

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Sir, my first point is, in this House itself we have experienced what Dr. Reddy has told us. I only agree with him. My second point is, each machine is going to cost about Rs. 5,000/- and the hon. Minister has given certain overall calculations. Sir, I am not very proficient in arithmetic. However, whatever the figure is considering the present resource crunch in our country I would like to know whether Rs. 250 crores are to be spent on this account only, to meet the fads of certain people and the craze for electronic machines where it is not absolutely needed; I would like to know whether we should go in for this colossal expenditure unwarrantedly for the time being.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, actually, unfortunately it is not because of any fad or any other wish to go in for electronic machines. It has been found that it economically much cheaper to go in for these machines because it is not only that the recurring expenditure that we have in elections is very much higher, but also it does away with a lot of malpractices that actually take place during elections. We are all familiar with them. It is much cheaper in the long run. It is an economically feasible and viable project and I would like to categorically go on record that the Electoral Reforms Committee which has representatives of all political parties, has actually seen the demonstration of the working of the machine and a technical expert committee has looked into it and is satisfied and recommended that this machine should be used.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Secondly, I would like to know whether the components of this machine would be entirely indigenous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it entirely indigenous?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: It is entirely indigenous. It is made by two public companies out of indigenous components.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: I would just like to point out that the systems that we have here are so old and primitive when compared to modern electronic systems. Practically electronic systems change from hour to hour. I have no doubt that if we introduce the electronic system much of the trouble that we see now in our voting system will disappear and, therefore, I think, purely for being up-to-date and modern we should introduce electronic system as quickly as possible and a lot of these phoney things that are going on will automatically disappear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants them to be expedited. Will you expedite?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: Sir, I would like to thank him for the support and we are definitely going to expedite it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will expedite it.

Functioning of Central Universities

*111. **SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the annual expenditure on each of the Central Universities for the last three years;

(b) what guidelines have been issued by the University Grants Commission to the Central Universities for maintaining their All India character; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure their smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to information furnished, the Commission provided funds to three years as indicated below:

shed by the University Grants Commission each Central University during the last

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Central University	1988-89		1989-90		1990-91	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
Aligarh Muslim University .	98.05	2748.06	184.17	2971.89	159.06	3385.27
Banaras Hindu University .	255.34	3394.04	349.01	3617.07	317.50	4102.32
University of Delhi . . .	202.92	1889.25	531.50	2015.47	409.16	2408.37
University of Hyderabad .	133.20	489.01	403.03	616.91	167.69	677.12
Jawaharlal Nehru University	1272.60	1023.84	615.97	1209.42	401.26	1304.62
North-Eastern Hill University	163.33	824.45	205.83	894.89	302.74	982.57
Visva-Bharati	40.34	773.40	101.97	845.14	42.04	950.64
Pondicherry University .	325.27	.	344.62	7.12	49.14	267.52
Jamia Millia Islamia . .	123.40	30.00	212.99	528.75	202.40	671.46
Indira Gandhi National Open University	1100.00	.	1841.00	.	501.00	900.00
	3714.45	11172.05	4790.09	12706.66	2552.99	15649.89

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was provided funds directly by the Department of Education.

(b) Admission to and employment in all Central Universities is open to all persons irrespective of sex, race, caste or religion under the relevant provisions of their respective Act. In accordance with the guidelines issued by University Grants Commission, admission to Central Universities is made on an all-India basis. Recruitment of Teachers and senior administrative staff is also done on the basis of all-India advertisements.

(c) All Central Universities are provided substantial funds for development of physical infrastructure, and strengthening of teaching and research. Central Universities also enjoy a high degree of autonomy in all administrative matters

and in pursuit of their academic programmes which enables them to function smoothly.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, year after year Government grants to the Central Universities are increasing. Non-plan grant is increasing because of the increase in expenditure, probably because of inflation, etc. I would like to know whether the irregularities in the Jawaharlal Nehru University accounts, which have been pointed out by the auditors, have been brought to the attention of the Minister. There are serious charges of wrong doing in the accounts of Jawaharlal Nehru University. As the Minister is aware this University was started as a Centre of Excellence and the name of late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was given to this University. Unfortunately, over the years we reached a situation where specific

charges of corruption had been pointed out by the auditors and serious lapses on the part of the account keeping and administrative staff had been pointed out. What are the steps the Government is contemplating to put the house in order as far as JNU is concerned?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I share the concern of the hon'ble Member. But I would only like him to bear with me that in matters of this nature in reference to Universities, there are certain procedures which we have to go through. The autonomous nature of the Universities should not at all be disturbed. But any wrong doing at any level cannot be condoned and whatever needs to be done to set the matter right would certainly be done.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: This is a very, very general answer when the auditors have found specific charges. After all, Government money is public money. Autonomous nature is not to be interfered with, least of all by me. But we cannot go on giving public funds to an institution whose accountability is going down. There are charges against the Vice-Chancellor. At least, can you remove the vice Chancellor? At least signal should go to one and all so that public money is not squandered in this way.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the signal should go, but the signal cannot go as a flat. I would have to act within the convention, rules and regulations concerning the University. I would do it. That is what I am saying. I cannot just order somebody to disappear.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, there are irregularities. The auditors have found it. If the Minister does not want to go into it, I don't mind. Will you institute an inquiry in the light of the auditors' report? Will the Central Government institute an inquiry into the accounts of JNU?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I will try to ascertain what the position is and if an inquiry is needed certainly we will do it.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीय सभापति जी, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब से दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना हुई है, तब से आज तक यहाँ कभी नकलवाजी नहीं हुई थी लेकिन पिछले दिनों वहाँ पर्चा आऊट हुआ। पब्लिक सर्विस कमीशन में भी पहले पर्चा आऊट हुआ था। महोदय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय एकमात्र ऐसी सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटी है जहाँ प्रश्नपत्र आऊट हुए। क्या इस बात की जानकारी सही महोदय को है? अगर है तो वे इस बारे में क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं? क्या वे कोई इन्क्वायरी कमेटी लिखते जा रहे हैं? जो अधिकारी प्रश्नपत्रों के सत्य को, उसके रहस्य को छिपाकर नहीं रख सकते, क्या आप उनको सस्पेंड करने जा रहे हैं?

महोदय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से 20 कालेज दिल्ली प्रशासन चलाता है और इनके लिए 5 प्रतिशत अनुदान दिल्ली प्रशासन देता है और 95 प्रतिशत अनुदान मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय की ओर से यू० जी० सी० देता है। यहाँ प्रति वर्ष दिल्ली प्रशासन राजनीतिक दृष्टि से अपने प्रातिनिधि शक्ति बड़ी में भेजता है। उनका कार्यकाल 7 सितंबर को समाप्त हो रहा है। क्या यह कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद मानव संसाधन मंत्री जी नई शक्ति बड़ी बना रहे हैं? क्या सदन को ऐश्वर्य करोगे कि उसमें पोलिटिकल लोग न हों, एजुकेशनिस्ट और इंटेलैक्चुअल लोग हों, इसका क्या आश्वासन देंगे?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह : श्रीमन, यह प्रश्न सीधे तौर से यहाँ से संबंधित होता तो मैं इसका यहाँ से उत्तर देता। यह सेंट्रल यूनिवर्सिटीज के बारे में प्रश्न है। फिर भी जो माननीय सदस्य ने दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के बारे में जानकारी दी है मैं इस संबंध में क्या करना है, किस स्तर पर कार्यवाही करनी है, निश्चित रूप से करने की कोशिश करूँगा। यह मेरा प्रयास भी रहेगा कि विश्वविद्यालय राजनीति के अखाड़े न बनें। वहाँ पर मुख्य रूप से जो एजुकेशनिस्ट हैं उनका ही कार्यक्षेत्र हो, यही मेरा प्रयास होगा।

डॉ० रत्नकर बाण्डेय : गवर्निंग बोर्डो का कार्यकाल न बढ़ाया जाए, इसके बारे में क्या कर रहे हैं ?

श्री सभापति : उसको वह देख लेंगे ।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the Visva Bharati University was set up not as a memorial to Tagore, but it was set up as a model university in the country. I am sorry to say that it is losing its all-India character because there are certain serious irregularities in the University. One of them is lack of hostel accommodation. Since there is lack of hostel accommodation, students from different States are not able to continue their studies. And the lack of accommodation arises because the Visva Bharati University is not being given proper funds to set up new hostels and to create proper opportunities for the students coming from different States. Will the Minister assure that proper funds will be made available over and above the normal grant to ensure that this University has enough hostels?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, it is a well-known fact that the funds available for distribution to Universities, which also include Central Universities, do fall short of what the requirement is. So far as the Visva Bharati University is concerned, it is natural that all of us except that basic amenities have to be provided for the students, especially for the students coming from outside. (*Interruption*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Residential accommodation. That is what he means.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: We will try to accommodate this in the next Plan.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, it is very heartening to learn from the Minister that the Government does not want to unduly tinker with the institutions and erode the norms which sanctify the institutions. The autonomy of universities is sacrosanct. But I would like to

know from the Minister this. We have been reading about grave irregularities in the functioning of the universities. What are the norms, what, according to the laws, statutes that govern, is the procedure which will ensure that people do not get away with wrong doings?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The Acts themselves have sufficient provisions by which action can be taken. If there is anything wanting in any case, there, the Government will have to step in and as I have assured the hon. Member before him, in case any such things happen, the Government will discharge its responsibilities.

*112. [The questioner (Chowdhry Hari Singh) was absent. For answer, vide cols 43-44 infra].

FICCI demand for making Indian rupee Fully Convertible

*113. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-

RAKANT BHANDARE:†

SHRI BEKAL UTSAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has demanded that the Indian rupee be made fully convertible;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the precise implications of this demand on the Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare.