

[श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह]

खराब हो रहा है दूसरी ओर जो भी कॉलेज हैं उनका प्रशासन ठप्प है, तीसरी ओर विद्यालयों के जो शिक्षक प्राध्यापक हैं उनकी न्यायोचित मांग भी लम्बित है। इन तीनों समस्याओं से ग्रस्त हैं। करोड़ों मूल कॉलेज जैसे कॉलेज में प्राचार्य नहीं हैं, प्रिंसिपल नहीं है। प्रिंसिपल की नियुक्ति के लिए वाइस चांसलर की स्वाकृति चाहिए। ऐसे ही दो तीन कॉलेज यहाँ पर हैं जिनमें प्राचार्य नहीं हैं। जो एक्टिंग वाइस चांसलर यहाँ काम कर रहे हैं, मैं उन्हें व्यक्तिगत रूप से नहीं जानता हूँ लेकिन जो ग्रन्थालयों में समाचार आए हैं आज की "जनसत्ता" में मैंने यह समाचार देखा कि जो नियम कायदे हैं उनको ताक पर रख कर बिना किसी मायने मकसद के वे अनियमिततायें करत चले जा रहे हैं। प्रशासनिक ढांचा चरमरा रहा है। विद्वत् परिषद की बैठक नहीं हो रही है। कार्यकारी परिषद की बैठक नहीं हो रही है। बोर्ड की बैठक नहीं हो रही है। एक्टिंग वाइस चांसलर को अधिकार नहीं है और अधिकार के न रहते हुए भी वे अनियमिततायें करत चले जा रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकृष्ट कर रहा हूँ कि शिक्षा के साथ खिलवाड़ पक्ष और विपक्ष का मामला नहीं होता है। लड़कों के भविष्य के साथ खिलवाड़ का मामला राजनीति का मामला नहीं होता है। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय जिसकी अपनी एक सख बन गई थी जहाँ पर बड़ी हैसियत वालों के साथ-साथ गरीब घरों के लोग भी अपने बच्चों को यहाँ भेजते थे कि उनका बच्चा कभी न कभी कम्पीटीशन में आ जाएगा और उनके नाम को उजागर करेगा, रोजी-रोटी चलाएगा, सब का भविष्य खराब हो रहा है। इसलिए महोदया, आपका अधिक समय न ले कर इतना ही अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि वाइस चांसलर की जगह खाली है, रजिस्ट्रार की जगह 6 महीने से खाली है। दो फरवरी को डा. मुनिश राजा रिटायर हो गये थे, आज दो मई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि दो दिन के

अन्दर दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में वाइस चांसलर और रजिस्ट्रार की नियुक्ति करे नहीं तो क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं इसके बारे में सरकार एक वक्तव्य सदन के सामने दे। धन्यवाद।

Need to scrutinise financial aspect of Pepsi Project

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: (Rajasthan): Madam, I rise to draw the attention of the Government through you and the House, to a very serious matter regarding the financial implications of the Pepsi Project. This matter has come up in the House again and again. Various aspects of the Project have been discussed. In the opinion of the people like me, and I am sure of many others in this House, the very basis on which this project was conceived does not exist. There is no basis. It is a baseless project. The basis given was the employment opportunities in Punjab. The project as it has been cleared will create no employment opportunities. Employment will be given to probably a few hundred for which you cannot justify the project. The other reason is export orientation. You will see, as the project has been cleared that it is hardly going to export anything being produced in that project. They are going to buy and export or send abroad for which you don't need to invite a multi-national in India. They are going to produce items which PEPSI does not produce in any other part of the world. It means that we are now allowing a multi-national to come into this country to produce not even an item in which they have an expertise. So, the whole basis on which the PEPSI Project was started and the whole discussion was started has turned out to be totally false. Yet in the wisdom of this Government, in spite of objections, the project has been cleared. One of the conditions in the letter of intent issued by the previous Government was that the brand name will not be allowed to be used. Now

we understand that they have been allowed and it will be called 'Laha Pepsi'. It means that the name 'PEPSI' will be there and the logo will be there. It is a backdoor use of the brand name. It is a serious irregularity. Even if you concede that a project sanctioned for Punjab should not be cancelled due to emotional reasons or political reasons, even if you concede that the conditions originally given such as export-orientation, etc. have to be implemented, this Government should stipulate a few things. Firstly, the conditions should be strictly adhered to. There is no use allowing their brand name and threatening the small soft drink manufacturers in the country which are thousands in number. My second point is the cost of the project and it is the real point of my Special Mention today. The project originally presented was to cost Rs. 22 crores. Even that was exorbitant compared to other projects in India. Now the project cost is 75 crores of rupees. I have some experience of institutions and banks. They see each project with a fine comb, and every lakh they always question. They do not allow comparable projects with different project costs. And here is a project where there is a three-time escalation over a period of one year. No cost escalation, no inflation and nothing can justify this. And now the Company, the project authorities have come with a rejoinder that the escalation is not Rs. 22 to Rs. 75 crores, but it is from Rs. 22 crores to Rs. 50 crores. They are telling lies because the application that they have made to the institutions is of Rs. 75 crores. Secondly, they have come with a strange argument that the escalation is not for imported equipment and so there is no loss of foreign exchange. Madam, I wish to point out to the Government—the Finance Minister is not here; I hope he will take note of what I am saying—that these projects are put up with public money. The private sector in India is hardly private. 90 per cent money comes from the public institutions and the capital market. The pro-

ducer's own share is very little. If the Pepsi project authorities say that the cost has really escalated, let the Government stick to funding only Rs. 22 crores. The rest should come from the Pepsi. Let the Pepsi put in the escalated money. They do not want to put in their own money. (*Time bell rings.*) The total capital that is coming to India is Rs. 5 crores. The exports that they have been promising are not their own exports. There is no employment. I do not understand the logic. The *raison d'être* of this project has disappeared. I want to bring to the urgent attention of Mr. Dandavate though, of course, he says that financial institutions and banks are autonomous, but autonomy does not mean that they can fritter away public money. Mr. Dandavate should direct the State Bank of India to scrutinise strictly this project cost, and only sanction and disburse such amounts as can be strictly justified, seeing the comparable cost of similar projects which are already operating in India. There are potato chips projects in India; there are soft drink projects in India; there are these fruit-concentrates projects in India there are canning projects. Nothing that the Pepsi is doing is original. They are not putting up a nuclear project though we have that also in India. They are not doing something original. Comparable project costs are available. The institutions should scrutinise and only sanction that much money as can be justified strictly on the basis of cost calculations. If they want to spend any excess money, they should spend their own money. Otherwise, it is a familiar thing known to everybody that costs are escalated, the Government money, the public money is used and the project itself will become unviable because they cannot meet the cost of capital.

Madam, it is a very serious matter and I want the Finance Minister to look into it and take suitable action, and at no cost Rs. 75 crores should be sanctioned to Pepsicola.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam Vice-Chairman, I associate myself with the demand made by my learned colleague, Mr. Kamal Morarka. Madam, you will please recall that when first the Pepsico wanted to enter into the Indian market, it was I from the other side at that time who had put objections to it not because that I did not want any project to be established in Punjab to help the Punjab farmers but because the technology which the Pepsico wanted to bring in the case of soft drinks and potato chips that technology was already available in our country with some of the companies which were operating in our country. And whatever promise was made at that time by the Pepsico to the then Government of India and on that basis whatever assurance was given by the then Government of India on the floor of this House, and all the commitments made by the Pepsico have since been flouted by the Pepsico. As regards the cost of the project, as Mr. Kamal Morarka has said, from Rs. 22 crores, it has risen to Rs. 75 crores. As regards the clause of non-use of foreign brand name, they are now using the foreign brand name. I had put some questions even here when the new Government took up as to what is the law about the use of foreign brand name or the hybrid name. But I am told that there is no law in our country whereby any foreign brand name or hybrid name can be prevented from use. But, how, in that case, the Government could give an assurance on the floor of the House that no foreign brand name or hybrid name will be allowed to be used? Thirdly, Madam, I come to employment potential and employment generation opportunities of this project. In this connection I want to say that in reply to a question of mine it has been said that so far only 150 people could be employed. In all aspects they have been flouting whatever they had committed to the Government. Now, I have come to know, I have got the papers in my possession that this company had applied for money from the State Bank of India

for financing this project, and for financing this project on the basis of all sorts of wrong information supplied by it. Whatever information in that form they had given, all that information is wrong, only to mislead this Government, to hoodwink this Government and to get the project sanctioned to get the money granted by the State Bank of India in the name of helping the Punjab farmers.

Madam, I request through you the Government to immediately stop processing that application by the State Bank of India and instead immediately institute an inquiry to find out the reasons for doing that. I did not understand why the then Government of India was so keen to give clearance to that project and I do not understand why this Government, the new Government is allowing this thing, especially when the manifesto of the National Front released before the elections had made it abundantly clear that they were against the entry or intrusion of the multinationals in our country.

Madam, as you know, the Bush Administration is threatening the Government of India to take action against it under Super-301 clause. What is Super-301 clause? It is about the intellectual property, means the use of the patents and certain other conditions which they want to attach to the use of that patent name. Tomorrow they will again threaten. That is why it is a serious matter. I would urge upon the present Government to look into the matter, not to allow the Pepsico to flout the commitments which it had made to the Government and instead they should see that this Pepsico project is not allowed to operate here because this particular multinational is an undesirable company. Do you know, Madam, who played havoc in Latin America, particularly in Chile? It was the President of this Pepsico at that time in that particular area. Punjab is a very sensitive area. For any party I can say

that this Government should not allow the Pepsico multinational to operate in an area like the Punjab, where all sorts of foreign machinations are working.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra): Pepsico is the biggest foreign exchange earner in the Soviet Union.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We are not talking in Soviet Parliament. We are talking in Indian Parliament.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Madam, I just want to add to this two new dimensions. Number one, as I understand, it is only 25 per cent of the total project which is for the soft drink or the concentrate; 75 per cent is for the processed food. India is an agricultural country and I am afraid if such a big project is given this importance to indulge in our agricultural policy, I do not know what is going to happen to the poor farmers, and what is going to happen to our industries that we have in that area. I am afraid, at this rate the day will come soon when Pepsico will dictate whether we should have rice there or potato there or wheat there. Number two, the new cancerous germ called BVO, I am not sure whether Pepsico contains this particular germ or not. I think there has been a lot of discussion on this subject. We have to be very careful about it.

Need to improve working of D.G.C.A.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Madam, with your permission and through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a problem or a situation which I define as alarming, grave, serious, dangerous and I still run out of adjectives to give the right definition of the situation. The situation has arisen because of the total and absolute callousness on the part of a Department called the D.G.C.A. They are showing an attitude of 'couldn't-care-less'.

Safety is the topmost consideration in the industry of civil aviation anywhere in the world. Today, we have so many airbus A 320 sitting on the ground. We are losing a lot of money. But we do not want to risk the lives of passengers and rightly so, the Government has taken the decision that these aircraft will be sitting on the ground till the safety standards, from all angles, are considered. While we are doing this on the one hand, on the other, this agency which is supposed to be looking after nothing else but safety standards is flouting a lot of safety norms.

In this connection, Madam, I have to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the unfortunate air crash at Bangalore. It was agonising for the relatives—I have seen this on television; besides, there have been reports in the Press—that the firefighting men could not reach the site of the accident. They saw the bodies, human beings, being burnt and turned into charcoal in front of their naked eyes, but they could not—I emphasise the words 'could not'—reach the site of the accident because a gate, an iron-gate, was locked and access to the site of the accident was blocked. Normally,—in fact, it is mandatory—the keys of this particular gate are supposed to be with each and every crew of the firefighting service. But none of them ever had it. Therefore, it took a very long time—in such emergencies, even fraction of a second is not only important but, in fact, vital—for securing the safety of the passengers who were almost in flames. Because of this, so many lives were lost. I would like to quote from various newspaper... (*Time-bell rings*) which came out with headlines such as "Safety norms may have saved the A-320", "Officials callous about the airport's safety", "Pilots express doubts over implementation of proposals", etc. I personally feel that this is a very serious issue. While the A-320 aircraft are sitting on the ground, the DGCA, is merrily flouting all the safety norms.