

Government. But the way the person has spoken, it is a gross interference and an act of intimidation to the Government of India. It infringes upon our sovereignty. Therefore, Sir, I associate with the hon. Member.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, I associate with the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's all right. Now, next special mention. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

**Need to Take Effective Measures to Stop Decline of
Vishwa Bharati Central University**

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to raise this Special Mention. Sir, I would like to say that Vishwa Bharati, a Central University of the Government of India, situated in Bholpur, Shantiniketan, dedicated to the sacred memory of Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore, seems to be in a process of decline. It has, instead of remaining as a Central University - just like any other Central University - almost become a local university because of certain corroding problems. Students from other parts of the country do not opt for admission to this University. There is a serious erosion of academic atmosphere. There is almost a breakdown of administration. Key posts in the University are lying vacant. Only ad hoc appointments are being made. Generally, the Council does not meet. The emergency powers of the Vice-Chancellor, which used to be rarely invoked during the earlier period, are now being persistently invoked. The person who is the head of the Administration is acting through remote control, keeping himself away from the place of his work. Sir, the copyright of Vishwa Bharati to Tagore's works had expired a few years back that time, Shri Narasimha Raoji was the Prime Minister. Many Members of Parliament from West Bengal, irrespective of political colour, had prevailed upon the then Government to extend the copyright to Vishwa Bharati for a decade, on the specific assurance that the Vishwa Bharati University will seek to bring out a translated version of Tagore's works in different languages. Sir, I am sorry to say that nothing has been done in this regard. Some of the leading citizens of West Bengal, belonging to different categories of life, had collectively written a letter to the visitor of the University, Rashtrapatiji, and they have also addressed a letter to Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

The leading persons who have sought to seek the intervention of the

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Government include Smt. Mahasweta Devi, a leading writer, Shri K.G. Subramanyam, a well known person, Shri Supriyo Tagore, Shri Somnath Hore, a leading sculpture and Shri Amlan Dutta, a former Vice-Chancellor. There are many other names. They have sent a copy of this letter to me and also to Comrade Somnath Chatterjee, Ms. Mamata Banerjee and Shri Tapan Sikdar. I would like to quote a very small part of the letter. It says, "The university has a big body of gardening staff, but its gardens are some of the worst kept in any educational campus. It has a huge battery of watch and ward staff, but they are unable to stop the theft of the university property and the misuse of its precincts and vandalism by anti-socials. It has a big Maintenance Department that lets its valuable (and historical important) buildings go to seed and is unable to prevent damage to its art treasures."

The Government of West Bengal had placed an order for a number of replicas of sculptures of leading artists who had been working in the Vishwa Bharati University. Money had been sent by the Government of West Bengal but the work has not been done. The money has been diverted for some other purpose. This is not all. The important point is, the academic career has reached the lowest bottom. An important professor had been made to resign. There had been an occasion when in a particular examination students were given 99 per cent marks. I am told that teaching there has been affected very seriously. Vandalism is going on. Students have their own complaints. Hostels are not properly equipped. The Government of India is spending quite a large sum on this university. I am raising this issue not to malign the great university dedicated to the memory of Tagore. I am raising this issue because I think that time has come when immediate steps need to be taken by the Government of India in consultation with the State Government to bring it back to health. Otherwise, it will be a colossal loss to India and to our academic life and we shall be, in a way, maligning the memory of the great Tagore. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to protect this university. I suggest that an immediate inquiry should be conducted. There can be a Parliamentary Committee or it can be left to the Government to take steps in consultation with the Government of West Bengal. I would like to add a few more words. The persons who have collectively written to the Visitor and to the Minister of Human Resource Development, have not given the full truth. There are still more things. Sir, I don't want to take much time of the House. I only say that this is a national humiliation. This is a national dishonour. This is a national calamity. This university must be protected.

This university must be made to run as a real Central university and as an epitome of training of culture to people who are having an aptitude for culture. This is a great cultural institution. I beg that the House may kindly take note of the serious situation and ask the Government to take immediate remedial steps. Thank you.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

*श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : सर, मैं एक मिनट का समय आपसे लूंगा। गुरुदास दासगुप्त जी ने अपनी बातों में सब विस्तार से बताया है। 1921 में रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर की जो दूर-दृष्टि थी, वे सिर्फ कवि ही नहीं थे, उन्होंने शिक्षा के बारे में, संस्कृति के बारे में, हमारे देश की जो परम्पराएं हैं, जो भावनाएं हैं, पूरे विश्व के साथ उनका नाता जोड़ने के लिए विश्व भारती को बनाया था। आज जब हम विश्व भारती की बात कर रहे हैं, ग्लोबलाइजेशन की बात कर रहे हैं, आज से 80 साल पहले विश्व भारती को बनाया गया और 50 साल पहले केन्द्र सरकार ने अपनी राष्ट्रीय धरोहर समझकर उसे केन्द्रीय विश्व विद्यालय बनाया।

सर, आप भी कुछ दिन पहले वहां पर गए थे, आप भी अक्सर वहां आते-जाते रहते हैं, हमारे महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी उसके विजिटर हैं, हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री उसके आचार्य हैं। आप दोनों भी जब वहां गए थे, जो अखबार में रिपोर्ट आई थी और बहुत सी बातें आपकी नजर में भी आई थीं जो कि वहां पर नहीं होनी चाहिए थीं। हमारा वहां पर जो संग्रहालय है उसे नष्ट किया जा रहा है। हमारी वहां पर जो पुरानी-पुरानी पुस्तकें हैं, उनका सही ढंग से रख-रखाव नहीं हो रहा है। प्रबन्धन वहां सही ढंग से सही कदम नहीं उठा रहा है। हमारा जो मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय है वह भी ठीक से, सही ढंग से उनका जो रुपया-पैसा है या उसका जो रख-रखाव है, देखभाल है या उसकी जो जिम्मेदारी है वह न होने के कारण हम अपनी इस धरोहर को खोने जा रहे हैं।

सर, इसीलिए हम आपसे यह अपील करते हैं कि हमारे सदन की तरफ से सरकार को यह कहा जाए कि सही ढंग के लोग, सही काम करने वाले लोग जो इस काम को ठीक ढंग से देख सकते हैं और खासकर के जो विश्व भारती की जो विशेषताएं हैं, उसकी स्पेशलिटीज हैं, उस से हटकर जो काम हो रहा है, यह नहीं होना चाहिए। अभी वहां भी मेनेजमेंट और प्राइवेट कालेज को जो रिकोग्नाइजेशन देना, कहाँ से प्रोफिट हो यह देखना, यह हमारा बहुत गलत संदेश जा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह बंगाल का

* Transliteration of the Speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debate.

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मामला नहीं है, बोलपुर का मामला नहीं है, शांति-निकेतन का मामला नहीं है, सदन का मामला नहीं है, हमारी आने वाली सहस्राब्दी में भी हमारी संस्कृति जिंदा रहे और हम विश्व को कुछ दे सकें इसके लिए विश्व भारती को जिंदा रखना जरूरी है। धन्यवाद ।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, while associating myself with what Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta has said, I would just like to add that in 1971, when we had a comprehensive amendment of the Vishwa Bharati Act, this very House had suggested that the Government of India should protect the heritage which has been created by Rabindranath through this unique university, which is just not like any other ordinary university, that it will just impart lessons, but which would reflect the culture and heritage of this country and would also link it with the outside world. In those days, in early 20's, scholars from different parts of the world were brought into Shantiniketan, and studies on China and various other matters were introduced therein. Sir, the Central Government has the responsibility because this is not only a Central University, but it is also one of the universities where the highest per capita expenditure from the exchequer of the Government of India takes place. Therefore, my most respectful submission to the Government, through you, Sir, would be that instead of just looking it from the normal, routine, bureaucratic angle, this matter should be dealt with sensitivity. The Leader of the House is also present here. The Government of India has the responsibility. They should apply their mind with the whole objective of restoration of the past glory of Vishwa Bharati. Thank you, Sir.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention that when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister, a series of meetings were held concerning the future path that the Vishwa Bharati should take. And, I recall the discussion with Guru Dev when he started the University. He had a different idea of the University than what exist as Central Universities or such other universities now. When this was brought to his attention, he said, "If you want to maintain the very unique character of that place, it should not be just the one that follows university rules and regulations as published by the UGC and things like that." This University had a speciality for arts, for very specialised arts, for languages and things like that. People from all parts of the world came to make it a great institution, a world institution. But when this was mentioned, the people from the University said, "No, no, we want it like any other university

because we want our children to join the university, pass examinations and do the usual things which all other universities are doing."

I have seen that its deterioration is not something which has happened just now but it has been going on for quite sometime. You cannot change it any further unless you take a revolutionary decision that it is to be a very different kind of educational system. Really, it was in the mind of Rabindra Nath Tagore. But I do not know whether the Parliamentary group or anybody can change it. But the idea of a third rate university has got embedded there. I do not know why we will get away from it. However, to take a positive view, I think I agree with Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta that some Committee should be formed before it really, completely goes to pieces.

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my hon. Colleague, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): मैं इससे अपने को असोसिएट करता हूँ।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, हम सब लोग असोसिएट करते हैं।

DR. L. M. SINGHVI (Rajasthan): I express my deepest concern on the issues which have been raised by the hon. Member, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta. Sir, it is important for the country to remember that it is a great place for pilgrimage, education, culture of India. We have a special responsibility. I think, Sir, I would like to associate myself specially with the suggestion for a Parliamentary Committee or some other mechanism or a comprehensive look into the problems of Shanti Niketan. Sir, associated with this there, is another important place with which Gurudev Tagore was closely associated. It is called Tagore Hill in Ranchi and the state of neglect which it has been subjected to is a matter of great distress and concern. I think these places of national heritage ought to receive greater attention, more ardent attention. With these words, I would like to associate myself with the issues raised by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Leader of the House kindly respond?

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I have no difficulty at all in responding to the sentiments expressed by various hon. Members of the House. The Government fully shares its concern. It is without doubt a national heritage. Government is aware of the decline that is taking place in

Vishwa Bharati and the sentiments of the House will definitely be communicated to the Minister of Human Resource Development. I can assure the Members that concrete and specific steps in this regard will be initiated at the earliest possible time.

**Migration of Riyang Tribals From Mizoram to Tripura,
Due to Atrocities Being committed on Them**

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत (राजस्थान) : सभापति महोदय, मैं लगभग 28 महीने पहले इस सदन में एक सदस्य के नाते आया था और अब जब कि मैं यहां से अपने घर वापिस जा रहा हूं तो मैं इस विशेष उल्लेख के माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान एक समस्या की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं और मैं जरूर चाहूंगा कि पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों गंभीरता से इस बात पर विचार करें और सदन में यह बात इतिहास के लिए गवाह रहे कि आने वाले समय में जो इस देश में करवट आ रही है, उसमें हमारी भूमिका क्या होगी। इसलिए मेरे उल्लेख का विषय यह है। महोदय, मैं पिछले दिनों त्रिपुरा गया था। इस वर्ष हमारी सरकार से जो विश्लेषण आया है, उसके अंदर मिजोरम इस देश का सर्वाधिक साक्षरता वाला प्रदेश घोषित हुआ है। मिजोरम में रहने वाले लगभग पचास हजार से अधिक रियांग जाति के आदिवासी बाहुल्य क्षेत्र के लोग वहां रहते हैं। मुझे सदन को सूचित करते हुए बड़ा खेद और पीड़ा है कि मिजोरम से उन लोगों को बेदखल करके उनके घरों को जलाकर, उनकी सम्पत्ति को नष्ट करके, उनके खेतों को नष्ट करके कई लोगों की हत्या करने के बाद उनको वहां से निकाल दिया गया। वहां से निकालने के कारण उनकी स्थिति यह बनी कि उनको वहां से निकलकर त्रिपुरा के अंदर शरणार्थी के रूप में रहना पड़ रहा है। लगभग वहां पर 6 से अधिक कैम्प चल रहे हैं। मैं वहां जाकर आया हूं। हजारों की संख्या में वह लोग वहां रह रहे हैं। स्थिति यह बनी हुई है कि उनको खाने के लिए ठीक से रोटी उपलब्ध नहीं है। उसका एक कारण है। केन्द्र सरकार वहां पर कुछ सहायता भेज रही है, त्रिपुरा सरकार ने अपने अधिकारियों को वहां पर भेजा है परन्तु मैं माननीय सदन का ध्यान इसलिए आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं क्योंकि आज वहां पर पोषण तो दूर की बात है, उनको पेड़ों की जड़ें खाकर, पत्ते खाकर अपना पेट भरना पड़ रहा है। यह स्थिति वहां पर खड़ी हो गयी है।

महोदय, उनकी स्थिति खराब क्यों हुई? उनको वहां से क्यों निकलना पड़ा? इसका एक ही कारण है कि पचास साल में इस देश की कोई सांस्कृतिक नीति नहीं बनी। खनिज नीति बन गई, व्यापार नीति बन गई, विदेश नीति बन गई। अगर पचास साल में सांस्कृतिक नीति भी बन जाती तो आज देश में जो पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में अलगाववादी तत्व खड़े हो रहे हैं और जिस तरह से देश से कटने के लिए कुछ हिस्से आवाज़ उठा रहे हैं, वह