

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS TO EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Madam, before the House takes up a general discussion on the Bill, I would like to share with the House the reasons for bringing forward this amendment.

According to Section 5 of the UGC Act, a person appointed as Chairman, unless he becomes disqualified for continuing as Chairman under the Rules, shall hold office for a term of five years and a person appointed as Vice-Chairman or other member shall hold office for a term of three years. This Section further provides that office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be whole time and salaried and that the terms and conditions of their service shall be prescribed by the Rules. Rules have been notified under these provisions specifying the disqualifications and also the terms and conditions of service. As part of the terms and conditions of service of Chairman, the Rules provide that unless there is a contract to the contrary, the Chairman shall retire on attaining the age of 65 years. However, in the case of Vice-Chairman there is no provision in the Rules which prescribes an age of retirement.

Doubts have been expressed that the provision in the Rules relating to the age of retirement goes beyond the scope of the provision in the Act. Since the Act mentions a 5 year tenure for the Chairman, a view has been expressed that the tenure cannot be curtailed by the Rules framed under the Act,

In order that the matter is placed beyond all doubts, we propose to make a provision in the Act itself that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the UGC shall hold their respective offices for the prescribed terms or until they attain the

age of 65 whichever is earlier. The Bill I before the House seeks to incorporate this provision in the UGC Act.

The composition of the UGC provide* for the appointment of two members to represent the Central Government from among its officers. The Act also provides that a person who has held office for two terms in any capacity shall not be eligible for any further appointment. In practice, however, it may happen that the officers of the Central Government who are presently appointed by virtue of the offices they hold, may serve the Commission for short spells and become eligible for reappointment. The restriction of two terms may place a limitation on these appointments. We thought it desirable that this limitation is removed which in any case does not seem necessary because appointment of these two Members are made by virtue of their offices. The amendment, therefore, makes a provision to remove this restriction in the case of the representatives of the Central

I Government on the Commission

Madam, the amendments are simple and formal. We have also ensured that the amended provisions will operate only in the case of those persons appointed after the amendment has come into effect. I am sure this Bill will receive the support from all the sections of the House.

With these words, Madam, I move that the UGC (Amendment) Bill, 1985 be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM, (West Bengal): Hon. Deputy Chairman, this amending Bill, as the hon. Education Minister just now gave us to know, firstly seeks to do away with the existing inconsistency between the UGC Act and the Rules made thereunder regarding the provisions of retirement of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, etc. of the University Grants Commission. I do not find any reason in objecting to this amendment to the original Act. Secondly, as the hon. Minister said just now, there is a two-term restriction on the Members of the-

University Grants Commission, and the second amendment seeks to exclude two of the Members of the UGC who are chosen from Government officers to » represent the Central Government on the UGC. Here, again, I do not object to this amendment. But, Madam Deputy Chairman, a discussion on this Amending Bill definitely provides us with an opportunity to make an assessment on the working of the University Grants Commission itself. The Government has been very prompt to bring these two amendments, but the Government is not showing that much of promptness in bringing about certain other amendments necessary to the University Grants Commission Act, the amendments which the Democratic Teachers Movement of our country has long been demanding. I would like to draw the attention of this august House, through you, Madam, to certain defects and deficiencies in the composition and functioning of the University Grants Commission.

Madam, I would like to reiterate what on an earlier occasion, while participating on an amendment to the University-Grants Commission Act, I said, namely, that since its inception the UGC has remained and it continues to remain an undemocratic body. I say this because all the members of the UGC are nominated members and nominated obviously by the Central Government. Now, Madam, there has been a long-standing demand of the organised democratic teachers movement of our country to have representation to the UGC from the teachers organisations of the country. I do not say that the UGC has no distinguished teacher as its member. I do not even say that the UGC lacks in academicians as its members. But to have a distinguished! academician or a distinguished teacher as a nominated member in the UGC and to have representatives from the organised democratic teachers' movement, these are, you would agree, Madam entirely different things. Representation from the democratic teachers' movement of our country, having their direct day to day experience of the affairs of education in the country can definitely help the UGC in arriving at correct decisions, in pursu-

ing correct policies. I would like to emphasise that there is an all-India Teachers' Organisation in our country, and that is the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' organisation. Would the hon. Minister start thinking of having representation from this All India Teachers Organisation of the country into the University Grants Commission, and, if that is done, I think that the present UGC, so far as its composition is concerned, it may be made a bit more democratic. That is my humble submission to the hon. Minister, through you Madam.

Secondly, the composition of the UGC suffers from a serious inadequacy viewed from the context of the operation of a federal polity in our country. You know, Madam, that the UGC is charged with the responsibility of looking after the entire higher education of our country. But there is no distinct representation from the States. States, as States, have no representation in the University Grants Commission. This can be introduced by inducting a member by rotation on a rotational basis, from the States. Some States, to begin with, can be given distinct representation in the body of the University Grants Commission. (Time bell ring) I would most humbly ask the hon. Minister what is her thinking on this line?

Thirdly, another defect from which the University Grants Commission suffers from the operational point of view is this. This is definitely a highly centralised body having its only seat of functioning situated at Delhi. The University Grants Commission is not merely an institution to dole out some money to different colleges and universities of our country but as we all know, the University Grants Commission is charged with the responsibility of looking after the betterment of educational atmosphere in our country, providing for research facilities, encouraging more research projects throughout the country via universities and colleges of our country. Having its only seat of functioning in New Delhi. I am at a loss to understand how can the University Grants Commission manage the entire affairs throughout the country. So my suggestion to the hon.

[Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem] Minister is that the Government should start thinking of opening some regional offices of the University Grants Commission. Policy matters may be kept at the highest level; but to manage other affairs, giving more incentives to the educational institutions, providing more opportunities for research work etc., the University Grants Commission, in order to manage its affairs in a better way, should start thinking of opening up more regional offices in at least some parts of the country. I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister to this point

There is one thing more to which I would like to draw the attention of this august House and also the hon. Minister in particular. Levying of capitation fee by any educational institution in any form, is considered to be a social evil. It has been a persistent demand; there has been this demand from many quarters and rightly so that there should be a total ban on the system of levying capitation fee by any educational institution in any form. And we made a demand in this august House for a comprehensive legislation, for a complete legislation to do away with this evil practice. But what the Government did was—I would like to remind the hon. Minister what her predecessor did was—to make a minor adjustment in the UGC Act itself in 1984. We are for a separate complete Act, for a comprehensive legislation to tackle this menace which our educational field is facing but certain minor adjustments were made and were attempted at by the other amending Bill which did not completely eradicate the capitation fee system but tried to regulate the capitation fee system. In spite of that dose of deterrent provided by that amending Act, it is our information and press reports are very much there that some colleges in some parts of the country are still taking capitation fees in different forms. The Government or the UGC has not been able to tackle this problem. So, I would request the hon. Minister to clarify and tell the House what steps have already been taken by the UGC and what the UGC is thinking of taking more stringent measures to do away with this evil practice.

With an eager expectation that the hon. Minister would kindly take the trouble of clarifying the points I have raised, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU (Orissa): I stand to support this Bill. As explained by the hon. Minister, this is a very inconsequential Bill which wants to remove certain difficulties in the enforcement of the rules. The main purpose/ as has been pointed out is that while the Chairman's retirement age at 65 has been < prescribed the retirement age of Vice-Chairman has not been prescribed. So this has been incorporated now. Then, the restriction of two terms is sought to be relaxed wherein the Central Government nominees will not be liable to restriction of two terms that exists today.

It raises a very fundamental question. Though I support the Bill, I would suggest to the hon Minister that in the sphere of education, research and training, it is essential that we must reorient our outlook. I am glad that this two-term* restriction is being removed in respect of Govt. nominees. I think, this should not, be there at all. Then only, guidance can be given to the scholars. Madam, the system of education in the present day is undergoing lot of change. The middle-age formula of scholastic attitude in class-rooms is no longer there. It is tending to be more dynamic, more relevant to the needs of the society and more vitally concerned with the developmental needs* of the country. When we see the recent history of many countries in the world, We find that a revolutionary change has taken place in this field. For example, in the U.S.A., they could develop scientifically more because trained persons from Europe went over there. There has been a seething change of academic revolution, which has helped in the progress of the > country. Now, in this context, Madam, we have to see how we can bring about reforms in our educational policy. The University Grants Commission is one of the premier institutions for the purpose of promoting higher education and guide the research activities in our* country. No doubt, India has progressed considerably.

It is among the first five nations in the world, as far as scientific manpower is concerned. In the last Session, we passed the Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill which aims at a system of distant learning. It is modelled on the * pattern of such universities in some other countries. In U.K., for example, there are open universities. In the U.S.A., there are, what are called, open wall universities. In India, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of higher educational institutions in the three decades of independence. The ques-

* tion is how much they are relevant to the present day needs of the society, how much they are research-oriented, how much they are development-oriented. The students in the universities should be motivated, the system should be reoriented so that it is relevant to the social needs of the society. UGC can play a vital role in this regard. What is needed today is not some piecemeal prescriptions but there should be a new alternative strategy in regard to the educational policy. The Prime Minister has asked the people to prepare themselves for the

* Twenty-first Century. He has very rightly said, while he was at Santiniketan some days back, that students must develop the spirit of enquiry. It should not be that you give some bookish knowledge to the students in the universities with a view to passing the examination. What is needed is a system of education which helps in developing the genius among the students. Madam, India has a long and glorious tradition. I would like to refer to the beautiful sentence in the Kothari Commis-

sion's Report which says 'When civilisation dawned in the world, India was in the limelight'. But now, we are at the receiving end of the pipeline. We wait for Western ideas, thoughts and other things. > The UGC has a very vital role in evolving a new and dynamic educational policy and in setting up research-oriented institutions. Though this is not the proper occasion, I would suggest one thing to the hon. Minister here. In every university, there should be specialised research in a particular field, which is necessary for the country. This should be financed by the UGC. Of course, this should be of relevance to the needs of the country. In

many countries of the World, a lot of money is being spent on research. Even private companies ask the universities to continue research in regard to commercial products so that the genius of the students is made use of and it is used for the benefit of the country.

Now, I do not understand why this two-term restriction has been put. In any case, there would be no restriction in the case of Central Government nominees. This Will ensure some continuity in the UGC, in the thinking process. The other important thing is, though there has been a mushroom growth of universities and higher educational institutions, many of these institutions have no proper buildings, no proper apparatus and there is no proper atmosphere in these institutions. So, it is high time that our education budget went up and up. We should see that these institutions develop properly because they are the temples where depends the future of our educationists, scientists and the country as a whole. If there is no proper manpower, if there is no proper motivation, however we may plan or spend, ultimately the result or the end product will not be so beautiful. So, in the international sphere development of educational perspective is very important and the UGC has to play a vital role. Already the UGC has played a role in this field but not to the extent to which it is expected. The other day I was going through the material in connection with the educational institutions. We have set up the Indira Gandhi open university. It is a novel idea. The Bill is passed and, the Vice-Chancellor has also been appointed. I was going through the syllabus developed by a U.K. university. They took two to three years to prepare the syllabus, but the syllabus so prepared was better and that is why more and more people were attracted. Many of our students cannot continue with their education. So, if distant education, formal education is abolished and informal education is there, talent of many a people can be exposed. Everybody in this country has not the same opportunity. In the history of the world we see that many of the scientists did not have formal education and still they had the mind of questioning

[Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu] and so they came out with some new discoveries. In India also we had lots of talent earlier. Even as back as 4000 years we could create *Vedas* and *Upnishu-das*, we could cenceive of *Grahas* and *Upagrahas* or the planets. All this study was done probably without the availability of telescopes or modern machinery. So, we should encourage our youngmen and make them available through informal education. I hope the hon. Education Minister will look into it and see that the UGC is made a more resourceful-body .so that it can organise universities into centres of modern research and real temples for preparation of the future generation of the country. Our education should have more of a social content and should be such as to take this country into the Twenty-first century.

Coming to motivation, it is necessary to inculcate nationalism. We have neglected this aspect so long. We do not have many chapters in our education for the development of our country as one nation. That is why the country is now facing the fissiparous tendencies and the tendencies of destabilisation. Our new generation is born after the freedom struggle. Projection of new thoughts must be there mlo the syllabus of the University eurriculum. A new sense of nationalism, a new sense of devotion to the country and its upliftment should be created.

Coming to the Bill, it is n consequential Bill, but the hon. Education Minister should come up in future with these new projections, new thoughts and see that the budget for education is mor, than establishing an industry or other infrastructure. This is because education actually creates 'man'. The man runs the industry, and it distributes the benefit to the society, without which probably this whole educa-tionel structure will break down at some point of time. So, it is high time that we prepared man through the UGC. Therefore, we should see that the UGC plays a better role in improving the educational quality in our universities. The UGC should make universities the real p'aces of modern research centres.

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN (Tamil Nadu); Madam Deputy Chairman, the University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1985, a_s is introduced, seems to be too small a Bill and too technical in nature. It seeks only to remove, eliminate certain discrepancies between the rules as well as provisions made in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

So, it is too technical in nature and as such warranted one to be objective. But as my hon. frientd, Shri Mostafa has been spying, it definitely provides an opportunity to think of education and to say something positively about the University Grants Commission itself.

At the very outset I would like to say that the UGC. though it has been armed with a lot of powers from its very inception, has been lethargic for quite some time, at least for quarter of a century, and now when it has come away from slumber, ther_e is a growing ambition in the UGC and this kind of ambition has become a potent challenge, a kind of potential danger to the autonomy of university education. While the UGC sermonises vety often that there should be so much autonomy for the universities as well as colleges affiliated to the universities, I am painfully surprised to see that after a very lethargic posture after a kind of slumber for quarter of a century, now the Univet-sity Grants Commission makes an uncereemonious inroad into th_e autonomy of the colleges. So I am painfully surprised that while the UGC Chairman, Vice-Chairman and most of the members make continuous platitudes on all platforms that they are for autonomy, on the other hand they make an inroad into the autonomy, I cite one example. Recently they have appointed a committee to go into the norms to be prescribed for the Selection Committees for the various universitiess. Now the practice is to select various Heads of Department and teachers o? different colleges of different universities. Suppose there is a university. There is a Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor as well as the nominee of the Visitor, and there are three experts. Among the three experts, two are outside experts and

definitely the Head of Department of the particular University finds a place, because among the three experts two are drafted from outside and there is another expert who belongs to the particular institution from which he comes. Definitely he is answerable, accountable to the student community. What happens here is, there is a recommendation and only the Minister has to explain it to us—and there is a serious consideration on the part of the University Grants Commission to change the entire format now. What the University Grants Commission intends to do is, to make an inroad into the kind of selection, kind of appointment of these experts and what they propose to do now is, what we understand is, to have the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice Chancellor as well as nominee of the Visitor and instead of three experts, there should be one nominee of the Chairman of the UGC and there should be two outside experts. What happens is that there is total elimination, total blockade, of an expert from the very particular institution itself. Suppose there are three experts from outside the precincts of the college, automatically they are not accountable. Tomorrow suppose a wrong impression is created because of wrong appointment, they are not answerable. Unless and until the Minister assures that the University Grants Commission will not affect adversely the autonomy of the universities while selecting those teachers from there itself. I don't think it can satisfy the Members. All along they have been saying that they are protecting the autonomy of the universities as well as colleges. They now try to remove a particular Professor, or Head of Department, of the university itself from this kind of a panel. This is a very serious challenge to the autonomy that the universities are now enjoying. I would like to say that for the last quarter of a century they had some powers. Why has the University Grants Commission not used any of those powers? It has not used most of those powers. The UGC has appointed a Committee recently which, went into the working of the Central universities. It has suggested that the composition of the selection committee should be changed. In case these mem-

bers are from the same university, they would have been held responsible since they are part and parcel of the university. The Central Review Committee has also now said that if a university cannot be made free to formulate the rules and procedure to conduct itself, it should be closed down. Because what happens is that if the Universities Grants Commissions cannot make reliance upon professors of a particular university or college, there is no meaning in having those colleges.

1.00 P.M.

Because, the University Grants Commission should have faith in them, faith in their disposition, faith in their behaviour and character. Otherwise, how are the universities going to approve, how are the universities going to accept someone who is being thrust upon them by an outside expert?

In the month of September the University Grants Commission has framed certain regulations under section 26 of the UGC Act. Madam, one of the regulations was that no student would be eligible for admission to university unless he had completed 12 years of schooling. He may be able to get a pass course degree in two years but in order to secure a place in the honours degree course, necessarily he has to complete three years at college after 12 years of school. This particular regulation has, however, been withdrawn under pressure from the State Governments. Here is an opportunity for the University Grants Commission, but here I would like to insist that this is no challenge to the autonomy of the university, because this is something that has to be seriously looked into. Here, because of pressure from the State Governments the University Grants Commission has withdrawn the very regulation itself. Now the UGC has set up a committee to go into the whole question again.

Though the number of working days has been fixed at 180 by the UGC circular in 1958 itself, in practice the directive has seldom been complied with.

Passed

As my friend, Mr. Mostafa Bin Quasemi has said, the UGC is definitely an undemocratic body. It is a great challenge to the federal polity and it is a highly centralized body. Recently, even the Conference of Educational Ministers of the

"The Constitution of India vests Parliament with exclusive authority in regard to coordination and determination of standards in the institutions of higher education and research and scientific and technical institutions. It is obvious, neither coordination nor determination of

standards is possible unless the Central Government has some voice in the determination of the standards of teaching and examination in universities, both old and new. It is also necessary to ensure that the available resources are utilised to be best possible effect."

और इन सारी बातों को ध्यान में रखकर इस आयोग की स्थापना हुई है। 1954 में जब यह विधेयक आया था तो इसे ज्वाइंट कमेटी के हवाले कर दिया गया और वह ज्वाइंट कमेटी इतनी महत्वपूर्ण थी कि उसके सदस्य स्वयं मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद, इन्द्र विद्याविद्या वाचस्पति, डा. रघुवीर आदि थे। इस प्रकार के बड़े बड़े विद्वानों की यह ज्वाइंट कमेटी थी। नतीजा यह हुआ कि फिर एक विधेयक आया 1956 में जिसने कानून का रूप लिया।

आज तक मैं समझता हूँ, जहाँ तक मुझे स्मरण है 5 संशोधन आ चुके हैं। 1966 में आया, 1972 में आया, 1984 में आया, और यह संभवतः पांचवा है नहीं तो चौथा तो है ही। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है जब मैं देखता हूँ कि 1964 में एक नीति हुई थी और उसके आधार पर डा. पी. एन. रात्रि की अध्यक्षता में एक कमेटी बनी थी संसद सदस्यों की और उस कमेटी ने कुछ अनुशंसाएँ की, तदनुसार 1966 में श्री छागला साहब उपस्थित हुए इसमें संशोधन लेकर, फिर हमने देखा कि किस तरह से 1972 में भी जब उसमें आवश्यक परिवर्तन की आवश्यकता महसूस हुई तो नुरुल हसन साहब एक नया संशोधन लेकर आये। मुझे आश्चर्य इस बात पर होता है कि प्रायः इन सभी संशोधनों में सदस्य कहाँ कहाँ के होंगे, फार्मेशन आफ कमीशन क्या होगा और 9 सदस्य होंगे या 11 अथवा 12 होंगे, किसका टर्म कितने दिन का होगा, किसको कैसे हटा दिया जायेगा, किसको कैसे जोड़ दिया जायेगा इसी पर संशोधन लगातार आते चले जा रहे हैं जो कि मैं समझता हूँ विल्कुल औपचारिक और संबंधी बात है और एक बार उस पर विचार कर लेना चाहिये कि हमें क्या करना है जिससे हमारा यह इतना बड़ा संगठन, इतनी बड़ी संस्था,

हमारा इतना बड़ा जो यह आयोग है यह ठीक ठीक चल सके। यह आर्डिनरी रूटीन वर्क की बात होनी चाहिये और मेम्बरों को लेकर इतना बावला नहीं होना चाहिये।

इस बीच में एक संशोधन ऐसा आया श्रीमता शीला कौल जी उसे 1984 में लेकर आयीं जिसने वैसे तो मई में कुलपतियों के दो दिन के अधिवेशन के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर उन्होंने अपने भाषण में यह कहा था कि उच्च शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में बहुत बड़े विस्तार के साथ वे कुछ करने वाली हैं और कोई नई नीति घोषित हो रही है मगर उसके बाद जो संशोधन आया यूनिवर्सिटीज ग्रांट कमीशन के लिये तो उसमें कैपिटेशन फी को लेकर उसे सीमित कर दिया गया। कैपिटेशन फी हमारी समझ से हमारी शिक्षा के उद्देश्यों से, उसके महान आदर्श और उसकी उपलब्धियों से बहुत कुछ जुड़ा हुआ नहीं है, वह अर्थ से जुड़ी हुई बात थी। और उसमें एक नियम बनाकर रख दिया जा सकता था कि कोई भी जो कालेज या जो विश्वविद्यालय कैपिटेशन-फीस लेगा, उसको हम अनुदान नहीं देंगे, बात खत्म हो जाती। मगर आज फिर जब हमारे सामने यह संशोधन आया है, तो मुझे आश्चर्य होता है कि फिर वही बात है, मुझे लगता है कि इस आयोग को लेफ्ट और राइट से बचाना चाहिए, इस आयोग को किसी झुकाव से बचाना चाहिए। हमारे यहाँ जिस प्रकार के शिक्षा मंत्री होते हैं, उस प्रकार से उसकी व्यवस्था में, उसके अधिकारियों की व्यवस्था में, उसके निर्वाचन में एक नया सुझाव लेकर आते हैं और हम उसे मानते हैं। चूंकि हमें मालूम है कि उन्हें यह विभाग चलाना है, इसलिये उन्हें यह सहूलियत मिलनी चाहिए ताकि काम ठीक से हो सके, उस पर वह ठीक से निगरानी रख सकें। इसलिये मैं हृदय से इस संशोधन का स्वागत करता हूँ।

महोदया, मैं इस संशोधन के संबंध में अभी दो-चार शब्द निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ

[श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज]

कि माननीय मंत्री जी से कि विधायिका आयु की सीमा से मुक्त होती है, न्याय-पालिका में आयु-सीमा 65 वर्ष तक मानी गयी है और कार्य-पालिका तथा स्व-शासी संस्थाओं में 65 वर्ष तक का प्रावधान रखा जाता है। विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग की महता के अनुरूप अध्यक्ष की आयु-सीमा 65 वर्ष की होनी चाहिये, इसमें मुझे कोई संदेह नहीं है और मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन मेरा सुझाव इसमें यह है कि स्वास्थ्य के आधार पर सेवा-विस्तार का प्रावधान होना चाहिये, क्योंकि शिक्षा-विद् जितनी उम्र-दराज होते जाते हैं, हम यह मानकर चलते हैं कि उतने अच्छे पंडित होते जाते हैं, वे उतने विद्वान होते जाते हैं, वे उतने अधिक विशेषज्ञ होते जाते हैं, इसलिये उनकी सेवाओं का लाभ लेना चाहिये। इसलिये अगर मैडीकली-फिट है, और उनका स्वास्थ्य ठीक है और काम करने की स्थिति में है, तो उन्हें और भी सेवा का समय दिया जाना चाहिये, हालांकि 70 वर्ष से अधिक आयु में बढ़ाना ठीक नहीं होगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Age is a quality of mind.

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : तो यह मेरी राय है, मेरा सुझाव है, मंत्री महोदया के लिये। अभी मैं समझता हूँ कि यह नहीं हो सकेगा, मगर मैं अपना सुझाव तो दे सकता हूँ।

महोदया, मेरा सुझाव और है और वह यह है कि यह पूरा एक परिवार है और परिवार के सभी सदस्य हैं, उनमें कोई अध्यक्ष होता है, कोई उपाध्यक्ष होता है, कोई सदस्य होता है, कोई सेक्रेटरी होता है, उसके लिये मेरा सुझाव है कि उसमें समानता होनी चाहिये, इस नियम में अगर 65 वर्ष की आयु-सीमा रखते हैं और अगर उपयोगिता और स्वास्थ्य के आधार पर समय-सीमा बढ़ा देते हैं, तो यह सभी के लिए बढ़ायें, सभी के लिये एक नियम

बनायें और अलग-अलग लोग अपने-अपने कटघरे में बन्द न हों। यह मेरा एक निवेदन है कि माननीय मंत्री महोदया से।

इसके बाद अन्त में मैं एक विशेष निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। संभव है, माननीय मंत्री जी यह मानने को तैयार न हों कि यह कोई संशोधन विधेयक का हिस्सा है, मगर शिक्षा का हिस्सा है। जो कुछ हम बात कर रहे हैं विश्व-विद्यालय अनुदान आयोग पर, इस लिए बात कर रहे हैं कि हम शिक्षा को प्राथमिकता देते हैं। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी जो इक्कीसवीं सदी में शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में प्रवेश चाहते हैं, जो उनका मनसूबा है। जिस तरह देश को आगे ले चलना चाहते हैं उस गति में चलने की क्षमता को हमको अपने में पैदा करनी पड़ेगी, चाहे वह कानून से पैदा हो, चाहे मेरी सेवा से पैदा हो। इसलिए मैं ह्यूमेन रिसोर्सेज पर कुछ कहूंगा। ह्यूमेन रिसोर्सेज की जो यह मिनिस्ट्री बनी है, तो आप स्वयं वहाँ उपस्थित थीं, मैंने कामन वेल्थ कांफ्रेंस में अभी कनाडा में कहा था, भाषण किया था, एजुकेशनल मोबिलिटी इन कामन वेल्थ कंट्रीज में मैंने इसका जिक्र किया था और कहा था कि आज किस तरह से हमारे देश में, हमारे देश के युवा प्रधान मंत्री देश की युवा शक्ति को आह्वान कर रहे हैं। इस युवा शक्ति को भी रिसोर्सेज मान रहे हैं और पापुलेशन का भार नहीं मान रहे हैं और यह दुनियां को बता देने को तैयार हैं कि वे हमारे लिए जैसे और रिसोर्सेज हैं, वैसे ही ह्यूमन रिसोर्सेज और और यह भी हमारे लिए उपयोगी हैं, आवश्यक है और अनिवार्य है, इसका उपयोग करेंगे। इससे हमारा देश आगे बढ़ेगा।

उसी प्रसंग में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जरूरी है कि देश स्वास्थ्य

ठीक रहे और मैडिकल कॉलेजों को जो अनुदान मिलता है, उसमें अनुदान आयोग की ओर से कोई असमानता न बरती जाये, सरकार की ओर से अधिक अनुदान मिले। यह मैं इसलिये कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि आल इंडिया इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ मैडिकल साइंसेज को अधिक अनुदान मिलता है। और भी बड़े-बड़े मैडिकल कॉलेज हैं। अकेले इन्स्टीट्यूट के डॉक्टर ही सारे देश की सेवा नहीं कर सकते, वे ही ह्युमन रिसोर्स नहीं हैं। जो देश में फैले हुए मैडिकल कॉलेज हैं, उनकी ओर भी सरकार का, शिक्षा मंत्रालय का विशेष ध्यान जाना चाहिये और अनुदान के मामले में उनको अन्य संस्थानों के समान स्तर पर ले जाना चाहिये। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं हृदय से इस संशोधन का स्वागत और समर्थन करता

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA
(West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, the amendments sought by this Bill appear to be inconsequential and almost, all the Members, who have spoken before me have supported them by and large but in giving their support to the Bill, Hon'ble Members have raised a few points with regard to the functioning of the U.G.C. I do not know whether those points are strictly relevant to the subject matter of the bill but since they have been raised, I want to express my humble views on some of these points. It has been said that the University Grants Commission is an undemocratic body, in the sense that all its Members are nominated by the Central Government. Of course, it is not the contention that the Members, so nominated, are unfit to hold their posts or they lack sufficient academic qualifications for the posts that they are holding. The complaints seem to be that there have been demands from an All India Teachers Organization for election and the demand has not been conceded. Personally speaking, I would have been happy if an element of election could be introduced into the formation of the University Grants Commission but the danger is that once you introduce this element of election, which may be highly desirable otherwise,

there is the possibility, a big chance of the University Grants Commission itself being politicalised and that possibility of politicalisation has to be avoided in the larger interests of education in this country, lie lieve, in fact, I have no doubt that there is substance in the contention that since the U.G.C. is operating as a federal organization, it should have some representations from the States on the principle of rotation in choosing representatives from the States. It appears to be a sound principle which should be considered by the Hon'ble Minister. It is true that as regards capitation fees, the policy of the UGC has not yet been satisfactory. Capitation fee seems to be a social evil which we should try to eliminate altogether rather than sanctioning it even to some extent.

My hon. friend, Mr. Sahu, thinks that imposition of length of tenure on the members of the Commission is not desirable. I respectfully disagree with him. The present amendment seeks to confine the tenure to not more than two terms. This, I believe, is a sound principle because, after all, education itself is a dynamic subject. It is an evolutionary science and new approaches do appear from time to time. Therefore, persons with new ideas, with new thinking horizons should be given chances to serve on this Commission as and when required. But I would respectfully point out to the hon. Minister that the UGC under the parent Act has got a fundamental responsibility and that responsibility is of coordination and determination of standards of universities. I hope she will agree that in recent times, quality and standards have been progressively going down, and universities unfortunately are being created in our country like mushrooms the standards of some of which appear to be very poor indeed. Newspapers have reported cases where a thesis rejected by one university has been accepted by another university for a Ph. D. degree. This is a regrettable state of affairs which the University Grants Commission must try to correct.

Secondly, if we have to go by newspaper reports, we find that very little of Fundamental Research is taking place in universities. Fundamental Research, is taking place

New a word about the UGC ma, not b© cut of place. Madam Deputy Chairmin, may I take this opportunity to uree the Government that it should come forward sooner rather than later with a more com-perhensive Bill on the *XJGC*? We have come ilons way since 1957. With the ramd expansion of education at all levels including the higher education, the UGC has obviously enlarged itself in its size, responsibilities and activities since the time when it was first set up in 1956. There are about 140 universities and over 5000 colleees in the country. It is well-heigh impossible for the UGC to look after such a large number of institutions

with its limited number of members. Apart from the Chairman and the Vice-chairman who are full-time salaried members, all the other ten members of the UGC are honorary and are otherwise fully occupied with their own responsibilities either as vice-chancellors, teachers or as officers. And, according to my information, the UGC meets once every month, has a very heavy agenda, with the result that members have hardly any time to go deep into matters in need of deep attention and consideration in the three or four or five hours at their disposal in these meetings. There is hardly any time to examine the working of the universities or colleges thoroughly let alone studying its problems, its needs, its developmental aspirations or failures in real detail. In other words, if I may be permitted to say so, it is impossible to expect from the deliberations of the UGC any sustained and detailed consideration, on specific issues pertaining to these portals of higher learning in the country. It is true that the UGC appoints committees and sub-committees for examining certain issues and it is also true that the reports of such committees are submitted to the monthly UGC meetings. But, perhaps due to paucity of time at their disposal and the agenda being heavy, these reports rarely get the attention and consideration that they rightly deserve. It is rather an unhappy situation. May I request the honourable Minister to consider having more full-time members on the UGC and also determining the distribution of work among them on specific and rational lines? The main task of the UGC is to determine and maintain the standard of higher education. The machinery evolved by the UGC for this purpose is to have panels of experts in every discipline of higher education. But, I am afraid the outcome of their contribution may not be heartening, if we inquire into their working. It has been reported that the panel on philosophy met only once in a period of two or three years and one is rather prone to conclude that this may be equally true of other disciplines as well. May I suggest to the honourable Minister that this situation needs to be looked into?

Madam, the UGC has been reduced or has reduced itself to a mere executive body and it is no wonder. It has hardly

made any appreciable contribution towards the restructuring or recasting of the courses of study or in providing an academic lead to university education. May I suggest that the UGC may be reconstituted so that it may have as one of its wings a council of academicians, charged with the responsibility of framing model syllabi, bringing out publications of high standard of learning materials and thus providing standard guidelines to writers of textbooks and reference books? The Harvard University has published 56 volumes called the "Harvard Classics" which contain the treasures of knowledge of the Occident. It is high time that the UGC took upon itself the task of bringing out equally important publications which would unravel, and present to our students and teachers the rich treasures of knowledge of the Orient, acquaint them with the grandeur of our age-old wisdom, our gems of knowledge and learning and also acquaint them with the beauty of our philosophy of synthesis, the sublime symphony created by our divergent ethnic cultures, the rich mosaic of unity in diversity, that is India.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Very beautiful!

SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: The UGC has been pleading for the restructuring of the courses. May I know from the honourable Minister whether the UGC has brought out any book or publication corresponding to or in accordance with their ideas about this restructuring of the courses as yet? Personally, I confess my ignorance in this regard. I am afraid the mere restructuring of the courses will not make much headway unless the UGC provides guidelines by way of model books, etc. May I urge upon the Government to see that the UGC is so reconstituted that it may be able to discharge this all-important basic responsibility?

Coming to examination reforms, about which we have been talking and writing since I do not remember how many years, the UGC has certainly given some guidelines. May I ask again as to how many Universities have followed and implemented those guidelines? The time has come, Madam, when we must ask as to what is wrong with the UGC. The new educational policy is on the anvil and

[Shrimati Krishna Kaul]

tion-wide debates are going on concerning it. I am confident that the Ministry of Human Resources Development will give its valuable attention of reorganising and restructuring the UGC so that it is able to play a meaningful role towards improving and enriching higher education and thereby attain its rightful place in the scheme of higher education and a prestigious position in our new education policy. Before concluding, I would like to put in a word about the dependency on and the relationship of UGC with school and primary education. The importance of early education can never be over-emphasised. To quote the proverb 'just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined', school education provides the foundation on which the entire edifice of education is built. Standards of higher education are the unfolding and development of the standards of school education. It may be worthwhile considering the need of having one national body charged with the statutory obligation of determining and maintaining standards of school education and along with it a machinery set up to coordinate the working of this new national body and the UGC.

With these few suggestions which, I do hope, will receive the attention of the con. Minister of Education, I support the UGC (Amendment) Bill, 1985, which has been brought to further amend the UGC Act of 1956.

Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stand adjourned till 2.30 for lunch. The House adjourned for lunch, at thirty-six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock. The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): The hon. Minister, Mr. Scindia, will lay on the Table a statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1985-86.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS) FOR 1985-86

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1985-86. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1570/85.]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE). Now, we take up further discussion on the University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1985. Shri Babul Reddy—not here. Shri Vaghela.

THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985— Contd.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला (गुजरात) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय! यूनीवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमिशन के बारे में हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने आज कहा कि शिक्षा के साथ उसके चेंबरमैन और अच्छे वाइसचेंबरमैन की नियुक्ति होनी चाहिये। आज चेंबरमैन और वाइसचेंबरमैन की जो नियुक्ति होती है वह पोलिटिकल होती है। इसके बारे में जो इसकी उम्र के साथ तीन साल और पांच साल जोड़ा जा रहा है। वह अच्छा है लेकिन जो भी चेंबरमैन और दूसरे डाइरेक्टर्स की इसमें नियुक्ति होती है वह शिक्षाविद् होना चाहिये। शिक्षा के बारे में उनका कंटीड्यूशन होना चाहिये वह कंटीड्यूशन आम तौर पर जितना होना चाहिये वह होता नहीं है बल्कि पोलिटिकल होने के हिसाब से सरकार उनको नियुक्त करती है। इनके आदेश से ही सब चलता है इसलिये शिक्षा में जो शिक्षा आनी चाहिये वह रह जाती है और पोलिटिक्स इसमें ज्यादा आता है। मैडम वाइस चेंबरमैन, आज हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी सबको 21वीं सदी में ले जाने के लिए कह रहे हैं। अभी इंदिरा गांधी ओपेन यूनिवर्सिटी की बात भी आई थी। लेकिन आज का युवक जो है वह आज की हमारी शिक्षा से असंतुष्ट है। दिन ब दिन जितने हमारे कॉलेज चलते हैं और उनमें से जो नवयुवक,