

State Govt. to accept education panel report

By Our Staff Reporter

BANGALORE, MARCH 11. The Chief Minister, Mr. S.M.Krishna, on Sunday said the State Government would accept the recommendations of the Task Force on Education, headed by eminent nuclear scientist, Dr. Raja Ramanna.

He was speaking at a function organised at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan here to release senior Congress leader and former Union Minister, Dr. Karan Singh's book *As I See It*.

He said the recommendations of the task force, which had submitted an interim report, were under study.

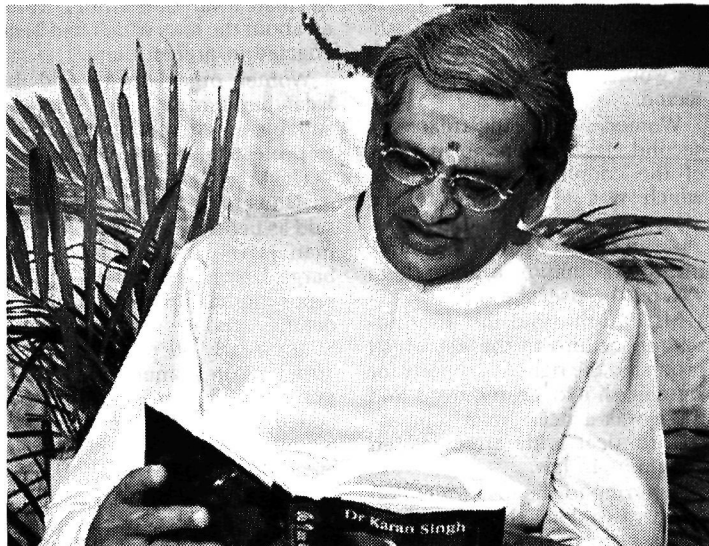
Recalling his long association with Dr. Karan Singh, the Chief Minister said he had known the latter when he entered politics as a Praja Socialist Party (PSP) member in 1968.

"I was in the Opposition then and Dr. Singh was in the Congress. Dr. Singh answered even stupid questions raised by members in a patient and convincing manner. Even today, some stupid questions are asked and they are highlighted in the media," he said.

When Dr. Singh was the Health Minister, he had warned against the excesses of over-population. The warning went unheeded and the country was now faced with the problem of over-population.

Mr. Krishna said he and several others of the PSP were often referred to, in the late Sixties, as "Young Turks". When Parliament discussed the abolition of privy purses, it had been opposed by the Princes. However, Dr. Karan Singh, who spoke on behalf of the Congress, said he preferred to flow with the current rather than go against it.

Dr. Karan Singh could take a



The Chief Minister, Mr. S.M.Krishna, having a look at the book *As I See It*, authored by Dr. Karan Singh, in Bangalore on Sunday. — Photo: K.Bhagya Prakash

bold stand on the issue with conviction. Lauding the services of Dr. Singh, Mr. Krishna said conviction had been the central theme of his life.

Quoting extensively from *As I See It*, he said science and technology had come to stay and they had to be nourished so that the benefits reached rural areas. Bangalore had become the focus of world and even the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, had spoken of the growing importance of the City, he said.

The Asia Society, at its meeting last year in Beijing, had decided to hold this year's conference in Bangalore. The State Government neither lobbied for it nor influenced the society's decision, he said.

Dr. Karan Singh criticised the Taliban for destroying the two statues of the Buddha in Bamiyan in Afghanistan. He praised South Indians for having nurtured and

encouraged the cultural heritage of the country. The North Indians would forever remain grateful to the people of the South for this, he said.

Although India got Independence through non-violence, it had to pay a heavy price in the form of Partition. The Partition, he said, had led to the world's biggest exodus of people.

Dr. Raja Ramanna and Prof. U.R.Anantha Murthy, writer, Mr. Mathoor Krishnamurthy and the former Chairman of the TTD, Mr. Subbarama Reddy, spoke.

Mr. Nittoor Srinivasa Rau, former Chief Justice of Mysore High Court, and Mr. Tulsidas Dasappa, former MP, were present.

Earlier, Mr. Krishna released the book *As I See It*, which is divided into seven sections — India, philosophy, education, political life, interfaith harmony, world peace and global consciousness.