

cient quota of gas for Hazira and Pipavav. I also request the Power Minister to have a joint venture gas-based power project in Gujarat or on the basis of privatization, and instead of transfer of gas, power can be transferred to other states. As far as I know, transfer of power is easier and economical rather than transfer of gas. I hope, the Prime Minister will take personal and keen interest in this matter and will announce the allocation of gas quota, which is due to Gujarat. I want to convey, through you, the feelings of the people of Gujarat to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Power, and to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, before the people of Gujarat get agitated, that the Government should take a decision in this matter immediately and do justice to them. Sufficient quota of gas, needed for the power stations in Gujarat, may be allotted to them.

**RE. OPENING OF STUDY CENTRES
BY FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA
WITHOUT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S
PERMISSION**

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM
(Tamil Nadu): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the education system in our country. We have 250 universities and thousands of technical institutions in our country. But, now foreign universities have started opening their study centres in all the four metro cities, that is, Chennai, Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi.

Some leading universities of the UK have given advertisement, inviting applications from Indian students for various engineering courses at a cost of 2600 pounds. It has established an office in Delhi.

There is another institute. The Man Comp. which has invited applications for an MBA Degree programme from the University of West Australia.

This is the position prevailing in our country. There are no guidelines, there

are no rules till date for establishing a study centre in our country.

Today, the Aptech has issued an advertisement for B. Tech degree course in network and communications from the University of Northumbria, UK.

The Durhan University Business school, UK has announced a distant learning programme for MBA at a cost of 8,000 pounds.

The Durham University had announced a distant learning programme, leading to an MBA Degree, at a cost of 8000 pounds.

Sir, in our country, a degree course can be conducted only by an university established under an Act of Parliament, or, by an Act of any State Legislature. Now, as far as the entry of foreign universities into this country is concerned, so far, there is no law; nor are there any guidelines. These universities are opening study centres in Calcutta, Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

As far as Chennai is concerned, yesterday, on a public interest litigation petition filed in the Madras High Court by one Mr. Sethuraman, an interim injunction was granted. Therefore, the matter is *sub judice*. In the case of the other three metropolis, i.e. Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi, such study centres have been opened for giving coaching to Indian students.

As I pointed out, there are no rules and regulations framed so far in regard to the opening of such study centres by foreign universities in India. Sometime in 1995, there was a seminar in which the Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and representatives of the All-India Council of Technical Education took part. It was said then that guidelines to regulate the entry of foreign universities were being framed. However, this has not happened till now. Sir, this is an unprecedented situation that no rules and regulations have been framed so far, although many foreign universities are coming into the country.

As I said, there are more than 250 universities in our country. We have about a thousand technical institutions. When this is the situation, why should we permit these foreign universities? I would request the Chair to give a direction to the Ministry of Human Resource Development in this regard. In the absence of any guidelines, in the absence of any rules, how are these universities being allowed to open study centres in Mumbai, Calcutta, Delhi and Chennai?

We have in Delhi, the Jawaharlal Nehru University, apart from the Delhi University. We have the Madras University in Chennai. We have the Calcutta University in Calcutta. I do not know how the foreign universities are being permitted to open study centres here. As you know, if a person wants to open an engineering college, he has to get permission from the All-India Council of Technical Education. On the other hand, these universities are not seeking any permission from the Government of India. This is because you have not framed any rules.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to take necessary steps to see that guidelines are framed immediately to regulate the entry of foreign educational institutions into India. When we have so many well-established and good universities in our country, why should we permit these foreign educational institutions? Now, would the Jawaharlal Nehru University, for example, be allowed to open a study centre in a foreign country? It is not possible.

Sir, if we allow these foreign educational institutions into this country, it would not only affect the student community; it would affect the other people in the country as well. If you pay, say, Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 lakhs, they issue a BE degree or an MBA Degree. If you have to start a degree course here, you have to get permission from the University Grants Commission. Similarly, for starting engineering and medical colleges, one

has to get a nod from the All-India Council of Technical Education and the Medical Council of India, respectively. Certain procedures are laid down. But as far as these institutions are concerned, no permission is required; there are no guidelines.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): what is your point?

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: I will take just one minute, Sir.

I have pointed out that a stay has been granted by the Madras High Court on a public interest litigation petition. But these study centres are being opened in the other three metropolis, i.e. Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi. I, therefore, request the chair to give a direction to the Government to take necessary steps to bring forward proper guidelines so that the entry of foreign universities into this country and the setting up of study centres by them is regulated.

Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to make this Zero Hour submission.

RE. HUNGER STRIKE BY UN-ABSORBED APPRENTICES OF NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY HEAD-QUARTERS, GUWAHATI

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से भारत सरकार के रेल मंत्रालय का ध्यान ऐसे बेरोजगारों की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जिन्होंने एप्रेंटिसशिप की ट्रेनिंग ले रखी है लेकिन वे आज भी बेरोजगार बैठे हुए हैं। महोदय, पिछले दिनों 29 अप्रैल को माननीय रेल मंत्री गोहाटी गए थे। गोहाटी में पूर्वोत्तर सीमांत रेलवे का मुख्यालय है और वहाँ इन बेरोजगार युवकों ने माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से मिलकर रोजगार की मांग की थी। तो माननीय रेल मंत्री जी ने तीन दिन के भीतर उनको रोजगार देने का आश्वासन दिया और मौजूद अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिया था। माननीय रेल मंत्री जी के निर्देश का पालन नहीं करने पर 28 जुलाई को वहाँ आठ जो एप्रेंटिसशिप में ट्रेड युवक हैं मालीगांव जो रेलवे का हैड क्वार्टर है उसके दरवाजे पर आमरण अनशन पर बैठे हुए हैं। उसमें से तीन—ध्रुव कुमार, अरविन्द और भीकू को हालत खराब हो गई है। आठ युवक बैठे थे, तीन को अस्पताल भेजा गया। तीन को