

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM)** : Now we will take up the *Tezpur University Bill, 1992*. Shri Arjun Singh.

**The Tezpur University Bill, 1992**

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)** : Sir, before the Bill is introduced by my esteemed colleague, Kumari Selja, with your kind permission, I would like to say a few words. Yesterday the Bill was listed for consideration and I was not able to be present here. I would like to inform the House that because of some urgent, very personal, work I was scheduled to go out and I made enquiries from here whether this Bill would or would not come up for discussion. I was assured that it would not be coming up for discussion because of other business. Be that as it may, I would like to offer my regret for not being present in the House yesterday.

**SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala)** : Sir, please permit me to say something. I appreciate what Mr. Arjun Singh has said and I understand that he is placing the full facts. But, to my great dismay, today in a very important newspaper, namely, *The Times of India*, a report has appeared where it is stated that in spite of repeated efforts from the Secretariat, Arjun Singhji could not be contacted. The whole report attributes the blame to our very senior, hon'ble, respectable and responsible Minister. I don't know whether this is true or not. This constitutes a matter of privilege because a wrong impression has been created about the Minister. It is totally uncalled for. I don't know whether this important newspaper has collected this information or whether this is the result of their investigation or whether this paper has been wrongly briefed. I will only believe what was stated by the Minister. I know the Minister having spent six or seven years here and I have observed the dignified

way in which the Minister conducts himself setting an example. There is no reason for me to disbelieve him. But a very wrong impression has been created and I am very sorry that such an impression has been created. This is a matter of privilege. A wrong impression has been created about a very senior politician before the public. I would like you to, take due note of this and to see to it that this kind of impression is not created about the Ministers or the Members before the public.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM)** : In the morning also some other matter was taken up. It has been wrongly reported. They should be careful when the proceedings of the House are going to be reported. Yesterday, the Minister had enquired from the Secretary-General. He told him that this Bill might not be taken up due to some other business. It is not the fault of the Minister. We do appreciate his submission.

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA)** : Sir, here was a long-standing demand from the people of Assam to have a Central University there. After some passage of time our former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, announced in Assam in 1985 about the setting up of a Central University in Assam. After taking into account the local aspirations and requirements of the people of the Brahmaputra Valley, it has been decided to set up a second Central University in Assam at Tezpur. On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh I beg to move :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and residential University in the State of Assam at Tezpur and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed

**DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH** (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, although we support the Tezpur University Bill, 1992—it is a very noble idea—I have some observations to make. Primarily a university should be established to cater to the local needs of the region and with a vision for the future to prepare students with a global competitive spirit and excellence. Secondly, a university should not suffer for want of finances at any stage of its existence. In this perspective I would like to have some clarifications from the hon'ble Minister. Will the newly proposed university be established on a similar pattern as the already established universities are? What are some of the distinguished features provided for it? If so, will the hon'ble Minister please indicate them? Is the investment pattern the same as that of other universities? Have you provided following areas of study within the ambit of this Bill; first, Research and Development Centre for study of the problems of development of north-eastern region; second, Rural Development Study Centre; third, Department of Master of Business Administration and last; Centre for study of regional languages and foreign languages?

**SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA** (Assam) : Sir, at the outset, I congratulate the Minister for bringing this Bill because this was the promise made by our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi to the people of Assam when there was an agitation for establishing one Central University in Assam.

Sir, he addressed the people of Assam in a rally and he said in Assam, "I will give not one but two Central Universities for the benefit of the people of Barak Valley and Brahmaputra valley and also for expansion of learning in that part of the country." Sir, this University will serve not only the needs of Assam but the whole of North-Eastern region, particularly the State of Arunachal Pradesh at this University will be in the middle of

Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The people of Assam are particularly happy because although that part of the region, that part of the State, had different institutions, it lacked an institution for higher education. This University will serve the needs of the people and satisfy the expectations and needs of higher education in that part of the State. While speaking on this Bill, I would request the hon'ble Minister to see that while establishing the University, we do not go for the traditional departments or traditional subjects of learning. We should rather introduce some advanced courses, some advanced subjects which are presently being taught all over the world. This will be a gift to the people of Assam during the Bihu festival and I whole-heartedly support this Bill. Thank you very much.

**SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH** (Manipur) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Now, I have nothing more to say regarding this Bill except welcome the establishment of a third University in the State of Assam. This is purely a product of the Assam Accord which was entered into between the Assam Students Union and the Central Government and the State Government of Assam. There is a healthy feeling of competition between the citizens of upper Assam and the citizens of lower Assam. Immediately after the Assam Accord was signed, a University at Silchar was established. Today there are murmurs that upper Assam is neglected. As you all know, the Assam Students Union had demanded the establishment of a third University in upper Assam at Tezpur. This Bill is exactly the result of those aspirations. Now the objects of the Bill are very accurate, but the drafting and the language used is not a very careful one. According to the first part of the objects, the University is for the development of culture and heritage of the North-Eastern region including Arunachal Pradesh and other adjacent States.

This has been stated in the first paragraph. In the second part it is stated that it is for the people of Assam. So there is some sort of, not contradictory but some ill-framing of the language. For the people of the region and the people of the State of Assam, it is almost the same. But there is a difference and that difference has not been properly framed.

Otherwise, Assam is a miniature India. Even after the separation of Assam from the original State of Assam, the remnants of Assam are still a miniature India. There are different sections of tribal population and these various sections of tribal population have similar and dissimilar cultures. These cultures will have to be nourished and the new University is supposed to be coordinating them. This has also been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I don't have anything more to say on this. I welcome this Bill and I extend my whole-hearted support to the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a welcome Bill which meets the aspirations of the most neglected region, that is, the North-Eastern region and though it is the second Central University in that part of the country, I hope this will meet the educational and other requirements of the people there. I have got two or three points to make. With regard to the setting up of this University, in the financial memorandum attached to this Bill, it is said, "The total estimated expenditure on the establishment of the University would be approximately Rs. 15 crores, out of which Rs. 10 crores would be non-recurring and Rs. 5 crores would be recurring. A major part of this expenditure is likely to be incurred during the Eighth Plan period. The above mentioned expenditure will be met by the University Grants Commission from its Plan allocation." After all, Rs. 10 crores which are recurring and Rs. 5 crores which are non-re-

curring are very meagre amounts. And it is said that this would be met through the grants provided by the University Grants Commission. Even this meagre amount would not be able to be met in the Eighth Five Year Plan period. It really surprises us. It is not a big amount, say, hundreds of crores of rupees. It is only Rs. 10 or 15 crores. Why couldn't this be provided in this Eighth Plan period itself or in the next two or three years? I don't find any reason. So, this is a way to delay things and go on spending in a leisurely way without actually bringing the University into shape. I think that there must be something wrong with the thinking of the Government. Since this is the smallest amount involved, I think the Government must be able to spend this money at the earliest possible time except for logistic support, construction activities and all that which may require some time. But the University should not be delayed because of lack of funds. That is my first observation. So, whatever money is available, in the best possible way and in the shortest possible manner, that money should be spent and the University should come into existence at the earliest possible time. According to this Bill, it will not be completed even in the Eighth Plan period. This would spill over into the next Five Year Plan also. My second observation is that this is going to be a residential University. Earlier, the Central University set up at Silchar was an affiliated Central University. This is a teaching and residential University. I think that this also may be converted into a full-fledged University.

In our State, Andhra Pradesh, we know that is happening. In the beginning, this university may be called a residential one but later on some other areas should be added to make it a full-fledged university. I cannot help if the people of Assam, the Assam Government, do not want such an arrangement. But if the people of Assam, especially the people of Brahmaputra valley wish it, it should be made

an affiliating university so that it can cater to the needs of the surrounding areas which my learned friend has also suggested. In course of time, the Government should consider this idea if it is not possible to be done immediately.

My last point is about the objects of the university. This university has got its own objects. In the First Schedule of this Bill, the objects of the university are stated. A wider coverage is there. But this Bill only seeks to set up a university after taking into consideration the local aspirations and requirements of the people of the Brahmaputra valley. I don't think this is the correct way of putting things. It is not only the aspirations of the Brahmaputra valley; in a way it is the aspirations of all the north-eastern States in general and the aspirations of the Assam people in particular. May be Brahmaputra valley is a part of it. Then, why should you restrict the scope of the objects of the Bill to only a local university, a Brahmaputra valley university, nothing to do with the other areas? If it is made an affiliating university, I think it will create a better educational atmosphere and will lead to extension of educational services and development of culture and research promotion. The whole educational pattern will get widened. So, I think that while framing the Objects and Reasons they should be in conformity with a university having a wider coverage. I think even though the Bill has come up today in this fashion, there can be some improvement. My learned colleagues have asked some questions. If there is no innovation in setting up this university, then it is a beaten track. I think every university must develop its personality and its own line of development. It should cater to the particular genius for which it is created. So even after the passing of Bill, the Government must look into all these aspects and help the people of Assam and the other north-eastern States to be benefited fully by the innovative character of this uni-

versity that is going to be established. This improvement can be brought either by altering the provisions of this Bill or by administrative steps or by giving further financial support. I request the Government to take all these aspects into consideration and I hope this University will develop as a model one and meet the operation of the people.

Thank you, Sir.

**DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY** (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I welcome this Bill because there is a feeling in the minds of the people of the Brahmaputra valley that they are being neglected by the Government of India. This feeling is not good in the interests of the country. Something must be done by the Government of India to remove feeling from the minds of the people. I think that the establishment of this Tezpur Central University will be a positive step in that direction. That is why I support this Bill. But setting up of a Central University is not enough and it should not be an eyewash. Already there are nine Central Universities in India and this Tezpur University will be the tenth Central University.

These Central Universities at least can do some justice in the field of education when they are financially viable. So, financial viability is the important thing for these Universities. Previously, a high-power Committee was constituted to give suggestions and make recommendations for the financial viability of the Central Universities, Deemed Universities and technical institutions. I do not know whether that high-power Committee has submitted its report or not. If the Committee has submitted its report, what are its major recommendations and what recommendations does the Government propose to implement? If the report has not been submitted, when is it likely to submit it? I would request the Minister to reply to these points.

Just like the Brahmaputra Valley, there is the Rayalaseema area in Andhra

Pradesh and that is also a backward area. There is a feeling among the people of that area that both the State and the Central Governments are neglecting that area. There is every necessity to remove that feeling among the people of that area. So I would request the Minister to examine and consider the proposal of establishing a Central University in the Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh. Cuddapah, being the centre of Rayalaseema, is the most appropriate and suitable place for establishing a Central University.

Lastly, Sir, in the Bill, there is a word "Visitor" used. The Visitor is the President of India. I think the word "Visitor" is not appropriate and it is not in good taste. It is better to substitute some other word for the word "Visitor" which will be more appropriate and dignified. These are my observations on this Bill, Sir. Thank you.

**DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :** Sir, I support his suggestion that this word should be replaced by some other word, more appropriate word.

**SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI (West Bengal) :** Sir, at the outset, I express my gratitude to the Central Government for bringing forward this Bill even though it is belated. This is a very welcome Bill.

As you know, Sir, the people of the North-East, particularly of Assam, have always had a feeling that they have been deprived, that they are alienated from the mainstream of national life, because the socio-economic schemes and development schemes that are there in the national scene are not there in the North-East, particularly in Assam. The people of this area have seen many movements. There has been a spate of movements in Assam, beginning with the AASU movement and there have been the ULFA and now the BODO movements and numerous other small agitations have been taking place there. Their only explanation is that they are being deprived and

they are not able to have their identity. This Bill is a step in the right direction. But this is a belated step and the Central Government should have taken this step some years ago.

Forty-five years have passed by since our Independence and much water has flowed in the Brahmaputra and the Ganga and we have undergone severe hardships and have faced many difficulties due to these movements that have taken place in Assam and the North-East. So, if we are really to bring these people into the mainstream of our national life, mere lip-service will not suffice for this region.

For this reason, we have to take certain steps which can develop their educational status, their economic and social status. I think, the setting up of a University in Tezpur will certainly go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of the local people there. Sir, it is not only the question of Assam, but, I think, the whole North-East in comparison to the other parts of the country, is neglected, is ignored. Whenever there is some violent movement, whenever the people take to arms, only then the Government have taken pains to listen to their problems. So, in a democratic country, it is most sorrowful, it is most painful, and it is not adoptable. Therefore, in this respect, I want to say that in other States in the North-East also, this sort of educational institutions, universities, technical education institutions should be set up so that people from that region may feel that they have been given their due, that have a warm feeling from the Government.

So, in conclusion, Sir, I again welcome this Bill from my heart and hope that this will not remain only on paper, only in principle, but the Central Government will try to implement this Bill in reality so that the long-cherished dreams of the people of Assam will become a reality. Thank you, Sir.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM)** : Now the Minister will reply.

**KUMARI SELJA** : Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members who have given their valuable suggestions. And I would also like to thank all the Members for being unanimous in welcoming this setting up of the Tezpur Central University.

Sir, as all of us here have said, this was a long-standing demand of the area. And with the setting up of the first University in Assam at Silchar, a need was felt that we should also set up another Central University in the Brahmaputra Valley. And because of this, the first one also could not really materialise. Now, we hope that both of them will come up soon. With the passing of this Bill, now the Tezpur University should also come up. Sir, there is a difference between the Assam Central University at Silchar and this one. Some of the Members have said, Dr. Nanihal Singh has also said, why is it not an affiliating University? Sir, this is a non-traditional and a compact University. The State already has State Universities and the other Central University which are affiliating Universities. And this will be a separate University, a compact one, with its own campus, and it is going to be basically a residential University.

Sir, as far as the courses are concerned, in addition to the conventional courses that are going to be offered, which are going to be mostly post-graduate courses, there are going to be some more courses also. The courses which will be there are going to have direct and special relevance to the region, namely, tea, petroleum, agro industries, non-conventional sources of energy, minerals, forestry, earth sciences, water resource management, environment and life sciences and also courses for management studies, computers and electronics and emerging areas in science and technology will also be offered.

One of the points raised was as to why the objective is mentioned as 'To educate and train manpower for the development of the State of Assam'. I would like to point out here that the Act itself says in section 6 that the jurisdiction of the University is the State of Assam. But it will have an all India character both in the admission of students and in the appointment of teachers.

As far as the finances are concerned, the financial allocation is Rs. 15 crores— ten crores non-recurring and five crores recurring. These are the projections on the basis of the existing budgetary provisions and the UGC does not have any separate head for setting up a Central University. I am sure that this budgetary allocation will meet the demands.

Mr. Reddy objected to the word 'Visitor'. He says that this word is not appropriate for the President of India. There is nothing objectionable about this and this is used for Central Universities like Delhi and JNU and BHU. There is nothing objectionable about this.

He also mentioned about the high-powered Committee. He said that the UGC appointed a high-powered Committee under Justice Punnaiah to advice on University finances. The Committee was constituted in November 1992 and has had two sittings and their report is expected within six months' time.

With this, I would like to....

**DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY** : I also mentioned about Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh.

**KUMARI SELJA** : This is regarding Tezpur University. We all want Central Universities.

I would like to thank all the Members for their welcoming this Bill unanimously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : The question is :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and residential University in the State of Assam at Tezpur and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Clauses 2 to 44, the First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SLAIM) : Clause 1. There is one amendment by the Minister.

Clause 1—Short title and commencement.

KUMARI SELJA : I move :

"That at page 1, line 3, for the figure '1992' the figure '1993' be substituted."

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : I shall now put Clause 1 to vote.

The question is :

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : We shall now take up the Enacting Formula. There is one amendment.  
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KUMARI SELJA : I beg to move :

"That at page 1, line 1 for the word "Forty-third" the word "Forty-fourth" be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) : I shall now put the Enacting Formula, as amended, to vote. The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill. The Title was added to the Bill.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

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**THE CINE WORKERS WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P. A. Sangma, I beg to move :

That the Bill to amend the Cine-workers Welfare Cess Act, 1981, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Sir, the Cine-workers Welfare Fund Act of 1981 was enacted for taking up various activities for promoting the welfare of the cine-workers as devised under the Act. The Cine-workers Welfare Cess Act of 1981 provides for levy of a cess at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per feature film, and the revenue thus realised is credited to the Cine-workers Welfare Fund. "Cine-workers", as defined in the Cine-worker