

**REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR
EARLY CLEARANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR SETTING UP OF NEW
MINI-CEMENT PLANTS IN
KARNATAKA**

SHRI B. IBRAHIM (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you very much for providing me this opportunity.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government to the question of clearing of pending applications for new mini-cement plants in Karnataka. Sir, we have got at present two such mini-plants working satisfactorily in our State and these cement plants have been producing good quality cement and they are meeting all the requirements of cement in the rural areas. I learn, Sir, that 21 applications are at present pending with the Central Government which have been recommended by the State Government and I understand that they are awaiting either DGTD registration or letters of intent from the Government of India. I would like to state that early clearance should be given to these applications so that these projects are implemented quickly. Early implementation of these projects, as I have mentioned earlier, would greatly help in tiding over the difficulty caused by the present shortage of cement. As my learned colleague, Shrimati Alva is suggesting, we have an apprehension that these projects may go to some other State also. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to this and I would request the concerned Minister, Sir, to expedite this as early as possible. Thank you, Sir.

**REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED
ISSUE OF A CONTROVERSIAL CIRCULAR BY THE EASTERN REGIONAL
OFFICE OF THE UNION EDUCATION
MINISTRY**

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to |

bring a serious matter to the notice of the House and of the Government.

Sir, recently, the eastern Regional Office of the Ministry of Education has issued a circular to the Universities and such other educational institutions. The circular is of a peculiar nature and it has created resentment in the academic circles in the State. The Minister looking after higher education in West Bengal—the Higher Education Minister is now unwell—Mr. Nirmla Bose met the Union Minister of Education, Shrimati Sheila Kaul, on the 7th May to protest against the issue of this circular and he requested her to have it withdrawn. The way the Regional Office sent the circular without the authority of the Union Education Ministry direct to the Universities instead of sending it through the State Government is something unusual.

Usually, the UGC furnishes the information, if any is required. This shows the scant regard for the State jurisdiction as also the autonomy of the Universities. Besides, no reason for seeking the information has been adduced. The apprehension is whether the Universities are sought to be utilised as conduits of intelligence for the Government. Otherwise, what is the object of seeking information on an agitation of teachers, students and non-teaching staff? If the object was academic, the best agency to collect the information would have been the UGC. Sir, a monthly report on em courses, projects, agitation, etc. has been sought for latest by the third of the following month. Sir, the interesting thing is that this circular bears the date of 1st January, and the date of despatch is the 6th January. But in the circular it is stated that the report should be sent so as to reach the office of the 'undersigned' latest by the 3rd of the month following. Then, it has been explained that the report for the month of January should reach latest by the 3rd of February. By what machinery the report will be prepared, nobody knows. And that should be sent by

the 3rd of the following month. This is a very unthinking circular.

So, Sir, I would repeat the request that I made to the Union Education Minister, Shrimati Sheila Kaul, in my letter of the 3rd May to immediately withdraw the circular and see that such iH-conceived circulars are not sent to the detriment of the relationship that exists.

Thank you. Sir.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED WORLD BANK'S SUGGESTION FOR TAX ON FARM INCOME

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make a Special Mention. It is about the World Bank news that has come—'Bank for tax on farm income'. Sir, I draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the Finance Minister, particularly to the suggestion of the World Bank. Sir, it is said hetfe, and I quote:

"Its package comprises a cess on crops to supplement land revenue or the 'more attractive' alternative of an agriculture holdings tax (as the Raj Committee had proposed), expenditure tax both at individual and corporate levels on conspicuous consumption, accompanied by a lowering in the marginal rate of income-tax, ten per cent increase in electricity tariff..."

Sir, the entire package is to the detriment of the agriculture sector, and I strongly object...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can make this point when the Finance Bill is discussed.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I would only want to mention that I object to the World Bank giving advice to the Minister of Finance or to the Government of India. If I may say, the IMF tentacles are being spread on the whole economy of this country. That is what I am objecting to. The point that I am making out is that

many States have got agricultural holding tax. We in Maharashtra are paying, based on the crop and the potentiality of the crop making profits.

Sir, in this connection, it is said that this should be done before the Aid India Consortium meeting is to be held in Paris on 14th and 15th of June. Through you, Sir, I draw the attention of the Government. This should not be done at all, and at any cost the Government of India should not succumb to such threats by the World Bank or the IMF.

REFERENCE TO THE ALLEGED PROVOCATIONS BY PAKISTAN IN THE POONCH SECTOR

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to make a Special Mention and draw the attention of the Government to a matter of public importance.

Sir, the supply of arms by the US and China to Pakistan have encouraged the Pakistani forces to flare up on borders near Poonch on 25th April, and a fresh flare up on the line of actual control has been reported from the Poonch Sector in North-West Kashmir. According to the reports, exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops was reported after a group of Pakistanis intruded into the Indian territory and forcibly occupied a piece of land there and within minutes opened fire on two Indian pickets in the area.

Sir, it has also been reported that following that day Pakistanis fired on Indian positions with medium machine guns and a heavy loss of life and injury was also reported. Sir, it has further been reported that the Pakistani air force authorities are constructing an underground air force station at Ghorra Maar near Mahuta in the Hajipur area of the Pakistan-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir State.