

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is noted structured debate. I know. But this is an emotional issue. That is why I want to give one minute to each Member. That is all right.

DR. ALLADI R. RAJKUMAR: Thank you, Sir.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: I will not take much time, Sir.

Recently I visited two districts of Andhra Pradesh, the Guntur District and the Prakasam District. The people came to me and presented their problem. The people belonging to the Guntur District want that the Alamatti Dam should continue, and the people belonging to the Prakasam District do not want to have the Alamatti Dam. It is surprising that we are righting on having the Alamatti Dam. It is surprising that the Guntur people are asking for it.

There is a drain, by name, "Nallamara". The people of the Prakasam District are having about 10 to 15 irrigation schemes. They are lifting water from the drain for the last 30 years or so. The Government of Andhra Pradesh permitted the people of the Guntur District also to lift water from the same drain. So, they were constructing a small dam, about 10 feet, on the drain. The people belonging to the lower region, that is, the Prakasam District, could not get water properly. So, they were opposing it. The name "Almatti" has become very popular. It has become synonymous with "controversy." Later, what happened is that the lower people who could not get water, ultimately destroyed the dam. Then, they could get water. This is what has happened in Andhra Pradesh. Knowingly, the officials gave permission to the people from the upper district.

The same thing is here. They are raising the height of the Dam to about 524 feet. The actual height is supposed to be about 509 feet. A 1,000 MW power station is coming up. Naturally, they have to store water over there. About 22 lakh hectares of land is getting irrigated in the districts of Sreesailam and Nagaijunasagar in Andhra Pradesh. Definitely they will get affected. Plantation is done normally in the month of June or July. They are going to stop water there. When will they release water? When they treat electricity, they

will release water. What will happen to the 22 lakh hectares of land of the lower people who are cultivating it for all these years? Ultimately, it will affect the life of the people. This is a very serious problem concerning the Andhra Pradesh farmers.

So, what has happened in the Guntur and the Prakasam Districts is that they could not get water, and they went and destroyed the whole structure to get water. The same thing may happen here. If they do not get water for irrigating 22 lakh hectares of land, the same kind of feeling will arise in the hearts of the farmers, and they may resort to any kind of agitation in the near future.

So, I would like to urge upon the Government to take it seriously.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: That is provocative.

DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: It is not provocative. What is provocative? This has happened there, and they have destroyed the structure.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We are responsible people here. You should not provoke like that, talking about breaking the dam. You are giving the example of breaking the dam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, he has finished it now. We will take up the next item.

Replacement of eighteen existing nominees of I.C.H.R.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am raising this issue regarding a major national institution in our country, known as the Indian Council of Historical Research. It is an apex body for directing, promoting and guiding historical research in the country. This institution has a very rich tradition. It has national and international acclaim as a major institute.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair].

It had dedicated, non-partisan and very objective historians who were luminaries in their own field. It has an outstanding record in promoting research.

Recently, on the 1st of June, 1998, the

Government has changed not one or two but all the 18 nominees, historians in the body. They have been replaced by another set of 18 historians. I am not saying that the Government has done anything illegal. Whatever they have done is according to law.

My question is: Has this been ethical? For example, the 18 persons who have been replaced are outstanding historians. I am not saying that the 18 persons who have replaced them, are not outstanding historians. But the question is that some of them have been known to be close to some political party or some political group which holds a particular view of history. For example, about 1.00 P.M. Ayodhya, about assessment of

Muslim rulers ... (*Interruptions*) Please do not interrupt. ...the origin of Aryans, whether they originated in India or outside, the concept of Hindutva and all that. Most of these historians have identical views with the views held by the ruling party. There is a genuine apprehension in the academic circles all over the country that whatever the views of the new set of historians are, they will be percolating down to the text-books and our students would be taught a history which may not be proper and which may not be accurate.

Madam, the professional historians are those who know how to evaluate the evidence, how to distinguish between the myths, fiction and the truth. They can, for Example, establish what is true and what is not true. But the problem is that there is a tendency in the ruling party—and certainly among the nominees of the ruling party—to mix up history with religion, mix up-history with belief. Belief is not history. History has to be based on certain methodology, which has been developed in the science of history over a long period of time. Those who are not aware of this methodology, might come to certain conclusions which would not be scientific. What I am suggesting madam, through you to the Government, is to look into the list of 18 nominees again and to ensure that only those are nominated who have a certain standing in the profession, have a certain standing and are known for their objectivity and non-partisanship, who should be able to write a history which would be

authentic. Since it concerns the history of the country, I urge upon the Government not to make such partisan decisions by including in the management of the very important body only nominees of their party, who would be holding their views identical to theirs. That will be very dangerous for the country, because this will be the kind of history which will be taught to the children in the schools. They will be intoxicated with ideas which are very dangerous.

With these words I am raising this issue. I hope Sikander Sahib or anybody else from the Government side would respond to it and ensure that such a danger, which is implicit in the decision, in understanding the history would be removed.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: (Assam): Madam, while associating myself with the hon. Member, I urge that a committee composed only of academicians of proved talents be appointed for the purpose.

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: (Orissa): Madam, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said. I suggest that historians of standing be put in and the matter may be reviewed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri S. Viduthalai Virumbi. The hon. Member is absent.

PROF (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY (West Bengal): Madam, while discussing the working of the H.R.D. Ministry, I had raised this issue. Therefore, I will confine myself to only one point.

Madam, it has to be mentioned that history is a part of the discourse of power. The writing of history and the scope of history have changed radically since we studied the subject in Presidency College. It is now influenced by intellectual giants like Michel Fouquet, Ronald Baithes, Jaques Denida and so on and so forth. Now we are borrowing the tools and methodologies from other disciplines like sociology, anthropology, economics, literature, statistics and even mathematics. This widened scope of history has now made history a very very powerful tool in the construction of ideology, of theories, of concepts, of beliefs.

That is why we historians are ».onied that the inclusion, as Dr. Dasgupta had said, of historians of one particular belief system, instead of historians, of different schools of thought may lead and will lead to the writing of history in a particular pattern and more importantly, to the use of this tremendously powerful tool for a very particular purpose. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will go by the list. I will call one by one. Mr. Ram Gopal Yadav. Absent. Shri J. Chitharanjan.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN (Kerala): Madam, Deputy Chairperson, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta. The Indian Council of Historical Research is a very prestigious institution. It renders a great service in bringing about a proper history. It shall not be coloured by religious feelings or other chauvinistic feelings. But unfortunately this time when the ICHR is being reconstituted, most of the personalities included in that—they may be historians, they may be professors—are known to be persons who have been taking a particular attitude towards certain controversial issues in this country. The attitude of those people is coloured by religious and chauvinistic feelings. Instead of taking an objective view of the history, they take a view on various other considerations. In the same way, there is a suspicion that some people have been engaged in suppressing facts which have emerged out of archaeological exploration. Therefore, if the ICHR is reconstituted and filled up with those persons, it will affect our future generation very much because these people who will have reactionary ideas on several issues will have them reflected in various text-books which will be learnt by students. That will percolate down to the new generations. It will do a great harm. We know that at the time of Britishers, our history was very much distorted. Even certain chapters of our struggle for Independence have been distorted to a great extent. I do not want to go into those details. But at least in these days when the democratic set-up is there—of course, conflicting views may be there with

regard to several developments—all those views will have to be given representation in a body like this or else it will be a one-sided approach which will do much harm. Therefore, I am also of the opinion that the Government should consider reconstitution of the ICHR once again.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jayanti Natarajan. Absent. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Absent. There are many Members who wanted to speak on this subject. So, I request Members to be brief. Shri Arun Shourie.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I will be very brief and specific. Mr. Biplab Dasgupta has raised a very important issue. Not only has he rightly pointed out that the ICHR is such an important institution but also that the answers which had been given by the Ministry, just last week, to three Unstarred Questions of Mr. V.N. Gadgil and others were really inadequate and in a sense, evasive. Therefore, it is all the more important that the facts should be brought out in connection with the questions which Mr. Biplab Dasgupta has raised. I would particularly like the Ministry to tell us whether in reconstituting the ICHR, they have reviewed or have been led to reconstitute the body after a review of the work which the ICHR did under the earlier body. I think this is very important because actually in those very answers to which I referred, it came out that the ICHR, under the persons who, we have been told, were very eminent historians, was negligent in the tasks it had undertaken. In particular, for instance, in answer to three questions last week, it was disclosed that in response to the British Government's "Transfer of Power" document, the ICHR, in 1973, had started a project "Towards Freedom". And Rs. 1.68 crores were spent on this project completely under the control of these great and eminent historians. Only one volume was published by the Chief Editor relating to 1937. He was then removed. When he was removed as a person who was so keenly associated with a family which had worked to get us Freedom", Madam, you will appreciate this the then Congress President,

Mr.- Nijalingappa, wrote to the then Prime Minister that the whole project was being hijacked by a particular school which would distort the presentation of the Freedom Movement. No response was forthcoming because the institution had already been captured. Since then only one part of that project that relating to 1943-44—has been completed. With Rs. 1.6 crores having been spent, and instead of five years, 27 years having gone by, that is all that has been done. All this while, the ICHR was in the control of the so-called 'eminent historians'. Was it as a result of the review of this that the board was changed?

Secondly, in response to an Unstarred Question last week it was disclosed that in another project called the Economic History of India project Rs. 19.5 crores, have been spent. All these projects are under the control of these very eminent historians. Not a single volume has been published under this project and years have gone by.

It was disclosed that one of these historians, himself a member of the ICHR, was paid for writing the history of the Indian National Congress. He was paid Rs. 57,500/- in 1989 for a volume which has still not been delivered.

They have disclosed these facts in answer to those questions, but not taken them to their conclusion.

Madam, there is another shocking thing about the working of the ICHR. The question was put by the learned friends on the other side. It was an Unstarred Question. "Is it true that hundreds of manuscripts submitted to the ICHR are missing?". Actually, the question was, are hundred missing. But the Ministry replies that a few manuscripts are missing. It is amazing. And they say they are eminent historians controlling it! I would like to pose a particular question. As you know, Madam, as a student of history, on Medieval India, one of the great authorities was Dr. P. Saran. When we were in college, we would memorise his books on the Sultanate. In Mr. P. Saran's case, he was given a project. If you see the annual report of the ICHR for 1974-75, he was given a project to translate a very well-known Persian manuscript. Two years later, the annual report had mentioned that the project had been

completed and the translation had been submitted. I am given to understand by the staff members of the ICHR that this is one of the manuscripts which is missing. On the other hand, there is every possibility that a senior person within the ICHR has taken hold of that manuscript and has had it published and got a doctorate on that very manuscript in his own name. So, I would like to know whether this information is correct or not. I had written to them but I have not received any reply. So, I would like to know that, if this is the state of the ICHR's functioning under these eminent historians, was it after a review of this State of affairs that the Board was changed?

I would also like to put two other questions as to whether it was not really a result of that. There is another project on which a large amount of money has been spent under the direction of the so-called eminent persons who have been continuing for four terms, twice as Chairman. There is a Translation Project in which works of supposedly very big scholars of India, the historians, are to be translated into Indian languages. Actually, they have been doing the translation of their own work. I would like to know whether this is a fact or not. How is that persons and books of only one kind have been translated into the regional languages? When they become the only bodes available, then that becomes the reason for prescribing them as text books. A book written by a British Communist Party member—at that time controlling the Indian Communists—Rajani Palme Dutt, has been translated under this Project. But the works of eminent Indian historians and eminent Indians whose own work was itself a history and is essential for historical research today, has not translated. For instance, Lokmanya's works are not translated. But Rajani Palme Dutt's works and E.S. Nambodripad's works are translated. Is it after a review of these type of things that the ICHR Board was changed?

The last question that I want the Minister to answer is the question of mixing belief with history. It was rightly said that mixing belief with history leads to great problems, a contention which I can elaborate at great length in this House and which would be of service to this House. It is precisely the mixing of belief with history which has led to only one-sided

type of history being written and published here. So, I would like the Minister to specifically inform us whether these members of the ICHR Board, who have been removed, were not the advisors of a particular group in the controversy regarding the mosque. I would also like to know whether the offices of the ICHR were not being used for the purpose because I got information at that time, and I wrote at that time, of the use of the ICHR offices by some of these very eminent historians to completely bamboozle and fabricate so called evidence. That was the mixing of belief with history. Madam, if it is true that saying that Aryans came from outside constitutes secular history, how is it that if somebody gives evidence to the contrary, a scholar like (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing history. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Maharashtra): Just listen to what he says. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second (*Interruptions*) Mr. Das, please take your seat. I will allow you. I have got your name (*Interruptions*) I would like you to be brief, Mr. Shourie (*Interruptions*)

श्री संजय निरुपम: मैडम, जरा माननीय सदस्यों को बोलिए कि अरुण शोरी जी जो बातें कह रहे हैं, वह उन्हें सुनें तो।

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): We are ready to listen to him for one hour. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): I also know that because I have been Education Secretary. ... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second..... (*Interruptions*) Just one minute.

One second. ... (*Interruptions*)
चतुर्वेदी जी, आपको कुछ कहना है। You have to tell me. If I have to stop anybody, I have to allow anybody, that is up to me. Even if they have to say that somebody should stop, they should go through me. Don't go directly because it creates a traffic jam and crash! I am also telling him. Let him finish fast because there are so many names.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Madam, I will just two sentences. If it is so called

dispassionate or objective history to argue that Aryans came from outside or to say that this was the character of medieval Indian State, then it is as right or secular or objective to argue the opposite with evidence. So, the test really is evidence. I would like the Minister to tell us whether it is not a fact that the persons controlling the ICHR for 27 or 35 years were not really the very persons who were suppressing evidence of one kind and whether it is a review revealing this pattern which has led to the reconstitution of ICHR. So, I entirely agree that the questions that Mr. Biplab Dasgupta has asked are very important questions. Would the Minister please respond to those questions?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jibon Roy. Please be brief because we are not discussing here the working of ICHR. The question is very limited: "The replacement of 18 existing Government nominees in ICHR by new nominees". If we decide to discuss the entire working, the history of Congress and ICHR, we will need more time, which we don't have at the moment.

...(श्री संजय निरुपम: मैडम, रिप्लेसमेंट क्यों हुआ इसकी भी चर्चा होनी चाहिए।

उपसभापति: आप कृपया बैठिए, आप हिस्टोरियन नहीं हैं।

श्री संजय निरुपम: मैं हिस्टोरियन नहीं हूँ। इतना मेनिपुलेशन किया गया हिस्ट्री को लिखने में ... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति: जब जर्नलिज्म की बात होगी तो आपको सबसे पहले बुलाऊंगी। बोलिए जीवन राय जी।

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa): Madam, my esteemed friend has mentioned a fact, without giving the name, that some historian has taken Rs. 50,000/- or so to write the history of Indian National Congress. It would be better if he names the person, and we can know the name of that historian; otherwise, all historians will be under suspicion. For example, I had to write one volume or compile one volume on centenary history of Indian National Congress which was released in 1985. When somebody take money Please name the person ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: It was in* time that that was done. And is a separate one (Interruptions) That is complete. I have got the five volumes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, it is not proper to name a person who cannot defend himself.

उपसभापति: चतुर्वेदी साहब, आपको बार-बार मना करना पड़ता है। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Mr. Das, the Government has disclosed in the answer to an Unstarred question last week that the person was Dr. Bipin Chandra who had taken Rs. 57, 500/- ... (Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): *का नाम बड़ी इज्जत से लिया जाता है। *पर ऐसा इल्जाम लगाना मेरे ख्याल में कोई सही बात नहीं है।

{शरी محمداعظم خان: *कानाम بڑی}

عزت سے لیا جاتا ہے۔ پرایسا الزام لگانا میرے خیال میں کوئی صحیح بات نہیں ہے۔}

THE DUPTY CHAIRMAN: I plead that everybody should sit down now. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान: कोई ऐसा नाम नहीं आना चाहिए जो सफाई नहीं दे सके। इसलिए इस नाम को कार्रवाई से निकाला जाए। ... (व्यवधान)...

{शरी محمداعظم خان: کوئی ایسا نام}

نہیں آنا چاہئے جو صفائی نہیں دے سکے۔ اس لئے اس نام کو کارروائی سے نکالا جائے۔}

उपसभापति: उनका नाम निकाल दिया जाए। ... (व्यवधान)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, he spoke for fifteen minutes.

I spoke for only three minutes. (Interruptions).....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second, 'जीवन राय, जरा एक मिनट बैठेंगे। आप भी बैठिए जरा।

Whatever Special Mentions you are making here, there is a procedure. The Chairman very

clearly said that everybody should take one or two minutes while associating himself and should not make a speech if we have to discuss all these issues. We had a discussion on the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Anyone of you could have raised this matter at that time. Now everybody wants to speak on it. Do you want me to continue this discussion for a long time? Let me have the opinion of the House. (Interruptions). Please don't interrupt me. It really irritates. When I don't interrupt all of you, it is not decent to interrupt the Chair. I know how to handle this House. There are 15 Special Mentions. I have 30 names with me. Would you like to sit here the whole day and discuss it? Tell me. I will do that. There is no problem.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam, we have given our names.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The names are there but if the new names keep coming, I cannot allow. (Interruptions). So the name of anybody who is not present in the House, as rightly said, should not be mentioned. Mr. Das, never ask for names. Those people who cannot defend themselves, their names should not be mentioned in the House.

श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान: *का नाम निकाल दिया है?

{शरी محمداعظم خان: کانام نکال دیا}

{...}

उपसभापति: हां, निकाल दिया।

श्री त्रिलोक नाथ चतुर्वेदी: मैडम, एक गलत मैसेज जाता है। मैं आपकी रूलिंग को क्वेश्चन नहीं कर रहा हूँ। मैं ने यह कहा कि वह प्रोजेक्ट तो कंप्लीट हो गया। पांच वाल्यूम है उसके। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI. Madam, we can mention a name or make an allegation only with the permission of the Chairperson.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: It is his party Member who has asked it. He asked this through the Chair. Dr. Das is a historian. Shri Shourie gave him a reply. (Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now everything is going in not through the Chair. (Interruptions). Please sit down. Take your seat मिस्टर दास, अगर किसी ने एक टोपी बनाई तो क्या जरूरी है कि आप अपना सिर उसमें डालें? ... बोलिए जीवन राय जी।

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

†[] Transliteration in tratiic Script.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, I am not an academician. I am not concerned about the persons whose panel has been constituted by the Government. But I am concerned about the direction the Government wants to give by constituting this Committee. In no case an unhistorical view should be taken while writing history. It is my humble submission to the Government. Madam, on a number of occasions it has been mentioned in the House itself that we were under foreign domain for 400 years. It has been mentioned on a number of occasions. If something associated with children is rewritten in history and if it goes to people, then people will get immediately divided. Obviously, there are different view in this House itself about our history, about our past. While formulating *any* panel to rewrite history or write history sufficient care should be taken so that no unhistorical view is taken while writing history. That is my point

[He Vice-Chairman (Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi) in the Chair]

SHRI B.P. SINGHAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir. Dr. Dasgupta, himself said that there was nothing illegal in the reconstitution of ICHR. This reconstitution takes place every three years without any particular reason. This particular Committee had over-run its period and it had to be reconstituted. This is a wrong information that all the 18 members have been changed. Sir, this kind of misleading statement should be challenged. Three of the members are continuing to be there. This is not the first time that 15 members have been changed. Earlier also as many as 16 members were changed.

Earlier on, again as many as 15 were changed. They have been changing every three years. So, there is nothing very particular about it. The worry that is taking place is because it has not functioned, as Mr. Dasgupta has stated, in a non-partisan manner. The I.C.R.R. has functioned in a clearly partisan manner and this was brought out in a petition that Dr. P.C. Chopra, who was then the Editor, filed in the High Court. This point came out in the course of the discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the papers were and by my colleague when he the red.. (Interruptions)....Mr. Dasgupta,

please don't interrupt. I did not interrupt you. Therefore, the point that I want to make is that because they think that history can be directed according to whims and fancies that all this ruckus is being created. The fact is, history is history. Nobody can be allowed to play with it. But such an attempt is being made for the first time in the ICHR.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. K.R. Malkani, Please be brief. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जितेन्द्र कुमार (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, वह असोसिएट कर रहे हैं कि डिसअसोसिएट कर रहे हैं?*(व्यवधान)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): While associating oneself, the way it is presented may sometime be a disassociation.

As a senior Member, you are well aware that there is a reflection of association and dissociation.

SHRI JTIENDRA PRASADA: Then what is the difference between a Special Mention and a debate?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): That is true.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this *opportnibity* to speak briefly on this matter. Our good friend. *Dr* Bipin Dasgupta. is very right when he said that the old Committee had distinguished historians. I can assure him that the new Committee also has distinguished historians. Let me say at this stage that I have a feeling that history writing and history reading have been grossly neglected in independent India. The history books that are being taught today in schools and colleges are just poor copies of what A. V. Smith wrote dmost 80 years back. The same kind of lite, the same kind of myths. continue to be circulated even now. I even have a feeling that but for these histories written by the Britishers from the Imperial point of view, the Hindu-Muslim relationship would not have taken the ugly turn that it did and probably there would have been no partition. I think that these histories that are being taught in the 20th centuiy are very much responsible for the

problems that we face today. Sir, I will give you three brief examples of what is wrong with the history writing. Every student is taught in schools and colleges that there was Aryan invasion in India. None of us were there to report it. The seminar of a very distinguished magazine, carried a special issue on this subject and a very distinguished historian Contributor quoted Lord Curzon as saying, "This is the furniture of empire." They had to say these things to control this country, to show that everybody is foreigner in India.

I will give another example. These history books tell us, "please hold your soul in peace." I think that I can name that historian. Ms. Romila Thappar, who wasn't, and isn't a *Hindutvavadi*, was quoting Lord Curzon as saying, "This is the furniture of empire." History books tell us, "Alexander came here and defeated Indians." I would like to remind our good friend. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta of one thing, Marshal Zhukov came to India in the fifties. He said in Dehra Dun at the Indian Military Academy: "Don't you know that Alexander was badly beaten here?" And this is not Based on Indian records. All Greek records say that this fellow was beaten black and blue in India. Three-fourths of his army perished in India. But our history books continue to say that Alexander won in India. I will give a third example. History books tell that the first Muslim invasion took place when Mohammed-Bin-Qasim came here. You get the impression that he came, he saw and he conquered.

The fact is that according to Arab sources, thirteen attempts were unsuccessful and it was the fourteenth attempt which succeeded. This is the kind of history that is being taught I urge upon the hon. Member, please, my good friend, have a little patience. History that is being taught is a variation of Smith's history which was written just to protect, promote, project and defend the British rule in India.

It is entirely faulty. I hope the new Council that has come up will have a look at all these myths, half-truth and lies that have been taught. The history that is being taught in schools is Delhi-centric and king-centric. There have been times when Murshidabad was more important than Delhi, when Pune was more important than Delhi. It has to be a real national

history. It has to be people-centric and not king-centric. Thank you very much. Sir.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Take the position with the Government that history should be rewritten.....(Interruptions).....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Malkani, please address the Chair.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, I want to say....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You already have your say. There are two other names of Dr. M.N. Das and Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir. I took only three minutes. ..(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): That point was raised earlier. I am afraid, that is an issue on which I cannot take a decision.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, what I am saying is this: Let there be a Short Duration Discussion on this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You can write to the Chairman.

I. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: At that time, we will try to discuss some of the points which have been raised by Shri Malkani and others.....(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Please write to the Chairman. I am sure he will give the permission. Now Dr. M.N. Das.

DR. M.N. DAS: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this. I had been a member of the ICHR for two term of three years each. Thereafter, I myself proposed a selfdenying ordinance that once somebody becomes a member for two terms, then he should not stand for the third term. That was adopted by the ICHR. Now, we are talking of history. We are concerned with national history. There are several schools of historians. During British days, we called British historians as colonial or imperial historians. We know how James Mill presented the history of India which

became a compulsory textbook for every Englishman who came to India as a civil servant. What do those volumes speak about India? They said that Hindus and Muslims are 'barbarians, uncivilised'. Therefore, the British nation had a moral duty to civilise the uncivilised India. That was the thesis of James Mill. The maximum disservice if any Englishman did to India, he was James Mill who never visited India and never saw India. He did not know any language of India. But he collected information from all those merchants who went back from India. He also collected information from soldiers who fought battles here. They gave horrible accounts about Hindu and Islamic civilisations. In the last century, nationalist historians came up. It was necessary for our country that a group of historians must highlight the glory of India's past history. That is what happened. The real issue is. What is history?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): At the moment, we are discussing about the constitution of ICHR. Please be brief. I know you are a very knowledgeable person. I have read your books.

DR. M.N. DAS: History is the story, that is true. But, how to know that truth? History is the story of past human activity. In order to know the past, we have to go into the darkness of the past. We have to go by the artifacts, relics, evidences, facts, antiquities and whatever else is available, and we have to interpret facts and construct history. But, Sir, in modern times two theories have come up. Is history what historians want to make of it, or, is history the result of factual evidences based on truth. This latter school of thought relates to scientific and objective history. I would not elaborate it as many things can be said about it. If there is any specific reason to believe that a special type of guidance is given from a particular party that history be re-written in partisan way, that is dangerous. Truth must speak for itself; evidence must speak for itself. Let me not as a historian teach my students and future generations what kind of history I personally like. That is very dangerous. Sir, for the entertainment of the House, I would like to...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It is already too late. Members could not take their lunch.

DR. M.N. DAS: Sir, two of my eminent historian friends, namely, Bindeshwari Prasad Sinha and Ram Sharan Sharma belong to Bihar.

Both belong to Bihar. I was the medium, a common friend. Bindeshwari Prasad told me that in Ayodhya, there was a Hindu temple which was demolished by Babar's lieutenant and Babri Masjid was created. That was Bindeshwari Prasad's theory and he wrote articles in national newspapers. Ram Sharan says, it is all fabricated and it is all false; it has no foundation that there was a temple when Babri Masjid was created. I asked Bindeshwari, "When Ram Sharan contradicts you, what is your opinion?"

Bindeshwari says, "Ram Sharan possesses the body of Babar and Babar's soul has to be a part of his soul". When I narrated the same thing to Ram Sharan, he said that Bindeshwari has become a Hanuman now and Hanuman's soul. We historians cannot go by such Presumptions or some type of...
(Interruption)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You want us to be the soul of history. Thank you. Others are waiting. (Interruptions)

DR. M.N. DAS: I say that students guided by historians must know what the truth is, what the scientific history is, what the objective history is and what the facts speak of themselves and not what one simply imagine, speculates or interprets. A historian has no right to impose unpounded views on the future generation.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रि लोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): मिस्टर महेश चन्द्र शर्मा, आप जरा संक्षेप में बोलना।

डा. महेश चनर शर्मा (राजस्थान): सर, जो विषय उठाया गया है मैं केवल उस पर ही बोलूंगा।

सर, भारतीय इतिहास अनुसंधान परिषद् का जो पुनर्गठन हुआ है उस पर यह आक्षेप किया गया है कि वह एक विशेष प्रकार की विचारा धारा की तरफ हिया है। स्थिति इससे बिल्कुल भिन्न है। जो अनुसंधान परिषद् का मेमोरेण्डम है उसमें लिखा गया है "इतिहासकारों को इकट्ठा लाकर उन्हें अपने विचारों के आदान-प्रदान का मंच प्रदान करना"। इस परिषद् का काम है इतिहास के विभिन्न विचारों को लेना और मंच प्रदान करना। लेकिन हुआ ऐसा कि पिछले दशकों तक एक ही विचाराधारा के लोग इस

मंच पर काबिज हो गए और इसलिए जो आज के मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री हैं, वे धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। यह पहला पुनर्गठन है जिसमें सारे भारतीयों का प्रतिनिधित्व है। इसके पहले केवल बुद्धमत्ता, जे.एन.यू. और बंगाल में अन्तर-ननिहित थी। यह पहला पुनर्गठन है जिसमें सारे देश के लोगों का प्रतिनिधित्व हुआ है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि एक विचार की ओर धकियाये गए मंच को फिर से ठीक रास्ते पर लाया गया है इस लिए मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं।

**Seizure of one million Dollar Certificate
by the Police in Faizabad (U.P.) and
Failure of State Government to make any
Breakthrough in the case**

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I raise an important matter, that is seizure of one million dollar certificate. Mr. Malkani also is interested very much in it. He is going to speak. Sir, almost one month has been completed when the U.P. police raided a place in Faizabad and seized one million dollar certificates along with four persons. I do not want to name any person. One person is a Calcutta based businessman, who came all the way to Faizabad to negotiate the American notes with a trader in the town. One month has passed and a report again comes to the effect that the U.P. police could not make any breakthrough or to find out the records as to where from it came, what the reasons are and for what purpose it is going to be used. One million dollar note is not a small amount. Especially, it has come in such a place like Faizabad where police are suspected. Even after arresting four persons for interrogation the police says that they could not go to the bottom. Bottom means how it came, who made it, what the reasons are and for what purpose it was intended to be used. This is a serious matter I am raising because it concerns the currency, especially the foreign currency which is definitely the concern of the Government of India also. The most important thing is with regard to the area, Faizabad. You can understand it if it were in Bombay, Calcutta or any big city but this is at a place where the disputed national site is. It is still existing and that is Ayodhya. There is a national dispute. This is a dispute between the political parties and the society. It is still going on. In that district headquarters one million

dollar certificates have been seized by the police. The police could not trace the case for one month. I would like to know whether the Government verified the antecedents of these traders of that city. I would also like to know whether the Government verified the antecedents of the Calcutta businessman. What are their antecedents? I would like to know whether they were associated with any organisation of that area. What are their connections? Without looking into all these things, we will not be able to have any information in this regard. The point that I am trying to make is that we have to go to the bottom of the case. I would like to know whether the U.P. Police is capable enough to deal with this case. I would like to know whether they have been pulled back by some political strings that they should not proceed further in this matter. I would like to know whether the local police has been prevented from going further in this matter and whether they have been asked not to make any inquiry into this matter. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote, from the report which I received. I am not mentioning any names. The reports says that the police said that the Calcutta businessman had come here to make a deal on the American notes which were in the possession of the businessmen of Faizabad. I would like to say that it is a failure of the police organisation that they were not able to go into this case. A suspicion has arisen that there is some political pressure on the police. I am not making any allegations and if I am wrong I may be corrected. Some of these people were connected with the VHP... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRITRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Please conclude now. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: If I am wrong, I may be corrected. If I mention the name of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad they may not like it But, it is a fact... (*Interruptions*)... I would like to know whether they have said that they are going to build the temple whether the court or the Government permits it or not. I would like to know whether it is correct or not because it has created some suspicion. I demand that the Government should look into this matter