the House whether he is satisfied with the specialised services that are being rendered to the patients in Kakamega while they lack the eye specialists and surgeons?

Mr. Criticos: Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Manoti: Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, His Excellency the President directed the Ministry of Health to post the doctors to health centres. Can the Assistant Minister tell us how many doctors have been posted to health centres, especially in my two health centres, Nyamache and Nyachekei?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member can ask another question because I do not have this very information. Obviously, as I said early this morning, I am not a computer to have all this information in my mind.

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Assistant Minister is aware that the houses of doctors have been grabbed. Can he assure us that this answer he is giving now is not going to turn out to be "a chronic answer" for all other hospitals that there are no houses and, therefore, there should be no doctors?

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government's policy is not to cheat or tell people lies which is not a parliamentary language---

Mr. Speaker: That is it. You should not use it!

Mr. Criticos: Mr. Speaker, Sir, right now, I cannot think of another word to use, but those people would be there and we are not trying to mislead the House.

Mr. Speaker: Well, next Question, Mr. Gitau. Mr. Gitau not here? The Question is dropped.

TREATED WATER FOR ST. FRANCIS GIRLS SCHOOL

(**Mr. Gitau** to ask the Minister for Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development the following Question by Private Notice.

(a) Is the Minister aware that St. Francis Girls Secondary in Kamwangi Division (Gatundu) has gone without treated water from Ndakaini despite directives by the Government on the same?

(b) Is he further aware that there is imminent danger of students contracting bilharzia and other water-borne diseases as a result of drinking water from Karimiru River?

(c) If the answer to "a" and "b" above are in the affirmative, what immediate steps is the Ministry taking to comply with the Government's directive on the water problem at the St. Francis Girls' Secondary School?)

(Question dropped)

Mr. Speaker: Next Order.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read being 7th Allotted Day)

MOTION

THAT MR. SPEAKER, DO NOW LEAVE THE CHAIR

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education

(The Minister for Education on 23.7.96)

(Resumption of Debate interrupted on 23.7.96)

Bishop Njeru: Thank you, Mr. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this Motion before this House. The Ministry of Education is the backbone of other Ministries in this country. Without education, no other Ministry can survive. I am aware that the money this Ministry is demanding is not enough because, right now, it needs a lot of money and we should give all the support to this Ministry.

I would like to request the Minister for Education to know that our children in schools are being destroyed by drugs sold to them wrapped in attractive coloured packets sold during sports competitions. We know that drugs are being sold in schools and we have raised complaints about school strikes and demonstrations. The question of drugs should be addressed by the Government and, especially, the Ministry of Education. There are sweets and bubble gums sold in schools which are labelled, *Mighty Mopping, Supermen, Mickey Mouse, Clout, Decency, Benson and Butterfly*. They are all full of drugs. These bubble gums are being manufactured by Asians, who have the facilities to manufacture and sell them. We cannot sit back and watch our children dying. The Minister for Education should request the Government to scrutinise the selling of these attractive sweets which our children cannot do without, especially, when they go for games so that we may have a healthy nation. I wonder whether Mr. Kamotho is aware that right now, our children are becoming insane after eating these sweets. I would like to say that there is a lot of indiscipline, destruction of property, demonstrations in schools which cost this nation a lot of money. Whenever there is a strike in schools, students resort to destroying all the school property, and as a result, it is the parents of these students who meet the cost. We must come up with a method of instilling discipline in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these days it is common to see students demonstrating against teachers. We have now come to a point where the parents are also demonstrating. When students demonstrate they are punished and then their parents are called. But what would happen if all the parents of a particular school demonstrated against the teachers? What would be the consequences? What would be the reaction towards the parents when they also demonstrate? These are the questions the Ministry should address itself to, to know how to handle indiscipline in schools. That alone is not enough, when parents demonstrate, it means the whole school system has been destroyed and there is no other time the students will ever respect the management, the Government and the education system because we are entering into a culture that cannot be controlled.

I would like to thank the Minister---because when I complained about---

Mr. Speaker: Your time is up!

The Assistant Minister for Information and Broadcasting (Mr. Nassir): Bw. Spika, ninashukuru kwa kunipa nafasi ili nitoe maoni yangu juu ya makadirio ya elimu ambayo ni kitu kikubwa sana katika Kenya. Elimu ya watoto wetu na Kenya yetu hivi sasa imeelekea katika pahali pa hatari kubwa sana kwa sababu ya umaskini wa watu wengi ambao hawana pesa za kusomesha watoto wao. Kumekuwa na taabu kubwa sana.

Kila familia katika Kenya inalia kwa sababu hawana pesa za kusomesha watoto, hawana kazi na wengine kwa sababu hawana mashamba. Kuna taabu kubwa sana kwa watu wengi, hasa katika nchi yetu leo. Hivi sasa, tuko karibu watu milioni 30, na wengi wao hawana kazi, na hawawezi kusomesha watoto wao. Kama wanadamu, wanasikia wivu wakiona wengine wao baba zao wana pesa na wanawasomesha watoto wao, na hali wengine maskini wanalia. Wakati umefika kwa kila kiongozi, kila asubuhi anatembelewa na watu nyumbani kwake ambao wanasema hawana karo ya shule na wana taabu. Lazima tutafute njia ya kusaidiana juu ya wana-Kenya ambao ni maskini ama kutazuka taabu baadaye. Taabu kubwa sana italetwa na wivu.

Bw. Spika, kama viongozi, tunakubaliana tufanye Harambee na hata wale wanaofanya Harambee hawafikiri kwamba watoto wanaowafanyia Harambee ni wa FORD(K), DP, KANU, FORD(A) au wa nani. Kiongozi anafanya harambee kusaidia kwa imani yake kubwa. Lakini tuko na taabu katika miji mikubwa kama Mombasa, Nairobi. Watu wanaoishi Nairobi na Mombasa huwa hawataki kutoa Harambee ya karo ya watoto wao

na hali watoto wanasoma pale, lakini utasikia wakifanya Harambee ya kwao nyumbani. Harambee ya kwao nyumbani wanatoa, na hali kazi anafanya Mombasa au Nairobi na watoto wanasoma pale. Watu kama hawa wanatuletea taabu sana. Wakati mmoja nilisema kwamba kila mtu atozwe senti kidogo za karo pale anapoishi. Kukazuka balaa, karibu nipigwe na mawe barabarani kwa sababu watu hawataki kutoa pesa pale wanafanya kazi lakini wanataka kutoa pesa kule walikozaliwa. Mambo kama haya yanaleta taabu na ni lazima watu katika Kenya watafute mtindo wa kuweza kusaidiana, maskini na tajiri. Hii itafanyika tu kama kila mtu akitozwa ushuru pale analipwa mshara ili hizi pesa ziweze kusaidia watoto maskini na pia watoto matajiri. Hii isipofanyika, tutakuwa na taabu. Ninafikiri kwamba watu wanaolaani au wanaokasirika na mtindo wa 8-4-4 hawajafahamu kama ni misaada gani watatoa kwa watoto maskini.

Bw. Spika, watoto wengi ambao wamemaliza shule wamefanya kazi ya useremala na wengine ni welders au electricians. Uko Mombasa, mimi nimesaidia watoto ili wajisaidie wenyewe. Nimewasaidia wale ambao wamepata elimu ya 8-4-4 kwa kununua randa, msumeno, na misumari au mashini ndogo ya welding, ili aweze kujisaidia mwenyewe.

Wale watu ambao hawapendi hiyo elimu ya 8-4-4 ni matajiri na wanaweza kupeleka watoto wao huko ulaya kuenda kusoma. Wale walio maskini wanafikiri huo ndio mtindo ambao unaweza kusaidia watu. Mimi ningemuomba waziri awe na imani mwaka huu 1996 kabla hatujafanya uchaguzi. Katika enzi za ukoloni mpaka wa leo, hakujajengwa shule ya secondary ya Serikali hata moja. Hakuna shule ya wasichana au wavulana. Ninamuomba awe na imani na watu wa Mombasa ambao ni watu wa imani kubwa sana na wametangamana na makabila mengi ili wapate shule moja ya secondary ya Serikali ili itusaidie.

Ninataka kuwashukuru watoto wa Kenya leo. Zamani, sisi tulikuwa tukipelekwa shule kwa nguvu. Kulikuwako na mkubwa mmoja aliyekuwa akiitwa sagini. Alikuwa akikuja majumbani kutufukuza twende shule.

Lakini katika enzi hizi, watoto wanaenda wenyewe. Lakini maskini wanapata taabu kwa kupeleka watoto wao shuleni. Watoto wanataka kusoma lakini katika kila shule huwa wanaambiwa hakuna nafasi. Kwa hivyo ni kupitia mchango tu ndio tutaweza kusaidia hawa watoto ili wapate kusoma. Ni lazima Wizara ya Elimu itafute njia ya kufanya watoto wa maskini na tajiri waweze kusoma. Ikiwa tutalazimika kutoa shillingi moja kwa koti na shillingi moja kwa shati au tai moja anazovaa Bw. G.G. Kariuki ili wale maskini nao waweze kusomesha watoto wao, tutakuwa tumefanya kitu kikubwa sana. Ningeomba wale viongozi wanaosema maneno mengi katika Kenya na wale ambao ni hodari kwa kutoa makosa, kwamba tushirikiane kwa kufanya harambee, hata kama wewe ni mtu wa Upinzani. Hata wale wanaotoa Harambee wamekuwa maskini sana kwa sababu kila wiki, kuna Harambee ya kusaidia kuchangia karo za shule. Zamani tulikuwa tunafanya Harambee za watoto kuenda ulaya kwa masomo zaidi lakini sasa, tunafanya nyingine za watoto kuenda vyo vya vikuu vya university za Kenya.

Kwa hivyo, Serikali itoe mtindo wa kusaidia mtoto maskini ili aweze kusoma, ili yeye ajione kwamba yeye ni Mwanakenya. Watoto wa matajiri wakichukuliwa kwa magari, wale wa maskini wanatembea kwa miguu na pia karo za shule hawana. Kilio ambacho kimo ndani ya Kenya ni kikubwa na ni lazima tujitolee kama viongozi. Baada ya kuzungumzia mambo mengi kama vile ufisadi, forgery na mambo mengine mengi ya kutoa makosa, tuangalie watoto wetu wanataka nini? Wanataka elimu na ni lazima tutafute njia ya kupata pesa kwa sababu Kenya haina mafuta au madini. Ni juu yetu viongozi kujitolea ili tuweze kuwasaidia watoto wetu.

Kitika zile pesa ambazo Waziri wa Elimu anataka, ningemuomba afikirie namna ya kusomesha watoto wa Pwani juu ya marine life - kuvua na kupeleka meli na mambo mengine. Hilo ndilo shamba letu.

Kwa haya machache, ninaunga mkono.

Mr. Anyona: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to discuss very briefly some of the provisions of the Education Act, if time allows. Before I do that, I would like to raise one or two fundamental issues that I regard as implementation and policy audit queries which this Ministry has to answer. I hope the Minister will listen very carefully.

The first implementation audit issue which I want to raise is the question of bursaries. Bursaries are given on two accounts: On account of children who come from poor families and on account of children who perform well. Invariably, it is children from poor homes who also perform well, and yet, the bursaries do not go to those deserving cases. They go to people who can afford to pay fees. They go to children who have not done as well as those who come from poor families. We want this Minister, to explain to this House how bursaries are disbursed and to investigate and ensure that the rich and mighty do not exploit the poor of this country. I have always said that it is the right of Kenyan children to get education, whether they are poor, blind or lame, they have that right. It is a basic human right. The majority of Kenyan children are being denied this basic right and we want this Ministry to tell us what they are doing about it.

The other audit query which I want to raise is the question of fees. We have said so many times in this House that there should be fees guidelines to be charged in all schools. This has not been implemented and people are fed up. We keep on saying the same things and they wonder what is happening. The Minister rightly

made an attempt to regulate and control the fees to be charged by secondary schools. He made a commitment and gave a guideline on the amount of fees to be charged. He was apparently disobeyed by the teachers and the Boards of Governors. We told him in this House that he needs to stand firm because that is the wish of this Parliament and thus the wish of Kenyans. He promised to tell us which schools did not comply with those directives. When he will be replying to this budget proposal, we want him to tell us whether the fees guidelines have been adhered to, who has not done so, and what action he has taken.

There are also escalating costs in schools. Some are called mock, activity, invigilation fees and many other costs that are being imposed on parents. We want the Minister this time to tell us which costs are officially authorised by the Ministry of Education and which ones are not.

The other audit query which I want to raise is about school equipment. Like I asked yesterday: How are children expected to pass science subjects when they have no science teachers? Today, I want to ask a similar question: How can school children learn when they have no equipment and books both for writing and for reading; when they also do not have laboratories? What is this Ministry doing? We cannot have a Minister of Education who sits there and makes a lot of noise and nothing happens and yet, the education of our children is falling all the time.

Now, we want to know what this Ministry is doing to buy books which they cannot afford. What happens to these children and yet they are Kenyan children? What about the School Milk Programme? This Parliament, this year, I am told is voting Kshs480 million for the this programme and yet we have witnessed that for the last three years there has been no milk in the schools. Both Galleries of our chambers today are full of primary children. If you were to ask them, they will tell you that they have never seen a drop of milk in their schools for the last three years. Now, where is this money going to? Can this Minister tell us for once and for all what is happening? Kenyans have made appeals to the Government to drop the School Milk Programme and instead provide equipment. The Government said that they can do both, but they are doing neither. Can the Minister explain what is happening there?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we also want him to tell us what has happened to teachers who graduated from private primary teachers colleges in this country since 1993 who are all at home and yet, as far as I understand, the policy was made at the highest level of Government that they should be employed. They have not been employed to date. I do not know whether this only affects Kisii and Nyamira Districts because we have four private primary teachers colleges whose graduates have not been employed since 1993. Now, I believe that the same thing is happening elsewhere. Can the Ministry explain to us when they will be employed?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of upgrading of Kisii Campus to be a constituent college of Egerton University we have said, as a community, that we expect nothing less than a full university status of that college. Can this Minister explain what he is doing with the university to make sure that that is done? What about the fate of primary teachers colleges which we hear that they are going to be closed down? Why are they going to be closed down? Where are we going to get teachers from? Nobody is going to live forever. What is the policy? What about the whole problem of changes in the syllabi and in textbooks? Parents buy a textbook this year which they expect their children to use next year. When next year comes, you find that the whole syllabi have been changed and they have got to buy books afresh. It is this business that is going on and we want the Minister to explain what is going on there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very special issue on a school in Kisii called Kisii Special School for Mentally Handicapped Children. This school has collapsed and the money has been stolen. I have written to this Minister to investigate and find out and take action on this and he just sits there and does nothing. Imagine a school for the mentally handicapped children of Kenya having to close down!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to come to the second issue which is the audit of policy and I want to raise a few issues. The first issue which I want to raise is this; I have no quarrel with the Minister for Education, hon. Kamotho, with whom I came to this Parliament in 1974 and then joining KANU, though as pals, and we are back together again. But the question is we want to know the role of the Minister for Education when he is talking about the education policy as the Minister for Education. We also want to know when the Minister is talking about education as the General-Secretary of KANU. There is so much confusion in this country about the role of the Minister for Education. I think, the Government has to do one or two things which are either to stop the Minister being the Secretary-General of KANU or he continues being the Secretary-General of KANU but leave that Ministry because the Ministry is nothing; and not KANU.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want you to use illustrations of the statement made by the Minister about the teaching of the KANU Manifesto in schools. Now, what right does the Minister have to say to Kenyan schools, children and parents, that only the KANU Manifesto should be taught in the schools? What right does he have to do that? I personally support the whole question of our children being taught the rudiments of our political system and I

agree that they should be taught about the KANU Manifesto so that they can understand the weaknesses that are in this manifesto. But they should also be taught about manifestos of all the other parties so that they understand what kind of political system and what kind of policies that their parties are putting forward.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to go further than that. Kenyan children must be taught the basics of our Constitution so that they know what a Constitution is and they know what basic human rights are enshrined in that Constitution. You would never have good citizens and democratic leaders in the future if you do not inculcate in our children the basic requirements of a political system. I always say that man is a political animal and there is no way you can totally divorce politics from the pulpit and the schools and only confine it here in Parliament. After all we come into this Parliament from those environments. We have bishops and teachers in this Parliament today who come from outside and yet we are saying that we should not preach politics in the schools because somehow the system wants Kenyans to remain ignorant so that they can continue to be exploited. We say no to that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to come to the question of the Education Act. The Education Act is archaic and irrelevant to the education requirements of this nation. Now, it was first passed in 1968 and revised in 1970 and last revised in 1980 and yet we need a fundamental review of this law so that, for instance, the 8-4-4 system can be accommodated and trimmed to the correct size. We have a system in our country called the Parents Teachers Association system (PTA). If you look at the Act, there is no provision anywhere in the Act for PTAs. As far as I am concerned, these are illegal bodies that are being used to exploit Kenyans. In any case, you have a Board of Governors and you have a PTA and now these people are sucking money from the schools. Really these bodies are just exploiting schools and not doing anything particular. But if you want it in the system then amend the law and put it there and tell us how it is going to be administered.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need to revise the quota system. We need to revise the university entry requirements for our children to get past.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Kariuki: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to be among those who have contributed to this debate. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister and the Government as a whole for the efforts that they are making in trying to see that the existing education policy in this country is being implemented in the right way. But in general terms, I have my own observation about the Kenya educational policy.

First of all, I keep on asking myself whether we would be able to achieve whatever was taught when we attained our Independence in 1963. Those were the days that all of us thought that education will be free and people will be educated and will acquire the best education that was anticipated those days. As far as I am concerned, I see that the education policy in this country today needs a complete overhaul because if the idea is to educate every child in this country, then the way we are going about it seems to me that some children and some people will remain uneducated and illiterate even up-to the year 2020. I am saying this because the way education is being approached in this country is that you educate as you have but if you do not have, your child will remain uneducated. This is something which I find very difficult to comprehend. If some children in this country will remain uneducated in front of very wealthy men and women who have acquired the best education in this nation and, then I feel that we are doing disservice to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not find it a major problem and I think that, at least, we should be able to have a new idea in terms of who is educated and who is not educated in Kenya. We should know who are being educated and who are not going to be educated until their death. I am saying this because, if you go statistically to find out who are the people who are better educated in this country, you will be able to know and detect who they are, and find out why others are not educated. Is it because their brains are poor or is it because of poverty problems? If it is poverty problems, the 40 per cent of the total Budget which is being spent to implement our current education policy, most of this money ought to have been taken to areas where the parents and children are poor. If we go the way we are going, Laikipia District will remain a very poor district in terms of personnel and everything. Places like West Pokot and Samburu Districts, and several other areas, rely on support from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), but not because the Ministry, or the Government, is really working hard to get these people educated. I think the education policy now needs to be changed. In areas where people have no money, more money should be spent in there.

The question of this money which is being given to students as bursaries, it is very little amount of money that just disappears as it gets to a district. It is very difficult to know where that money goes because it is very, very little money which is supposed to go to so many poor people. In the end, the result is zero. There are some areas, talking specifically, where we have problems in primary schools. Primary schools in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) have no facilities and this is something I keep on repeating. I cannot understand the reason why the Ministry, which is controlled by highly educated people of this country, including the Minister, cannot devise a

new method of approaching the problem of education. Let us not just follow what was given to us by the British and we continue implementing it. We have to go by our economic philosophy. If we are aiming at developing our people, economically we have to know that we can never achieve that unless our people are taught in that particular direction. But we have adopted a policy where we have to educate our people to just get employment and we are also failing after educating them. We have so many graduates who are on the streets. Let us ask ourselves; why and what was the intention of educating these young men and women? Was it just to give them education to understand the English language and no more? I think something needs to be done. From Standard 8, secondary education needs to be changed to have a new approach and not just studying history and the geography of various places. Let us aim at educating people for informal small scale industries, like the Jua Kali. A lot of money should be spent there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think another thing which I need to mention in passing is the question of what we produce or what comes out of our primary school education. In some schools in some areas, like our own area, and you know it very well, the primary school pupils go to Form One when they have not attained proper marks to be able to go and compete at the national level. Our children go to our local schools. Those local schools have no facilities, like laboratories and equipment. Our students spend four years wasting their time and in the end, they just come out with nothing. They get D-, and, if one gets C-, he would have done very well in some areas of this country. These students, when they go to compete with other students from advanced districts, like Kiambu, Murang'a, Kakamega and Kericho Districts, they compete with students who are well educated because they came from school where facilities are available. They come from schools where teachers are happy to teach and where laboratories are available. In our case, even to make a teacher agree to stay in one particular school is a major problem.

The way the hardship allowance is being distributed, sometimes it is difficult to understand. You will find that some areas in Laikipia District, are considered for hardship allowance as inducement to the teachers. But still in the same district, some areas are not covered by this hardship allowance. Why can the Government not have a general policy? If there is hardship allowance required in West Pokot District, it should cover all the areas in West Pokot District. But the way it is now, aiming at higher education or to understand the whole world will not help us. Our major problem today in Kenya is not to know what the Americans or British are doing. Our problem is how we can get our children employed after school and how we can produce good educated businessmen and women. That is what should be our main concern.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Ms. Karua: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of the Motion. I note that the budget for the Ministry of Education has gone up and that is how it should be. However, I note that some of the Items that have been expanded include the Bursary Fund. The Minister for Education and the Government, should consider whether allocating this Bursary Fund is the best way of utilising the funds allocated to the Ministry of Education. They must ask themselves, why do our children need bursary, and the obvious answer is that the cost of education has gone up drastically. That is because the fees have gone up because the standard of living has also gone up. Also the price of books, uniforms and other school levies has gone up. I would think that Government should give subsidy to schools and that would serve better than a Bursary Fund. The Bursary Fund in question is distributed at the District Development Committee level (DDCs), by the District Education Boards (DEBs) and it is taken to individual schools. It is then left to the teachers to decide which students deserve a bursary. There is no clear criteria as to who should get this bursary and who should not. The end result is that some deserving cases do not get allocated any bursary money while undeserving cases, take advantage of the bursary money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government granted subsidies to the schools, then the cost of education would go down proportionately many more parents would be able to afford the fees, and less students would require bursaries.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have in mind subsidies with regard to text books. Currently, only schools in arid and semi-arid areas are getting Government subsidies on textbooks. I note with appreciation that the money allocated for subsidies on textbooks to the arid and semi-arid areas has gone up. The Minister for Education and the Government should consider giving the same subsidies to all the other schools. It is more economical for the Government to buy textbooks in bulk because this will lower the cost of textbooks and I note that the cost for textbooks for one year per child in primary school is over Kshs10,000. This is in addition to other school levies and the school fees that our children are required to pay. It follows that, that is why the enrolment in primary schools is going down as opposed to going up. It is a sad thing that we are moving towards increased illiteracy rather than moving away from illiteracy. If school fees were affordable to most parents, perhaps we would have attained enrolment of all children of school going age by the year 2000. But it looks like we are going to have most children not enrolling to join schools at the school going age by the year 2000 I am asking the Minister for

Education and the Government to consider whether the current policy with regard to school fees and textbooks is the best policy and is the best way to utilise the tax payers' money.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year the Ministry of Education reviews the textbooks that are supposed to be used by the students. Every year we have revised editions of the various textbooks. It follows that it is not possible to leave the school books purchased in one year to the next child. It means that each year the parents have to buy fresh books for the children who are entering a given class. This system tends only to benefit the suppliers of the textbooks. In my own opinion this has come as a result of corruption in the Ministry of Education. I say so because it only benefits the suppliers. When you keep on bringing a revised edition, and when you go through that particular textbook, there will be nothing new in that textbook to warrant parents having to buy new textbooks instead of passing over the old ones to the students who are coming up, let us say to Standard Four. My child in Standard Three this year should be able to leave those books to the sister who is joining standard three next year, if not all of them, a majority of the books. But the way the system is, books are revised almost every year and we have to buy new books for each child. This is a lot of waste of the meagre national resources and those of the parents.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, previously, the Kenya Institute of Education and other Government parastatals like Jomo Kenyatta Foundation used to be the main suppliers of school textbooks. Today it is not so. We see such names as Malkiat Singh and the others and these are the people who are bringing in revised editions every year and with the support of the Ministry, these suppliers are able to boost their sales each year at the expense of the parents. The Government should consider returning to the good old policy of having Government parastatals supply the major textbooks to the schools, and only where those parastatals do not have a suitable text, should the Ministry then look to outsiders for supply.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking a child to school should not become an economic burden or a punishment to the parents. The current book policy makes it a punishment to poor parents to take their children to school and no wonder, enrolment has gone down. We would want to see the taxpayers money better utilised; we would want see a better textbook policy which lessens the burden on the parents.

On the issue of discipline, even with all the best textbooks in the world and the best teachers, without discipline there cannot be benefits of education by our children. The Ministry should look into the question of corporal punishment. We have lately received reports of death in a school as the Minister expounded last week and also a case has been highlighted of a child who became paralysed after corporal punishment. We would want to see the Ministry take decisive action and abolish corporal punishment in schools. It has been proved that schools that administer very harsh punishments, like corporal punishment, do not necessarily do better than schools that adopt dialogue and lighter punishment to students. Pupils and students should be looked at as children of those in charge of them. The same way we treat our children when they are errant is the same way we should treat students in the school and therefore we would like to see in the best interest of this country and our children, the Minister take decisive action and abolish completely corporal punishment in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would also like to see teacher training colleges start giving lessons in counselling to the teachers. It looks like some of our teachers are failing when it comes to enforcing discipline and it looks like the only methods, some of them being ineffective, is actually physically fighting with their students. We would like to encourage dialogue and better handling of our children and for this reason, we would ask the Ministry of education to consider adding counselling as part of the training the teacher training college students have to undergo.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to urge the Minister for Education to review the 8-4-4 system. For a time now, many people have expressed their thoughts in this country about the usefulness of this system. One of the drawbacks is that it overloads our children especially at the level of primary education. They will be served better by a curriculum that educates them without necessarily overburdening them. Currently, our children are forced to go to bed at midnight, wake up again very early in the morning and this reduces their level of appreciation of what goes on in the classroom the next day. To utilise the brains that our children have better, they need rest. For this reason the Ministry should consider reviewing or actually doing away with the 8-4-4 system and re-introducing the system we used to have. The Ministry of Education should take the view that nothing is too good to be improved and instead of insisting that the 8-4-4 system is serving us well, let them undertake---

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Boy: Asante sana, Bw. Spika, kwa kuipatia nafasi hii ili niunge mkono Hoja hii na kuongea machache kuhusu Wizara ya Elimu. Wizara hii ni moja kati ya zile muhimu sana. Kila mtu aliye [**Mr. Boy**] na mtoto katika nchi hii, haja yake ni kuona kwamba mtoto wake amepata elimu. Elimu haiwezekani bila kuwa na walimu wazuri. Sisi watu wa Pwani, shida yetu ni kwamba hatuna walimu wazuri. Huu ni ukweli mtupu, walimu

wazuri wote hupelekwa katika mikoa mingine lakini mkoa wa Pwani huachwa bila walimu. Mkoa wa Pwani unafanya vibaya kielimu kwa sababu pesa za bursaries hazitoshi, vifaa twapewa vichache, na magari ya kufanyia ukaguzi ni machache. Wamtarajia vipi mtu yule aendelee vizuri? Lakini wakati wa Sikukuu ya Krismasi na mwezi wa nane, watu wote wa bara watujua watu wa Pwani. Mwezi wa Agosti watu wa bara huja Pwani kwa maonyesho na mwezi wa Desemba wao pia hurudi huko kwa Krismasi. Kila wanapofika, wanasema "watu hawa kazi yao ni kutazama minazi tu, wanangojea nazi zianguke" ilhali walimu wote wazuri wanachukuliwa. Kwa hivyo, nataka kumuomba Waziri na maofisa wa Wizara hii, watuletee walimu ambao watakuwa na nia ya kufunza vijana wa Pwani. Kuhusu magari, ni uwongo kusema ofisa wa elimu katika Wilaya ya Kwale ana gari. Gari hilo limeharibika na halifai. Je, ukaguzi wa shule utafanywa namna gani? Pili, DEO wa Kwale ana gari moja ambayo ni mbovu na hapa tunapitisha pesa! Hata wakati mwingine gari hilo linasimama njiani. Je, inspection itafanywa namna gani? Tunamuomba Waziri ambaye nampenda sana, ambaye ni mzuri sana na ambaye anapenda maendeleo ya elimu - ninafahamu kwamba upande ule mwingine haupendi kusikia maneno yangu lakini ninasema ukweli wangu. Huyu Waziri afikirie kutupatia gari kule Kwale.

Bw. Spika, nitazungumzia jambo la walimu kupandishwa vyeo kupitia kwa Mkurungezi wa Elimu. Kule Kwale, ni walimu wachache ambao wanapandishwa vyeo na tena jambo hili linafanyika kwa mapendeleo. Kuthibitisha jambo hili nitawapa statistics. Tuna walimu 700 Wadigo; 600 Waduruma; 500 Wakamba, na 450 kutoka kwa makabila mengine. Ukichukua walimu kutoka makabila mengine ambao ni 450, utapata kwamba jumla ya walimu hawa ni 900. Sasa hawa walimu wanapandishwa vyeo kiujamaa! Kwa hivyo, ni wale wengine tu wanapandishwa vyeo ilhali wale wenyeji hawapandishwi kabisa. Hatukatai wale Wakamba wa Shimba Hills kupandishwa vyeo vya ualimu maanake wao ni wenyeji, lakini wale wengine ambao si wenyeji wa Kwale wanapandishwa vyeo huko Kwale na pia kwao! Hiyo ni dhambi! Huko Murang'a wanapandishwa vyeo na Kwale pia wanapandishwa vyeo. Sasa yule mwalimu wa Kwale atapandishwa cheo lini? Kwa hivyo ninaomba---

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Member not imputing improper motive on the Minister for Education by purporting that in Murang'a, where the hon. Kamotho comes from, teachers get promoted while in Coast Province the teachers who are promoted are from Murang'a?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ndicho, is the Member for Matuga not allowed to express his own sentiments? Proceed!

Mr. Boy: Ahsante, Bw. Spika, kwa kunisaidia.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Every hon. Member will be responsible for the accuracy of his statements in this House. The Member for Matuga, who appears to be very familiar with the statistics on tribal basis of the teachers in that area, has told us that only Kambas and other tribes other than coastal tribes get promoted in that area. Could he be called upon to substantiate by giving, for instance, the number of Kambas, other tribes, Digos and Giriomas who were promoted last year?

Mr. Boy: Bw. Spika, promotion zilikuwa za walimu kama 50; Kumi walikuwa Wadigo; kumi Waduruma, na 30 makabila mengine. Sisi tunaunga mkono Wakamba wa Kwale lakini malalamiko yetu ni kuhusiana na hawa walimu wa kutoka makabila mengine. Kama hatutampandisha cheo yule mwalimu wa Kwale, atapandishwa wapi? Hakuna mwalimu wa Kwale Kakamega au Bungoma. Wote wako Kwale.

Jambo lingine ni lile la Bursary Fund.

Mr. Magwaga: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Member for Matuga to imply that there are many teachers from Kakamega in Matuga area?

Mr. Boy: Jambo la pili ni Bursary Fund. Hawa waheshimiwa wakitazama statistics za bursary za mwaka jana, watapata kwamba Mkoa wa Pwani haupati kiasi ambacho wilaya fulani inapata. Hiyo ni wazi. Hii ni wazi katika Estimates za mwaka jana. Ikiwa bursary ambazo Mkoa wa Pwani unapata ni chache mnataraji hawa watoto wapite mitihani kama wenzao? Hapo ndipo tunasema Wizara hii ya Elimu ikiongozwa na Waziri mstadi kabisa, anayechunga maslahi ya Elimu - na hatujapata Waziri mzuri kama huyu itakuwa vizuri. Hatujapata Waziri mzuri wa Elimu kama J.J. Kamotho na anayekasirika akasirike lakini ukweli ni huo.

Nikiongea juu ya shule za kitaifa na za mikoa, tatizo tulilo nalo ni kwamba watoto wetu wengi katika wilaya, wanaopita vizuri na kujiunga na shule za upili za mikoa hawafanyi vizuri katika mitihani ya kidato cha nne. Watoto wanaoijiunga na shule za mkoa kama Matuga Girls' High School na Kwale High School hawafanyi vizuri katika mitihani yao ya kidato cha nne. Kwa nini hamchunguzi swala hilo? Katika Matuga Girls High School, wanafunzi wanaanguka sana katika mitihani na ilhali huwa imepata wanafunzi wewevu sana kutoka wilaya. Katika Kwale High School pia ni hivyo hivyo. Waziri, hebu tazama mahali hapo. Hii ni kwa sababu walimu tunaopatiwa---

(Hon. Keah entered the Chamber)

with a walking stick)

Mr. Nthenge: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. The Assistant Minister forgot and came in with a *mkongojo* right inside the Chamber.

Mr. Ndicho: He wants to hit Dr. Misoi!

Mr. Speaker: Order! Order, Members! I think this same matter arose yesterday and one thing hon. Members must have is an understanding for their colleague who, for one reason or another, has suffered some physical misfortune. I noticed, as hon. Keah walked in, he beckoned one of the Serjeants-at-Arms to come and collect that stick upon sitting down. In fact, there was a member of staff already on the way to collect it. I beseech the House to understand, particularly, those of their own who have fallen into some form of physical misfortune or any other misfortune because then unless we do that, we shall be a heartless House.

Mr. Nthenge: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I did not realise that. I thought he had forgotten and walked in with it.

Mr. Boy: Pili, ningependa kumshukuru Provincial Director of Education mkoani mkoani Pwani, Mrs. Karrim, ambaye anafanya kazi nzuri sana. Ningeomba Wizara hii iwapatie usaidizi wa magari watu kama hawa. Haifai kutupatia Provincial Director of Education bila kumpatia usaidizi wowote. Ninamuunga mkono DEO, Bw. Badawy, wa Kwale kwa kazi anayoifanya. Kwa hayo machache naunga mkono.

Mr. Ndicho: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say a few things concerning the Ministry of Education. This is the Ministry that takes care of our children and ensures that they go through schooling, so that they become responsible citizens of this country when they become adults. It is very unfortunate that this is the Ministry that receives the biggest share of our Budget, and yet, the students in our schools do not seem to enjoy from what Parliament allocates this Ministry.

Yesterday, we heard from the Minister that the School Milk Programme received K£9.2 million this year.

The Minister told us that when he goes to the countryside, he meets with pupils who tell him to go and thank the President because of the milk. We wonder where this milk which the Ministers sees is because we do not see it ourselves. Yet, the Minister has requested and received millions of shillings. My submission is that instead of this milk programme, the Ministry should use this money to buy books, constructing classrooms in arid and semi-arid areas and also meeting other needs in various schools, instead of allocating money to a programme which is not visible. There is nobody who sees what is happening. In any case, if Parliament gives this Ministry this money, and the Ministry allocates all this amount of money to the milk programme, why are our milk farmers suffering, and yet the milk is supposed to be bought from them?

[Mr. Speaker left the Chair]

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) took the Chair]*

It is high time the Minister knew that he must explain to us where this money goes. This is because it is neither used here nor there, and there is no milk. Unless if it is in some schools only where does this milk go?

Mr. Nyanja: On a point of information, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I want to give some information about the milk programme in Central Province. The milk programme was withdrawn from Central Province when one Catholic priest from Riruta said that the milk was meant to sterilise---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for hon. Ndicho to allow hon. Nyanja to make a scandalous and false statement in this House about the school milk? This is because he has no evidence, whatsoever, of what he is talking about.

Mr. Nyanja: I was given a chance to raise a point of information by the hon. Member on the Floor. Hon. Kamotho should learn the Standing Orders of this House. As I was saying, I have evidence that a Catholic priest, together with the Arch bishop of Nairobi, Cardinal Otunga and I, went to a scientific laboratory and proved that the milk scheme in Central Province was meant to sterilise our children in order to bring down the population.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. I protest in the strongest terms possible, against that kind of scandalous allegation about the school milk programme. This is because hon. Nyanja has no evidence, whatsoever, that the milk given to students in Central Province has ever been doctored. The milk for the whole nation comes from the same source. Therefore, I would like hon. Nyanja to withdraw that scandalous and serious allegation about the school milk

programme.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order! Hon. Nyanja, that allegation is, indeed, very serious. It is even more serious because you are involving the name of the Cardinal. You have been challenged to substantiate. Either you do so now, or you withdraw and apologise to the House. You know the impact of such a statement and if it is false and reckless, that is very bad.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a Catholic myself, and I hail from Kiambu District. The Speaker on the Floor said that the milk programme is not in Central Province. I was providing the reason why it is not there.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Nyanja!

The Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (Dr. Misoi): Order! Order! Order, hon. Nyanja!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Dr. Misoi! The Chair does not need your help. The issue is very simple. You have alleged that milk sent to schools in Central Province has got some sterilising substances. It is a very serious allegation. Either you have the facts to prove it, or you do not, in which case, you have to withdraw and apologise to the House.

An hon. Member: He should be named!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Let me finish with him.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, give me some time and I will bring everything here in this House. But I am not withdrawing at all. It is a statement of fact. It is as serious as that. That is why hon. Kamotho is the most hated person in Central Province.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Nyanja! It is immaterial that hon. Kamotho is the most hated man in Central Province. You have made an allegation that I want you to prove. Either you do so, or you withdraw. As to your opinions about hon. Kamotho, it is neither here nor there. We are dealing with the issue of milk.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, can you challenge me to bring them tomorrow?

Hon. Members: No!

Mr. Nyanja: Yes! This is because I did not know that hon. Ndicho will raise it here. It is as serious as that. The matter was in a Kiambu court.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Nyanja! You have just alleged that one of your colleagues did not know the Standing Orders.

I believe you know that when the Speaker is on his feet, you ought to be seated. You heard my direction. You either have the facts to substantiate here and now, or you withdraw and apologise.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because I cannot compromise what I know and my conscience, I would rather leave the House.

Dr. Otieno-Kopiyo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Nyanja has said that they went with Cardinal Otunga to a laboratory here in Nairobi. We would like to know which laboratory they went to, the dates and the report they got. That can be brought later.

Mr. Nyanja: Yes! I can bring those things and the case number.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Indeed, you do not need to carry documents here to tell us which laboratory you went to. Either you have the facts, or you do not. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Nyanja: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am making a categorical statement that I am not withdrawing. This is a statement of fact.

Hon. Members: Point of order!

Mr. Nyanja: I cannot withdraw a statement of fact!

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Order, hon. Nyanja! Order, hon. Members! We expect dignity and decency from each and every hon. Member of this House. It is very unfortunate that we make such inflammatory and unsubstantiated claims that can have very far reaching consequences on the population of this country. All we do is to shout and get away with it. This is most unfortunate, indeed, and hon. Nyanja, it is disgraceful. The Chair is satisfied that you are unable to substantiate your claims, and you have refused to withdraw, and you must leave the Chamber now.

(Mr. Nyanja withdrew from the Chamber)

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. In order to register our concern about this matter, I want to state very clearly that the Government is going to

write to the Cardinal, as a follow-up of what hon. Nyanja has said in this House, to give us the information as to what laboratory they went to together, to confirm that the milk given to children in Central Province was doctored.

Therefore, I want to state clearly in this House that, that kind of dangerous allegation is not in the national interest.

Hon. Members: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! We have already punished hon. Nyanja and we shall not revisit the issue.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Mr. Munyasia, we are over with that issue. Continue, Mr. Ndicho.

Mr. Ndicho: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other issue that I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister is that of grabbing of schools' land. The Ministry of Education is receiving a lot of money from this House so that it can improve schools. We had problems in Nakuru Town, which hon. Lwali-Oyondi represents. There is a school to which somebody went and demolished it. While the Government is doing everything possible to arrest this person, I think he should be taught a very stern lesson for other grabbers of school land to learn a lesson. I have a case in point in Nairobi here and Thika, where Kenyatta, St. Patrick's and Holy Rosary primary schools have all had their land grabbed. If it were not for the efforts of the parents, myself and the communities around those schools, the schools would not have been there in the next one or two years. It is upon the Ministry to ensure that land belonging to educational institutions is safeguarded. I thank the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Lesrima, because he has issued a circular to all the schools in this country to the effect that they should fence off their school land, and get title deeds, so as to prevent grabbing of school land. We wonder that even when we raise these issues, we do not see the Minister doing anything. I have also have got another case in point where a bishop has been allocated school land at Kilimbogo area. Imagine a whole bishop has taken half of an area set aside for a school! The Minister should intervene in these things, so that we take care of the future of the children of this country.

The other point that I would like to pass across to the Minister is that the Government has on several occasions said that no student should be expelled from school for lack of school fees or other monies, yet every now and then, I get students in my office who have been expelled from school. Why can the Government not have a consistent policy, so that when it says something that thing sticks? Why does it say something for the sake of public relations? I think it is high time Government officers took seriously, what the Government says.

I am moving fast because a lot of my time was taken up. You realise that many hon. Members have expressed their concern in connection with the 8-4-4 system of education. This system has overloaded our children. We went through the 7-4-2-3 system of education and we did very well. Today we can see a university graduate who cannot construct a sentence in English because he was rushed through this system of education. I think when we take over the Government, this is one of the systems that we shall scrap and dump it into the dustbin of history.

The other point that I would like to make is that education in this country is very expensive. It is only the rich who can educate their children. The poor peasants, or masses, in the countryside cannot educate their children. Yet, by the wish of God, poor people produce the brightest children. It is upon the Government to ensure that bright children from poor families get education. Let us not only educate children of the rich. If we do this, we shall have a revolution in this country in future, where the less fortunate people will attack those who will have made it in life, so that those well to do people will not enjoy their lives.

The other issue, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, which is very serious, is the case where teachers, who are entrusted with the care of our children, are now raping, killing and maiming them. There is a case in Ikolomani in Kakamega District, where an headmaster has made a pupil blind, but the Minister has not issued a statement in this connection.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): He promised one yesterday.

Mr. Ndicho: Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. We would like to see the Minister taking stern action against teachers who are sleeping with school girls and infecting them with the HIV virus. We are going to lose our girls because of the actions of such teachers.

With those few words, I beg to support.

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Thank you very much, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for having allowed me to catch your eye.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Who catches the other's eye? Is it the hon. Member on the Floor or the Speaker who catches the eye?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Only the hon. Member on the Floor catches the Speaker's eye! What did the Minister say?

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to congratulate my colleague, the Minister for Education, for the wonderful job he is doing in this country. Obviously, there are people here who specialise in condemning the Government and anything good that is being done in this country. There are people who would wish bad things to happen so that they can make political capital out of them. But this will not shake the KANU Government. We will remain steadfast and I know that my colleague, the Minister for Education, is one of those who remains completely undisturbed.

I just wanted to caution my colleague that the new system of promoting teachers is a very good system. The introduction of a proficiency examination is an attempt to create an objective scale for measuring those teachers who qualify to be promoted on merit. I know that the Minister has tried this examination system before, but it did not lead to fair promotion of teachers. He has tried promotion on ordinary merit following inspection of teachers, but that method also did not bring good results. He is now going to try another method of basing promotion on a proficiency examination. But I know that teachers in this country always look for short-cuts and will get the system abused again. Otherwise, good teachers must be promoted. Unfortunately, many times, some of the very poor teachers get promoted because they use unethical ways to get promotions. I just want to wish my colleague the best of luck with the proficiency examination. We hope that teachers and those who will be charged with administering it will respect it, and will make sure that only good teachers will qualify for promotion.

I also want to appeal to my colleague that it is time we considered supporting girls' education in some way or other. I wanted even to propose that girls get free education from pre-primary school to Standard Eight. If you educate girls, do not worry about what Dr. Aggrey said. In this country, if you educate girls up to Form Four, you will solve a lot of problems. You will gain a lot in terms of development, the health of our people, education and actual monetary development in a family. I would have liked to see a study carried out to see whether, in fact, we cannot set aside some money for this purpose. We use such money for various things. We should also have funds in this country for the welfare of our people. I would have wished that we carry out a study to find out whether investment in free girls education from pre-primary school up to Standard Eight, would not yield better fruits in this country than any other programmes have ever done.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Mrs. Ngilu: Sit down Shikuku!

Mr. Shikuku: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, is it in order for the gracious lady to tell me to sit down?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Is your point of order on hon. Angatia or hon. Ngilu?

Mr. Shikuku: But she is shouting behind me! She should have some respect for a man!

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, do you not think the hon. Member is treading on very dangerous grounds because it is provided in our Constitution that there should be no discrimination against anyone because of sex or whatever? Do you not think his suggestion is violating the Constitution?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, Shikuku! Surely, you know that what he is calling for is affirmative action. He is not discriminating against anybody. Affirmative action is not discrimination. Carry on!

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in proposing that, I would like the Minister to consider that when school committees are deciding on the money to be paid by parents for primary school children for building costs and other such school charges, the Ministry taxes us and pays development fund for all girls, but parents can pay for boys. At secondary level, I would like to propose that the bursary that is being made available be put in favour of girls. Girls should get more bursaries than what the boys are getting. I am not saying that education for boys is not important; it is extremely important, but considering the apparent disadvantaged position of girls in this country, I would wish that we also allocate our funds in an attempt to correct the imbalance so that we can put people at par and allow them to develop and show their merits for positions; at school and so on.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am making this proposal because there are still parents in this country who, when they are short of money, and you cannot blame them, and they have two children at school a boy and a girl, when they are completely short of money, they would rather pay school fees for the boy rather than the girl with the little money they get. This is a fact which is true and there is no use anyone denying it or trying to say that we are discriminating against boys or we are unduly favouring girls. It is a fact of life in this country and we must do something to correct it.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want also to support my colleague on reproductive health for teenagers and for school girls. There is nothing wrong in teaching our children who are in school about reproductive health. The people who are shouting loudest against the Minister and against the proposal that sex education, life education, reproductive health or whatever you want to call it, these children are legitimately entitled to this education and it must be given. It is no use pretending that our children will not know about sex whether we teach them or we do not teach them. They will know about the wrong aspects of it and they will do the wrong things about it because a few selfish people are shouting against proposals by the Minister for Education to introduce life, family, body or reproductive health education in schools. It is important especially if you consider the number of children who get pregnant and the damage that is done to this large number of children, when you consider the babies who are getting abandoned in latrines and all over the place, when you consider the infection of diseases to our children, considering all these evils, it is time we came out, whether in the Opposition or Government, and gave support to the Minister for Education to introduce proper education that will correct these imbalances so that our children are not subjected to this suffering because of ignorance or because of selfish people who do not want these children to know what they will know anyway whether we like it or not. Therefore, I want to propose---

Mr. Busolo: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. speaker on the Floor aware that it is his boss who has actually opposed life education in the schools?

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am here as a Member of Parliament and I know that there are Members of the Opposition who are always against hon. Kamotho when he is trying to introduce reproductive health education in schools. I know churches that are pretending that they do not want reproductive health education to be taught in schools. There is no question of a boss here or there. We are talking about education---

Dr. Lwali-Oyondi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Not on the same issue Dr. Lwali! Carry on Angatia!

The Minister for Health (Mr. Angatia): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you, very much. We want to encourage the Minister to go and authorise his officers to write up a proper programme, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, and we are determined to make sure that reproductive education or health education is taught in schools so that our children do not suffer the way they are suffering; so that people do not pretend to look the other side when they see a baby dumped on a rubbish heap, in a latrine or somewhere like that. It is time we came out and faced this squarely.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want also to talk about corporal punishment. I speak like a former school headmaster and I know that corporal punishment helped us run schools. It is very unfair, when a teacher has punished a child for the Press to come out with a screaming headline "Teachers beat Child to death." That kind of thing cannot happen. It was an accident. There are many Kenyans - I do not know about Members of Parliament - who are still smacking their children, they are still beating their wives, they are still beating their brothers and we read about this everyday. Many parents have abandoned their responsibility about the discipline of children, they have left it to teachers and they are the ones who have to carry all the abuses from children and parents. It is time that discipline was enforced. As I know, fathers want to enforce discipline in their homes. Teachers must also be told that there is a way of disciplining children, it has been done from time immemorial. If there are accidents, let us face accidents as accidents. Let us not condemn all teachers as if a teacher beats a child to kill, no teacher beats a child to kill. A teacher may want to discipline a child but an accident may occur. A child may be suffering in some special way and a little slap on the child may make the child collapse and die. If this accident occurs, we should not condemn teachers as if we are now saying, teachers should abandon the responsibility for discipline and let children go wild, abuse others and do anything; especially children of the well-to-do people in the society. It is important that headmasters maintain the rule they have always had. A headmaster knows that if a child must be disciplined, he is brought to the office, there is a witness and the child is properly punished. If in the process - just like a doctor--- If a doctor is operating---

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mrs. Ngilu: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Education Vote takes the largest share of this country's Budget.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): You have only three minutes!

Mrs. Ngilu: Indeed it takes 40 per cent of the Budget and the idea of having such a large budget for the Ministry for Education is because education is the biggest investment a country can have. This country can have a proper education system that can develop and bring out the talents and the skills of the people, so that we can

develop human resource.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 8-4-4 system of education has had a very good intention all along, but we now know that the 8-4-4 system is not serving the purpose for which it was established simply because although this was done in such a way that it should help those who leave Standard Eight with certain skills so that they can get themselves employment, this is not happening. The Minister for Education is aware that every year, those who leave Standard Eight and do not get absorbed in our secondary schools are going back home and they have nothing more to do. This is the youth of today, who are loitering in our streets with nothing to do. The Minister is aware of, for instance 200,000 young people who left Standard Eight last year and who did not get any positions in secondary schools.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, because I do not have much time, I would like to thank the Minister for Health who so much enlightened the Minister for Education on what should be done about girls' education. I really would recommend that girls in this country should get some special budgetary provision where they can get pre-primary education up to Form Four level, so that the situation we are witnessing today, where girls are dropping out of school and getting married to help raise funds even to educate their brothers, does not arise. What we would be calling for today is actually affirmative action because we know that once girls go back to classrooms with the same boys where there is no fees available for girls, girls are married off by their parents to provide fees for their brothers. In some cases, in fact, we have known of girls being married off by their fathers so that they can pay off dowries for their fathers' second wives.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the pre-primary education has not been given some serious thoughts that it deserves. For a child who leaves the mother's love at the age of three years and goes to untrained teacher in a pre-primary school, it leaves a trauma in that child's life. For the teacher, the child is indisciplined and for the child the teacher is a bully. I would want to recommend that we have also funds set aside for training of pre-primary school teachers who actually can bring up children to get them to the primary level of education fully trained and aware of what they should be doing in school.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think in ASAL areas on the question of books, parents have expressed their wish to have the Ministry of Education give them books instead of milk.

With those few remarks, I wish to support.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this other chance now to reply to all the hon. Members who have made their contributions during the two days and brought a lot of useful proposals and suggestions for improvement of education in this country.

I would like to thank all the hon. Members on both sides of the House, those who made very positive contributions on various aspects of education of this country. But before I respond to those various points, I would like once again to register our concern for the utterances made by hon. Member for Limuru this afternoon.

Hon. Nyanja made very careless utterances with a very do-not-care-attitude because the children of this country are the Kenya of tomorrow. We should handle them with care, with both paternal and maternal care. We should not use them to try and gain misdirected political mileages. I would like to assure this House that I am going to write to the Cardinal whose name was invoked in this House to give me his answer and after I get his answer, I will come back to this House to say what the Cardinal will have said. I will need to be told the laboratory where they went with hon. Nyanja and got that finding that milk given to children in Central Province is "doctored." Medically, the utterances of hon. Nyanja are a criminal act and, therefore, hon. Members in this august House and country at large should take such utterances very seriously and treat them with contempt that deserve.

Hon. Members---

Mr. J.N. Mungai: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is it in order for the hon. Minister to discuss another hon. Member who uttered something in this House when he is not here?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order, hon. Njenga! You obviously have not been in this House this afternoon and you should not be standing on that point of order.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir---

Mr. J.N. Mungai: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Am I not in order to stand on a point of order whatever time I come in here?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker: Order! If you listened to the Minister, he was not discussing the conduct of hon. Nyanja. He was responding to outrageous allegations that hon. Nyanja made in this House!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Thank you, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Quite a number of hon. Members in this House, in supporting the Vote of the Ministry of Education, some of them made references to our current education system, the 8-4-4 education system. I would like to state

very clearly here that our 8-4-4 education system has succeeded. It has succeeded in this way, one of the reasons why 8-4-4 education system was started was to facilitate technical and scientific education in this country and, at the same time, to facilitate expansion of university education because before this---

Mrs. Ngilu: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead this House that the 8-4-4 system of education has succeeded when surely he knows that we only have 8-4-4 system of education students who qualify to go to secondary school and those who do not qualify are at home because there is no further vocational training courses that are made available for them?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is just an argument. It is not a point of order!

Let me take back some of these hon. Members to the time when 8-4-4 system of education was started. Before the current 8-4-4 system of education was started, we had a 7-4-2-3 system of education. At that time in this country, we were only able to take in slightly more than 1,000 students to our public universities. There was a bottleneck because with the A-level system of education, we had only 300 secondary schools in this country which had A-level system. Therefore, the few number of students who got entry to our public universities used to come from 322 A-level schools in the country. Therefore, very few children from our secondary school system could have gained entry to universities. With the advent of the 8-4-4 system, every secondary school in this country has an opportunity to compete for university entry. Today, we are able to take up to 10,000 students in our public universities from every part of this country.

Mr. Gitau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Is the Minister in order to mislead the House on the 8-4-4 system of education and 7-4-2-3 system of education that this time they take more university students noting that time we did not have as many universities as we have today? That is misleading the nation.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, that is sheer ignorance because the public universities we have come about as a result of restructuring the education system into an 8-4-4 system.

Mr. Gitau: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Indeed, that is ignorance on his part and not on my part because he knows the product of 8-4-4 system of education is not employed and is not serving this nation. The education is extremely poor, and they have not had quality education. The quality is low just because of "overloading" the universities. It is ignorance of the Minister!

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, maybe, hon. Gitau was in school when the 8-4-4 system was started and, therefore, he does not know how the expansion and growth of public universities have come about. As I said earlier, the 8-4-4 system has done this country a lot of good. I say so because the jua kali sector in this country, which now, provides livelihood to about 2 million people, is a by-product of the 8-4-4 system of education.

(Applause)

I would like every Member to note that. That is why I am saying that the 8-4-4 system has done a lot of good to Kenyans.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to move to another point which was raised in this House about the grants to secondary schools. The grants to secondary schools have not been discontinued. What has happened is that the number and the needs of secondary schools in this country have increased. We still have slightly over K£70 million as grants to secondary schools in this country, but that money is a drop in the ocean because of the needs. So, we try to make sure that we give little money to secondary schools spread over a certain period of time. A school that benefits this year will not benefit next year or even the year after. Another school has to benefit because we have close to 3,000 secondary schools. Harambee and Government schools are no longer categorised as harambee and Government schools, they are all public schools. Therefore, we treat children in our secondary schools as children of this nation. Therefore the kind of support we give to secondary schools is not discriminatory.

Secondly, I would like the House to note that from July, this year, the Government is going to give science equipment to 1,225 secondary schools in the Republic of Kenya, worth Kshs480 million.

Mr. Shikuku: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. Would you kindly ask the Minister to move far away from the microphone? We can hear him very well. Our ear-drums are almost bursting.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said this year,

the Government is going to provide science equipment to 1,225 secondary schools, spread throughout the Republic of Kenya. This is following another 900 secondary schools, which were given equipment about two years ago. So, this gesture, which the Government is showing strengthens the old grant system of the fewer secondary schools which were there in the country. So the Government's contribution to secondary schools has not really gone down, but as I said, it is because the schools have increased and the problems in secondary schools have compounded.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition, I would like to respond to this question of fees guidelines at this stage in secondary schools. It is true a few secondary schools have not been able to stick to the fees guidelines. There are a few because out of 2,600 secondary schools which are affected, no more than 50 secondary schools in this country have been unable to comply with the fees guidelines. The reasons for this are, in some cases some of the "high schools" in this country, particularly, the former "European" or "white" secondary schools have facilities which require a lot of money to maintain. These are facilities like swimming pools, hockey fields, rugby grounds and facilities for all kinds of sports. If parents meet in such schools and, through the PTA in a general meeting, resolve to make certain contributions for the better running and management of those schools, it would be unfair for me, as the Minister for Education to tell those parents that they should not make a contribution to the maintenance and development of their own schools. Otherwise, the majority of schools in this country, have complied with the fees guidelines, and I have no quarrel with them.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, while still on this, I would also like to assure the House that the review and amendment of the Education Act is almost ready and as soon as it is completed, I will bring it to this House for debate, so that Members of this House can make their own contribution and give any proposals they may want to bring forward so that they can be incorporated in the final and new Education Act.

I would also like to respond to this question of the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). I think this House should register their satisfaction with the way the HELB has so quickly settled down and managed to give loans to the majority of our students, who required loans to be able to continue with their education in our public universities. You remember, we passed this Act last year, it is not yet one old, but the HELB has been able to do a commendable job. What I would like to tell Members in this House is that during that past year, it was discovered that about 30 per cent of students cheated, they gave false information to the Board. Therefore, a very large number of students applied and they got loans while they should not have got the loans. But because the Board discovered that and said that they are going to the homes of some of those students, this year, the number that has applied for the loans has come down from 36,000 to 26,000. Therefore, we are satisfied with the way the Board is carrying out its work. I would also like to inform this House that since 1974, the Government has loaned university students Kshs7 billion. As of now, Kshs2 billion is outstanding unpaid. While the recovery of this money is steadily increasing, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to employers and Kenyans of good will to repay the loans given to them so that we can strengthen a revolving fund, which will be able to assist students, even those going to private universities and those going to middle level colleges to be able to complete their studies in those institutions. So, as I said, the Government is fairly well satisfied with the progress of the HELB.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like this House, to register its satisfaction with the performance of the Commission for Higher Education. It is important that we have standardisation and harmonisation of university education in this country so that the degrees which our universities give, both public and private, are degrees which are credible, not only in Kenya, but also anywhere else in the world.

Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other area which I would also like to touch on is the new programme of early childhood education. This is an area where the Government is now putting greater emphasis because after Jommpstein Conference of 1990, where the World Bank, Unesco and the world community did resolve to work around the clock to ensure that the world population will be totally literate by the year 2000. It was therefore, felt that countries should put greater emphasis on the growth, development and nutrition from birth so that they are well prepared to be able to get proper education. That is why we have increased our allocation on this particular vote, so that apart from training teachers for pre-primary education, we will try to provide all the other necessary facilities and equipment to ensure that early childhood education becomes a reality.

I would like to revisit once again the issue, which almost every hon. Member of Parliament touched on in this House - bursaries. The Bursary Fund this year, as I had stated earlier on, has been doubled from Kshs200 million to Kshs400 million. I would like to remind this House that what we have been doing and we will continue to do is to give proportionately a higher allocation of bursary funds to arid and semi-arid areas and also pockets of poverty in districts and urban areas because this is the only way we can take care of the social problems of the poor children from poor areas. Indeed, 25 per cent of the bursary allocation from this House is kept aside for the arid and semi-arid districts and then the balance, which is 75 per cent is shared proportionately on the

basis of the number of classes of secondary schools in all the districts of the Republic of Kenya. Our aim is to have a very fair and equitable distribution of the bursary funds. I would like to request the hon. Members of this House to participate in the deliberations on those who apply for bursaries in schools in their respective areas. They should also participate fully in the deliberations of the District Education Boards. This will help us in identifying the neediest cases in their own areas. As I said, due to the large number of students and schools, it is not possible for the headquarters of the Ministry to be able to monitor what goes on in every secondary school every day. Therefore, hon. Members of Parliament in this House should be our good ambassadors to ensure that justice is done by making sure that the neediest case get the bursary funds in their own areas.

The other point which I would like to touch on is the question of basic text books. The provision of text books in this country are standardized and I would like to deny fully that we change text books in schools every other day. The basic text books are standardized and it is the complementary readings which may change but the basic text books remain the same. This year, we are giving K£8,500,000 for the purchase of text books for primary schools in arid and semi-arid areas.

Mr. Ndicho: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir. It is very nice to hear the Minister saying that the text books which are changed occasionally in schools are supplementary text books. But, can the Minister now, assure the nation that children will not be sent away by teachers to go and buy the supplementary text books as is the case now?

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Hon. Ndicho, do you think this is Question Time?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said, the public policy on this matter is very clear. No teacher is supposed to send away children from school for lack of text books. If anything, a letter should be written to the parents or to the guardians to come to schools rather than sending the children away from schools. That is very clear. Therefore, I do not have to say more. Public policy is a directive and that is our stand.

The other point which I would like to come to is the generalised allegation about corruption which is always being made by some Members from the Opposition parties until it has become a cliché. Even where there is no corruption, they claim that there is corruption everywhere. If there is any incidence of corrupt practices in a Member's area, that matter should be reported to the authorities for investigation. We have an anti-corruption unit and nobody is immune from that. It should be investigated and remedial action should be taken.

The other issue which I want to address is this issue of discipline. I am seriously looking into this issue of corporal punishment. It has been abused and abused to a point where, it has caused catastrophes in this nation. Soon, I will be issuing a comprehensive Ministerial Statement which may include review of the legal notice affecting corporal punishment in our school system. I agree with the sentiments expressed by hon. Members in this House and I can assure this House that we are going to take remedial action.

Finally, we as a Ministry are working day and night to strengthen the methods we follow in giving guidance and counselling in order that we are able to deal with cases of discipline. This is a very important area programme in both our middle level colleges and the universities. We now have a programme of equipping teachers or would-be teachers with skills and knowledge in giving guidance and counselling for all the different ages of our children.

With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) left the Chair]*

IN THE COMMITTEE

*[The Temporary Deputy Chairman
(Mr. Ndotto) took the Chair]*

Vote 31 - The Ministry of Education

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-
THAT, a sum not exceeding K£804,020,160 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet the expenditure during the year ending 30th June, 1997 in respect of:-
Vote 31 - The Ministry of Education

Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this amount includes the Vote on Account which was passed by this House early this month.

(Question proposed)

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 834 - Headquarters Administrative Services
Head 835 - Headquarters Professional Administrative Services
Head 836 - Curriculum Support Services
Head 837 - Provincial Administrative Services
Head 838 - Kenya National Commission for UNESCO
Head 839 - Kenya National Examinations Council
Head 841 - Teachers' Service Commission
Head 862 - District Administrative Services
Head 863 - Kenya Institute of Education (KIE)

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, we feel that is fairly unfair because the stage where we are, that is the Committee Stage, we are scrutinising what the Minister is requesting this House to approve for this Ministry and, I do not think, all those Heads can be covered with all that kind of rush. We would ask for your impartiality that we be given time to scrutinise what we are approving to this Ministry. At your discretion, you should be able to give us that.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Mr. Obwocha, you are free to ask questions from Heads 834 up-to 863. You are free to do that.

Mr. Obwocha: Let me start with Head 834 Item 198. Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Minister is asking this House to approve compensation and ex-gratia payments of K£900,000 which is Kshs18 million to the Headquarters. Could the Minister tell this House what ex-gratia payments he is paying to the Headquarters to warrant this amount of money being given to him?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is an Item which is normally very unpredictable because what happens is that this is normally as a result of compensation which are given by courts. There are very many cases sometimes involving accidents of school vehicles where cases are taken to court and judgements are passed. Therefore, the Ministry is left with no option but to pay. This money came about because of what we had to do the previous Financial Year.

Mr. Ojode. Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 837 Item 060, could the Minister explain why it has been given K£10,000 and yet the last Financial Year there was nothing of these personal allowances? Why did they give K£10,000 this year and why can we not do without it just like last year.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Mr. Minister, we are on Head 837, Item 060 which is about Other Personal Allowances.

Mr. Ojode: And what are those Other Personal Allowances?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a fairly small Item and this personal allowances are allowances which can be given to some of the officers given certain assignments which were not there in the previous year. Therefore, that kind of money sometimes comes about unexpectedly and it could even be more because of events which might happen unpredictably or not foreseen.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, back to the question raised by hon. Obwocha, could the Minister explain two things: One: why is it that ex-gratia payments on school vehicles is being requested under a vote for Headquarters Administrative Services and two, why the ex-gratia payments for Headquarters Administrative Services is so much more than ex-gratia payments for Headquarters Professional Administrative Services which comes under Head 835?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I first of all said, the question of ex-gratia compensation is normally very unpredictable. I can give one example where an accident occurred of a vehicle belonging to Chinga Girls High School in Nyeri District. That vehicle which rolled on Murang'a-Kiriaini Road involved payment to those affected because they went to court to sue for a lot of money and at the same time, as I said, the payments of ex-gratia compensation is determined by cases which are

determined by court awards and as a Ministry we have no choice but to honour any judgements which are passed by the court to compensate those affected.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Heads 837 and 841 Item 000 about personal emoluments, under the Teachers' Service Commission, we have Senior Principals whose salary scale is job Group "Q" and they are 96. In the Provinces, under Head 837, the highest officer who is supposed to appraise the work of the senior head teachers, is on Job Group "P" and they are only four of them in the whole Republic. How does the Minister expect these junior four Provincial Directors of Education to appraise the work of their seniors who are 96 and are spread all over the country? That is one. I will ask another question on this same Head.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is a question and I can assure the House, that a review is being done to rationalise positions in the Ministry of Education, field services and positions of senior head teachers in secondary schools and colleges throughout the country.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do not know whether the Minister is aware that under this Job Group "P" in the TSC, Head 841, there are even some Provincial Directors of Education, who are being paid by the TSC. Why is this anomaly still going on? Why is he allowing the TSC, which should be paying only teachers, to pay also employees of the Public Service Commission (PSC), and one such example, is the Provincial Director of Education, Rift Valley Province, a Mr. Joseph Amdany. Why is he being paid by the TSC instead of being paid by the PSC?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said, we have a lot of anomalies which are there in the Ministry, between the TSC and PSC, including the officers of the Ministry, who are doing administration of education down to the zonal level, and Assistant Education Officers (AEOs). As I said earlier, there is an exercise going on now between the Directorate of Personnel Management (DPM), TSC and the Ministry of Education, to try and rationalise and harmonise these establishments.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is really why we asked to go through them one by one, and we would be faster. But let me ask a question in relation to Head 839, the Kenyan National Examination Council (KNEC), where the Minister is requesting this House to approve K£12 million to the KNEC, when we know that the KNEC gets examination fees from the candidates. Why has he not reflected the Appropriations-In-Aid to the KNEC in this Printed Estimates?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, when you talk of AIA, you mean money that is collected and goes to the Exchequer. The money collected through examination fees does not go to the Exchequer. That money is spent by the KNEC. The money required by the KNEC, for the setting, administration and supervision of examinations is not adequate. That is why this money is given by the Treasury, to supplement the money raised by the KNEC through examination fees. Secondly, the KNEC, by the nature of the work they do, is semi-autonomous, and, therefore, that is why we do not treat that money as AIA. It is just like the fees paid in secondary schools. That money is not taken to the Exchequer as AIA.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I pray that you keep your original words, that you are not going hurry up when you have put so many Sub-Votes together. The Minister said that there is a major anomaly where his Ministry, the TSC is paying persons who should be paid by the PSC---

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): We are rectifying it.

Dr. Kituyi: The process of rectifying that anomaly would have to oblige the relevant Ministry to requisition money from the Exchequer to pay those officers and get them off the back of the TSC. How do you explain that anomaly and you are not seeking any allocation under Head 841, to fill the many positions which are vacant as of now because according to the establishment, you have a deficit of 862 teachers in Job Groups K to L, and 749 teachers from Job Groups L to M, and 258 teachers from Job Group M to N. There is no requisition for money for you to fill those existing establishments and yet, you are asking for money to pay officers, who are not paid by the Ministry of Education? How do you explain that anomaly?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as soon as those anomalies are rectified, re-allocation can be done, and this is between the Ministry and the Treasury, because that does not have to come back to this House; re-allocation of money given. If we have more money for officers being paid under TSC and now they fall under the PSC, the Ministry of Education, DPM, TSC and the Treasury, can do the re-allocation before the next Financial Year.

*(Heads 834, 835, 836, 837, 838,
839, 841, 862 and 863 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311 - PRIMARY EDUCATION

*Head 844 - Primary Schools
Head 845 - Kenya School Equipment Scheme
Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme*

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 845, Item 221, on the Purchase of School Equipment, the Minister is asking this House to approve K£8.5 million for this Scheme. Could he tell this House, what equipments are going to be bought and the method of distribution to the various institutions or schools?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, even when I was moving this Vote 31 and when I was replying, I did state very clearly that the amount of money under the Social Dimensions for Development Programme, the Treasury has accepted to increase the allocation of text books for primary schools, particularly in Arid and semi-arid districts from K£6 million to K£8.5 million. This is the Sub-Vote I was referring to and in any case, when the text books are bought, they will be distributed through the District Education Officers (DEOs).

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this Minister knows, and he is a senior Minister in this Government, that normally, if a Vote is supposed to be for allocation to the districts, we have the details in the Printed Estimates showing which district is supposed to get what. Why did he leave out the details about the distribution of this equipment since they are not going to be distribute to all the schools in the country?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy chairman, Sir, these text books are bought centrally and they are sent to schools in those areas. We have not divided this money because some of the districts received text books more than others in the previous year. But as I said, this money will be used to purchase text books from Jomo Kenyatta Foundation or Kenya Literature Bureau, and they will be sent directly to schools in arid and semi-arid districts.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. Is the hon. Minister in order---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order! Hon. Dr. Kituyi, you are assuming that I have given you the Floor. Why? Are you on a point of order, or you are asking a question?

Dr. Kituyi: I am on a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Proceed, Dr. Kituyi.

Dr. Kituyi: Is the hon. Minister in order to evade a clear and straight forward question? Why has he not published the districts, let alone the schools, in which he is allocating the text books to? Since he seems to already know which districts got more text books last year, why has he not published the list of the districts where is allocating the text books to?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Dr. Kituyi, I am afraid the Minister has answered your question.

Dr. Kituyi: I have not asked anything about where they have to be purchased from, which he is volunteering.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Dr. Kituyi, you have already asked your question. I am afraid the Minister has already answered that question.

Dr. Kituyi: No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

Mr. Munyasia: No! No, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order!

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, I have another question!

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order, Mr. Munyasia! Order, Dr. Kituyi! We are in the House and we are trying to do a good job, and we must do it as hon. Members. Dr. Kituyi, if I feel that the Minister has answered your question. It may not be satisfactory to you, but he has answered the question and so I will put the question.

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. We were not dealing with one Item. We were dealing with more than three Heads. The fact that the Minister did not have a satisfactory answer to one question, does not exhaust other questions that are relevant. Will the Chair give us---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Do you have another question, Dr. Kituyi?

Dr. Kituyi: I have more than one question, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Let hon. Munyasia ask the last question on this.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, on Head 846, I am asking the Minister about Item 161 - Purchase of School Milk. Would the Minister not have spent less on that particular Item and maybe saved for the purchase of school equipment, if he did not supply milk to the pastoralist areas which he calls the arid and semi-arid areas?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, on that particular item, I would say that I did not get enough. I even need more, for the School Milk Programme. I stated very clearly that these Items are items primarily for social dimension. A lot of children in this country go without a mid-day meal. This is for milk, we also have the Vote for food, and therefore, whatever is allocated now is not adequate.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Munyasia!

(Heads 844, 845 and 846 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 311 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 312 - TEACHERS' EDUCATION

Head 847 - Primary Teachers Training Colleges

Dr. Kituyi: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I need assistance from the Chair to know what determines the progress in the Committee. This is because it looks to me like the Chair is more driven by desire to cover these matters than to exhaust the concerns of those who are scrutinising these matters on behalf of taxpayers.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Dr. Kituyi, I am expecting a question from you on the Vote that we are discussing.

I was not expecting that kind of question from you. Do you have a question on the Votes, Dr. Kituyi?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, I raised a matter and I mentioned to the Chair that I had a question, and the Chair totally ignored my concern. Can I get guidance from the Chair, as to when you now put the question?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Dr. Kituyi, I think you are now soliciting for trouble. Are you not?

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, are you sure?

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I do share the same sentiments with hon. Dr. Kituyi. However, I wish to ask a question on Head 847- Primary Teachers Training Colleges. This is on various items on primary teacher training colleges. The Minister has requested for a total expenditure on those ones up to the tune of K£5.5 million. But he has not reflected also on this Head, the Appropriations-in-Aid. So, what is the position, because we know that most of the student who are being admitted to teacher training colleges do pay school fees?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, as I said earlier on, whatever fees is paid by students in colleges, primary schools or in secondary schools, it is not treated as Appropriations-in-Aid because this money is just spent within the institution. Whatever the Government gives is supplementary to whatever money those institutions collect in form of fees and that is the reason why the fees paid by the trainees in teachers' training colleges are not treated as A-in-A.

Dr. Kituyi: Under Head 852, can the Minister explain why---

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order, Dr. Kituyi! We are not yet there.

(Heads 803, 807 and 847 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 312)

SUB-VOTE 313 - SCHOOLS FOR HANDICAPPED

Head 852 - Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE)

Dr. Kituyi: Under Head 852, Item 050, since the Danish Government which has built KISE had built housing facilities, can the Minister explain why it has a house allowance of K£84,000?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, in that institution there are also staff from the Ministry of Education who are paid Civil Service salaries and given house allowances directly from the Ministry of Education.

Dr. Kituyi: If the staff of the Ministry are directly paid house allowance, why is their house allowance reflected in the Items under KISE?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, it is because the Ministry budgets for the institute. It is not a private institution. It is like any other Government Department.

(Heads 810, 811, 848 and 852 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 313 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 314 - MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Head 853 - Bursaries, Scholarships and Subsidies

Mr. Obwocha: Under Head 853, Items 341 and 342, we would like the Minister to tell us the difference between bursaries and scholarships because he has requested K£3.5 million on bursaries and K£1 million on scholarships. Although we have not reached there, you will also find that under Head 800, he has requested bursaries of K£10 million. What criteria is he going to use to distribute these monies and what are they for? Are they for universities, secondary schools or what are they for?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Mr. Obwocha, I am not sure I understand your question. What are you asking?

Mr. Obwocha: There are two questions I am asking. I referred him to Item 311 because he has also requested bursaries on that. However, what is the difference between the bursaries that he has requested under Item 341 and the scholarships on Item 342? Secondly, what is the criteria for distribution of those bursaries and scholarships?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, these are partial and full bursaries and scholarships given to Kenyan students taking degree programmes in our local and overseas universities. I am sure the hon. Member knows that there are Kenyans who go overseas on partial bursaries or scholarships and at the same time, there are students already in overseas, children of people who might have passed away and left them there. We use this Vote to pay for their fees so that they can complete their studies there. We have students, some of whom are teachers, undergoing post-graduate studies in our local universities, who are financed from this particular Vote.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Hon. Kamotho, hon. Obwocha wants to know the difference between the bursaries and scholarships.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, that is simple English. The hon. Member knows the meaning, unless he did not do the basics in English during his primary school education. He should get a dictionary and get the difference between bursaries and scholarships.

Mr. Obwocha: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. I want to tell hon. Kamotho that, for my post-graduate programme, I went to Oxford University. He can not impute improper motives on me, and he went to another Russian university. Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you had put it to him very clearly, that he should tell us the difference between the amount he has asked for bursaries, and the amount he has requested for the scholarships. He should just tell us that he does not know.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Hon. Kamotho, I think hon. Obwocha wants to know the difference between the two.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Member wanted to know, in particular, how much we have allocated for bursaries and scholarships, which is clearly written in the book. Normally, scholarships are very specific. If a student wants to go for further studies, he is awarded a scholarship to go and do a specific programme, both in our local and overseas universities. As I said, it is a question of semantics.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, can the Minister explain to us, why he is talking about scholarships and bursaries allocation to students at the universities, when later on, we are coming to talk

about bursaries to university students. If he was referring to university students, why does it come here, and it is going to come again under Head 832?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the bursaries that we awarded to university students under the other Head for the universities, is for the new students entering the universities. But for post-graduate programmes and special programmes like the diploma programmes, do not fall under that bursary allocation. The bursary allocation to the universities for freshers is given to students doing their first, second, third and fourth years. But this is for special programmes like the post-graduate or special studies programmes in the universities.

(Head 853 and 854 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 314 agreed to)

(Head 816 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 315 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 316 - SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 800 - Board of Governors Maintained Schools

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have almost the same question as we asked the Minister earlier. Under Head 800, Boards of Governors Maintained schools, he has requested bursaries of K£20 million under Item 311 of this Head. Can he tell us what this amount is for and the criteria being used in the distribution of this money to various secondary schools.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is the figure we have been talking about all along. This is the direct bursaries allocation to secondary schools. It will be disbursed to the neediest secondary school students through the district education boards (DEBs). Therefore, every district will get its own share. I said earlier that the bursary allocation has been doubled from K£10 million to K£20 million.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 376 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318 - UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Head 832 - University Students Loans Scheme

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, under Item 501 last year there was an allocation of K£30,000 for loans to overseas university students. Why did the Minister not allocate some money under this Item for this year. Or, is that money contained in Item 311?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Mr. Kamotho, did you get the question? He is asking why there is no allocation this year under Item 501.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Yes, Sir, I hope the hon. Member is raising a question under Item 501. You can see that the money which was in this Item last year was very small and insignificant. Due to the high cost of education overseas, we found that giving that kind of money to anybody studying overseas in form of a loan is of no value. Therefore, we decided to discontinue this allocation. Whom can K£60,000 help?

Mr. Ojode: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The Minister is not giving an adequate answer. If this money was given to students who are now studying overseas, should those students now come back because the money which they were given was too little? What is going to happen to students who had already benefitted from this money?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order, hon. Ojode! That is not a point of clarification. It is a point of argument.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, you and I know that we passed the Higher Education Loans Board Bill here. Under Head 832, Item 500 we have loans to students under this University Students Loans Scheme. If the Minister is requesting that amount of money, I would have thought that he would show the House the amount of money he expects to collect from the students next year. Where has he reflected this?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, even this money which was given to the Higher Education Loans Board, that is K£40 million, last year was not adequate. The amount of money which was given to students last year in form of loans was Kshs1.3 billion. Some of that money was from other Items. This year I can report to this House that the recovery of the old loans from students is increasing every month. The Higher Education Loans Board is collecting about Kshs7 million every month. We hope that by the end of the year the amount will go up to Kshs10 million and by the end of next year, it will go up to Kshs25 million every month. Therefore, the Higher Education Loans Board will have to make do with the allocation which the Treasury has provided.

*(Heads 827, 828, 829, 832, 833,
840, 842 and 867 agreed to)*

(Sub-Vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote R31 agreed to)

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

SUB-VOTE 310-GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Head 835 - Headquarters Professional Administrative Services

Dr. Kituyi: Could the Minister explain to the House why under Head 835 he is asking under Development allocations, K£2.4 million for Higher Education Loans Board?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, when the Higher Education Loans Board was started last year, they had no offices, no equipment and so forth. From the University Investments Programme of IDA Projects Fund, the money has been allocated for office equipment and also for other requirements for the new accommodation of the Higher Education Loans Board.

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, I have a question on Head 836, Items 411 and 412. Last year they were given money and this year there is no money. Does it mean that there is money which will cater for the services which were given money last year?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, this project was completed and therefore, maybe at a later date we may require more money for this area. But as of this year, we did not get any allocation from Treasury.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, under Head 839 - Kenya National Examinations Council, Item 401, the Minister last year requested K£2.1 million, it has now gone down to K£200,000 this year without the Ministry considering the capacity for Kenya Examinations Council. What is this expenditure?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, it is very clearly written: Capacity for Kenya Examinations Council. First of all the Kenya National Examinations Council has been having very old equipment; Computers and all kinds of things for the marking and moderation of examinations. This money which has been given by the Treasury for refurbishing the equipment of the Kenya National Examinations Council.

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Mr. Minister are you saying that this year you need less than what you needed last year because you have bought most of the material?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Yes, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman.

(Heads 834, 835, 836, 839, and 841 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 310 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 311-PRIMARY EDUCATION

*Head 844 - Primary Schools**Head 846 - School Milk and Feeding Programme*

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, Head 844, item 221 - Lightning Arresters: We have cases in Kisii which are prone areas for this, and this year there is no funding at all. Where will the Minister get money from for funding this project for this year? Why has he abandoned the project?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, it has not been abandoned and you will find that we have allocated this money in the Recurrent Vote because we consider the items for this lightning arresters to be consumable and, therefore, the allocation comes under the Recurrent Vote.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Chairman, under Head 846, the School Milk and Feeding Programme, the Minister is requesting for K£13 million which, I have seen here, is coming from the World Food Programme. Now, could he tell this House the distribution of that? And if, indeed, it is school milk, why is it under the Development Vote and not Recurrent Vote?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, this money for school feeding programme is mainly to provide equipment and infrastructure for the distribution of food and the World Food Programme and that is why it falls under the Development Vote, rather than the Recurrent Expenditure. We are aware that in some areas, especially arid and semi-arid areas, some of this money has built stores and also has bought vehicles for the transportation of food and so-forth.

Mr. Munyasia: On a point of order, Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir. The Minister had been asked to give us the distribution of that money and he has not done so. Is he in order?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order, Mr. Munyasia!

(Heads 844, and 846 agreed to)

(Sub-vote 311 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 312 - TEACHERS EDUCATION

Head 847 - Primary Teachers Training Colleges

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, considering that there is idle capacity in existing primary school teachers colleges, can the Minister explain why under Head 847, items 400 and 401, he is asking for money to build additional primary teachers colleges in Kitui and Bungoma?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I hope that the hon. Member is not opposed to the construction of Kibabii Teachers Training College in his home district.

As I have said clearly, the Government has no plans of closing down any of the existing Teachers Training College. What I have stated and I would like to restate again, the Government may consider changing the usage of some of these Teachers Training Colleges, for example, for the training of teachers and retraining of teachers for the early childhood development programme or even the middle level colleges.

Dr. Kituyi: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, considering that the Minister has now told us that he also appreciates they have idle capacity and he is considering even building middle colleges, why does he not request for money to build middle level colleges instead of building more primary school teachers colleges and then he changes some others which are already established?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have not said, and I have not accepted that we have idle capacity in any of our teachers training colleges. What I have said is that we are reaching a saturation level in the training of primary schools teachers, and, therefore, we might have to review the training policy and action for primary schools.

Mr. Munyasia: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, let the Minister not tire in answering me for the umpteenth time. This Kibabii Teachers College has been in the books for a long time now. Could he tell us now when it is going to be built? When is the construction starting?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, the tendering and adjudication have been done, we are waiting for the final word from the financiers, the African Development

Fund (ADF) so that construction can start any time.

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 847 near Kibabii Teachers Training College, Item No.406, the Minister is asking for K£12.6 million, but if you go to 97, where the details are given, here we are not even given the details where I expected the details to be. So, which construction are these, Mr. Minister? For the others, you have clearly shown the details, for example, Kitui, Kibabii Teachers Training Colleges and construction of buildings. But on that one, you have not shown which colleges it is referring to.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, some of this money is to pay pending bills for the construction of colleges like Taita Taveta and Garissa Teachers Training Colleges where the contractors have not been paid. So, this money is meant to pay pending bills of work done in those colleges and has not been paid for.

(Heads 803, 807 and 847 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 312 agreed to)

(Heads 810, 848 and 852 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 313 agreed to)

(Head 816 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 315 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 316 - SECONDARY EDUCATION

Head 800 - Board of Governors Maintained Schools

Mr. Obwocha: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, Sir, on Head 800, Item 223, we notice here that the Minister is asking for the purchase of science laboratory equipment, this is the African Development Fund (ADF) programme. As you remember, this was also covered in the Recurrent Expenditure. Why is this being covered under Development Expenditure?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Whenever there is a project of this nature, you split vote the into development and recurrent expenditures. This money is meant to purchase those equipment which are of a capital nature. But the Allocation under Recurrent Expenditure is meant for buying consumables like chemicals for science laboratories and so forth.

(Head 800 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 316 agreed to)

SUB-VOTE 318 - UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Head 828 - University of Nairobi

Head 867 - Moi University

Mr. Ojode: Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, on Head 828, University of Nairobi, item 419, Support for Post Graduate Training in Community Health. Last year, it was allocated K£2 million but there is nothing this year. Where is the Minister expecting to get money from?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order, hon. Ojode. This is a straight forward case. This was a project and it means that the Ministry has completed the project and there is no need to allocate money for a project which is already completed.

Dr. Kituyi: Could the Minister tell us why under Head 867, Moi University, Item 420, Construction of Water Supplies and Sewerage, this Ministry is asking for so much money to construct a Water Supply and

Sewerage system when, normally, this should be the duty of the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development?

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Chairman, some of the water projects even in schools are financed directly by the Ministry of Education. If a school wants water, we do not go to the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development to provide money to construct a water project.

Dr. Kituyi: When it is a small water project, a school can do. But, a construction of a water project for Moi University at Kshs26 million is a project that could fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Land Reclamation, Regional and Water Development. Why are you carrying that on your back?

The Temporary Deputy Chairman (Mr. Ndotto): Order! Order, Minister, that is a point of argument.

(Heads 827, 828, 829, 833, 840, 842, 867 agreed to)

(Sub-Vote 318 agreed to)

(Vote D31 agreed)

(Vote 31 agreed to)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resolution to be reported without amendment)

The House resumed

*[The Temporary Deputy Speaker
(Mr. Wetangula) in the Chair]*

REPORT

Vote 31 - Ministry of Education

Mr. Ndotto: Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am directed to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Resolution that a sum not exceeding K£804,020,160 be issued from the Consolidated Fund to complete the sum necessary to meet expenditure during the year ending June 30th, 1997 in respect of Vote 31 - Ministry of Education, and has approved the same without amendment.

The Minister for Education (Mr. Kamotho): Mr. Temporary Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

The Minister for Labour and Manpower Development (Mr. Masinde) seconded.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

The Temporary Deputy Speaker (Mr. Wetangula): Order! Hon. Members, it is now time for the interruption of business. The House is therefore adjourned until tomorrow, 25th July, 1996, at 2.30.p.m.

The House rose at 6.30 p.m