

SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU (Karnataka): Majority of the workers are working. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, we want to discuss a national problem. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU: They don't know where these workers are working ... (*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : इस देश की जनता महंगाई से परेशान हैं। देश की जनता भूखी हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)... पूरे देश के विकास में सरकार का ध्यान नहीं, देश की बर्बादी की ओर ले जाया जा रहा है। ...(*व्यवधान*)... महिलाओं पर रोज अत्याचार हो रहे हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*)... महंगाई पर रोक नहीं हो रही। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Sir, we are raising a national problem. Please suspend the Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : देश का आलू कहां गया? ...(*व्यवधान*)... देश का प्याज कहां गया? ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत (राजस्थान) : क्वेश्चन ऑवर चलने दो। ...(*व्यवधान*)... लोकतंत्र का ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU: They don't have the...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात) : क्वेश्चन ऑवर के बाद करना जो भी करना है, क्वेश्चन आवर तो होने दो। ...(*व्यवधान*)... Question Hour is the right of members. क्वेश्चन ऑवर के बाद करना यह सब। ...(*व्यवधान*)... स्वदेशी वाली बात यहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): There is a total strike in the country.

SHRI M. VENKAIHA NAIDU: Sir, nothing will happen. (*Interruptions*)

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : इन्हे एक मिनट भी सत्ता में नहीं रहना चाहिए, पूरे देश की जनता ने इन्हे टुकरा दिया है।

...(*व्यवधान*)... इस सरकार को बने रहने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : इस सरकार को सत्ता में बने रहने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है। ...(*व्यवधान*)...

श्रीमती सरोज दुबे : इन्हे टुकरा दिया है, रिजेक्ट कर दिया है देश की जनता ने।

...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Allow discussion, Sir, as to why this Government should not continue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, there is a betrayal of the people. (*Interruptions*)

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): The hon. Chairman has already given his ruling ..(*Interruptions*)... Kindly proceed with the Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: They have lost the confidence of the people. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go no record. ..(*Interruptions*)... All cameras should be closed. ...(*Interruptions*)... I would request the hon. Members to allow the Question Hour....(*Interruptions*)... Please listen to me....(*Interruptions*)... You have done enough. ...(*Interruptions*)...

If the Question Hour cannot take place, the House adjourned till 11 O' Clock on Monday,

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARR QUESTIONS

*181. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: the Private Universities Bill Will Minister of HUMAN RESOUI DEVELOPMENT be pleased to pose to

(a) whether Government prof introduce Private Universities Bill against

(b) if so, the safeguards taken ation the apprehension of commercialis higher education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Government had been receiving occasional proposals to set up self-financing private universities, not requiring financial support from the Government. For the establishment of such universities, a Bill entitled Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation Bill), 1995 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 25, 1995. The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of this Ministry. The Committee submitted its Report to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha with three members of the Committee giving a note of dissent. The Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

There are a number of safeguards in the Bill against the commercialisation of universities and higher education. As per the proposed provisions of the Bill, the fee to be charged by the Universities will be based on unit cost and sponsors will not be able to make profit out of it. Moreover, according to the proposals in the Bill University Grants Commission (UGC's) prior approval would be necessary for fixing fee and number of seats and the sponsors will not be allowed to make it a source of profit. Similarly, UGC's approval would be mandatory for the revision of fee and altering the number of seats. The sponsor will, therefore, not be able to treat the universities as a commercial enterprise. The Bill provides overriding powers to the Central Government to issue directions curbing any activity of the university that may be detrimental to its functioning as an educational institution. It also provides for the winding up of the university for mismanagement and forfeiture of the endowment.

Gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

*182. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu;

(b) by when it is likely to be completed;
(c) whether the budget allocation has been increased to carry out these works; and

(d) by when the Chennai city electric train route of Beach to Tambaram would be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The progress of gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu is as under:

(i) Gauge conversions completed:

- Dindigul-Tuticorin (196 kms)
- Chennai Beach-Tambaram (27 kms)
- Trichy-Thanjavur (50 kms)
- Tambaram-Trichy (309 kms)

(ii) Gauge conversion works in progress:

- Trichy-Dindigul (93 kms) will be completed by 31.12.1998.
- Chengalpattu-Arakkonam (67 kms) will be completed in 1999-2000.

(iii) Gauge conversion works which have been taken up and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources:

- Madurai-Rameswaram (162 kms.)
- Thanjavur-Nagore-Karaikal (84 kms.)

The target dates for these projects have not been fixed.

(iv) Projects already included in the budget on which work will be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances;

- Thanjavur-Villupuram main line (192 kms)
- Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (263 kms in Tamil Nadu and 94 kms in Kerala).
- Villupuram-Pondicherry (28 kms in Tamil Nadu and 10)