

ANNOUNCEMENT Re. ARREST OF A MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEYRAZI): Hon. Members, there is an announcement. I have to inform you that the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha, has received the following communication dated 13.8.1994 from the Commissioner of Police, Bangalore city:

"Shri Sikander Bakht, hon. Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, has been taken into preventive custody today at 9.30 a.m. at Bangalore airport under section 151 read with 107 Cr.P.C. with a view to prevent law and order problems in connection with the programme of Bharatiya Janata Party to hoist national flag at Idgah maidan in Hubli city. He has been produced before the taluk Executive Magistrate who remanded him to judicial custody for three days. He has been lodged in the Bangalore Central Prison as 'A' class prisoner."

Now, Shri Ramji Lal. He is not present. Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.

Need to Check Fake Universities and Vishwavidyalayas in the Country

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my Special Mention concerns the functioning of certain fake universities in the country. The recent revelation of the University Grants Commission about the functioning of as many as 25 self-styled universities and vishwavidyalayas in the country without any legal sanction and in blatant violation of the UGC norms and guidelines. In spite of the UGC's clear advice to the students not to pursue the courses offered by these self-styled universities, the functioning of such fake universities is not only astonishing but also a matter of deep concern. Under the UGC Act, these fake and unauthorised educational institutions are neither

entitled nor competent to award degrees/diplomas/certificates as these are not recognised and the degrees awarded by these universities have no validity for academic and employment purposes. Yet the unwary students are lured by these fake universities on false promises.

Sir, it is ironic and unfortunate that the mushrooming of such illegal and unauthorised educational institutions is not being disallowed in the country. The revelation of the UGC by notifying such universities and vishwavidyalayas in their recent Press communique is not the end in itself. The Government's policy in respect of educational institutions lacks comprehensiveness and a will to implement it.

Therefore, it is high time that the Government gave its serious consideration to the problem and took positive measures and if need be, by bringing a suitable legislation, to firmly curb the growth of educational institutions which have no legal entity and which are functioning with the sole objective of earning money by exploiting the innocent students. The Government should also immediately take appropriate action against such universities and vishwavidyalayas which have been identified by the UGC as fake and illegal. If necessary, the Government should prosecute them.

Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Let me check up the position. Let the quorum bell be rung.

1.00 P.M.

Shri K.M. Khan please.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): Let me check-up. Let