

अधीन पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय (पेट्रोलियम विभाग) की निम्न-लिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (i) मिट्टी का तेल (अधिकतम मूल्यों का निर्धारण) संशोधन आदेश, 1978 को प्रकाशित करने वाली सा० का० नि० सं० 156 (ई) दिनांक 1 मार्च, 1978 ।
- (ii) लाइट डीजल तेल (अधिकतम मूल्यों का निर्धारण) संशोधन आदेश, 1978 को प्रकाशित करने वाली सा० का० नि० सं० 157 (ई), दिनांक 1 मार्च, 1978 ।
- (iii) भट्टी का तेल (अधिकतम मूल्यों का निर्धारण और वितरण) संशोधन आदेश, 1978 को प्रकाशित करने वाली सा० का० नि० सं० 158 (ई),

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2266/78 for (i) to (iii)].

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Financial and other Irregularities in the North-Eastern Hill University

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI (Meghalaya): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture to the reported financial and other irregulari-

ties committed in the North-Eastern Hill University, leading to the collapse of the academic life of the University.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER): Sir, in a news report appearing in the Indian Express of April 27, 1978; which has come to Government's notice, a number of irregularities—administrative, financial and academic—in the North-Eastern Hill University have been alleged.

In accordance with the provisions contained in section 41 of the North-Eastern Hill University Act, the first Court, the first Executive Council and the first Academic Council were to be constituted by the President, who is the Visitor of the University, for a term of three years.

The term of the first Court and the first Executive Council, which were constituted by the Visitor on an ad-hoc basis, expired on July 18, 1976. The draft Statutes regarding the constitution of the Court and the Executive Council were finalised in July 1976. Action to appoint the Visitor's nominee as well as representatives of Parliament on the aforesaid bodies of the University was also simultaneously initiated but due to unavoidable difficulties, the nominations could be finalised only in June 1977. The University also took action to fill up the membership under other constituencies and the new Court and the Executive Council came into existence late in 1977. The Executive Council has already held a number of meetings while a meeting of the Court is expected to be held towards the end of May 1978.

The first Academic Council of the University was constituted by the Visitor for a period of three years in August 1974 and its term came to an end in August 1977. The Executive Council of the University, at its meeting held on March 4, 1978 framed a

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Statute on the constitution of the Academic Council and the same was submitted to this Ministry for obtaining visitor's approval. The draft Statute is receiving consideration and would be finalised shortly.

It is incorrect to say that the Finance Committee of the University is not in existence. The Finance Committee is in existence and has held its last meeting on January 30, 1978, when it finalised revised estimates for 1977-78.

In accordance with section 41 of the University Act, the first Registrar and the first Finance Officer were to be appointed by the Visitor for a term of three years. Statutes regarding the method of appointment of these officers were to be framed by the Executive Council of the University, with the approval of the Visitor, in due course. The University has made a reference to this Ministry on 21-4-78 suggesting that the Visitor may appoint the first Registrar and the first Finance Officer and action to fill up these posts has been initiated by this Ministry. The Vice-Chancellor has also informed this Ministry that the draft Statutes regarding the manner of appointment of future incumbents of the posts of Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and the Finance Officer have been drafted and will be considered by the Executive Council at its next meeting. The draft Statutes, when approved by the Executive Council, will be submitted to the Visitor for approval.

According to the information furnished by the University it is incorrect that the Vice-Chancellor's relations with the Teachers' Association of the University are strained. Government have not received any representation from the Teachers' Association of the University to substantiate this allegation.

The Audit Report on the accounts of the North-Eastern Hill University for 1974-75 has been received and

action to lay the same on the Table of the Parliament is being taken.

According to the information furnished by the University, the academic life in the University is normal. Classes are being held regularly and examination are being held according to the schedule. There is nothing to suggest that there is a collapse of the academic life in the University.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI; Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what those unavoidable circumstances are that delayed so much the constitution of the Court and of the Executive Council. According to the information received, the term of the Executive Council ended on 19th July, 1976. The Central Government issued the statute prescribing the constitution of the next Executive in July 1976. Now, those were the days of the Emergency and the Vice-Chancellor was ruling according to his own liking, without the Executive Council. This statute was locked up, according to my information, and was kept secret. It was only a year later, in July 1977, that this statute was released, and only to the members of the new Council. Then, Sir, there is provision in the Council for members from the Court, but they could not be nominated because there was no Court. Thus the constitution of the Executive Council itself is incomplete. Then, for some time, under clause 12(3) the Vice-Chancellor had been acting on his own though according to this provision it should be only under certain circumstances. But this has been the practice adopted in innumerable circumstances and on innumerable occasions. Then, Sir, the secrecy imposed on the proceedings of the Executive Council, the agenda and the minutes protected the Vice-Chancellor because nobody could get a clear picture as to what was happening and what was being reported. This clearly shows how biased the functioning had become.

The second Council at its first meeting simply confirmed the minutes of the last meeting of the previous Council without seeing it and this is very frustrating. Then, the first Council hardly met since it was formed in July 1973. It never met during the period of 3 years. It met only once during the thanks-giving ceremony before the first Convocation and that was the only meeting it had.

Then, what about the story of the second court? The Central Government issued the statute regarding 'constitution of the second court in July 1976. This also was not constituted—I think the Minister would agree with me. For 19 months; nobody knew about it, though it had come in July 1976. Then, when the Vice-Chancellor called upon the Union Minister in February 1978, he assured the Minister that this court would be constituted. Till the day I left Shillong, this court had not been constituted and the notification had not been issued. Whether it was issued after my coming from Shillong, I do not know.

Then, there are many other lapses according to the report of the papers here which says that there is no academic council. Think of a university without an academic council and yet the Vice-Chancellor has been able to run the university without an academic council.

The Minister said that due to unavoidable circumstances, various posts could not be filled up. There are many important posts lying vacant. Nobody can think of a university without a Registrar. For five years, there was no Registrar in the University and the Vice-Chancellor had been taking upon himself the duties of the Registrar as well. Even the functions of the Secretary were being attended to by the Vice-Chancellor. Functions of the Secretaries of different bodies like Executive Council, Academic Council, court, the school, board etc., -were looked after by the Vice-Chan-

cellor and he was all in all. I believe that members of the U.G.C. visited Shillong in 1976 and found that there was no Registrar and they passed a severe stricture about it and recommended immediate appointment of a Registrar. Even this was not done. On the contrary, the U.G.C. has now awarded him and he has been appointed as one of the members of U.G.C.

Even, the Finance Officers also, as far as I knew before coming here to Delhi, had not yet been appointed. These are very important posts. There is another important post of Librarian. This was also kept vacant under one pretext or the other for the purpose of carrying on the indiscriminate purchase of books to boost a particular firm in Calcutta and in Delhi.

The books purchased do not serve the needs of the University and hardly 3 per cent of the teachers and students use those books in the Library.

Regarding the financial administration, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there are many glaring examples of financial irregularities. All the purchases have been made without observing the necessary formalities like advertisements calling for tenders and so on. This has resulted in a great loss. According to some sources, the estimated loss is more than Rs. 30 lakhs. The Finance De-partment of the University has itself pointed out these irregularities time and again. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that they have pointed out to the Vice-Chancellor that one officer had kept Rs. 50,000 with himself for more than one year, and that the Vice-Chancellor did not respond to it nor did he take any action.

Then, I would like to know whether it is a fact that certain serious charges have been made against the

{Shri Alexander Warjri] Vice-Chancellor. It has been stated that for the residence of the Vice-Chancellor which has been allotted by the Government, the cost of furnishing it was over Rs. 60,000. There is also an equipage of attendants and servants at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor which is beyond the norms prescribed for central universities.

Then, there is also another instance of wasteful expenditure. This is in regard to the Nagaland campus. This was established only to make the people in Nagaland feel that there is a North-Eastern Hill University in Nagaland. The campus consists of an O.S.D., his elaborate staff, one superintendent, two stenographers, four LDCs, a car and a driver. At the same time, Nagaland was given promises after promises. But no action was taken to fulfil them. Then, the agricultural complex which was promised in 1976 still remains a paper plan. This is mainly due to the inaction of the Vice-Chancellor.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to suggest that the Government should take up this matter very seriously. I would appeal to the Government that they should take some urgent steps. I would suggest that an enquiry committee should be set up immediately to conduct a full enquiry into this matter. I would further suggest that the enquiry committee should consist of Members of Parliament who are conversant with the affairs of the University. The States of Meghalaya, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Mizoram should also be consulted. This should be done immediately as the term of the present Vice-Chancellor will end by July, 1978. Before that, something should be done. I differ with the hon. Minister when he says that the University seems to be going on well. This is due to his mistaken impression about the attitude of the people there. They do not grumble. But there have been many instances when they used

to come to us and complained to us against the functioning of the Vice-Chancellor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken fifteen minutes. I gave you the warning bell also. Please conclude.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI: At the end, I would only like to say for the information of the hon. Minister that there has been a demand from the people of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram for the establishment of three separate State Universities because they had found that this North-Eastern Hill University had not fulfilled their expectations.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Member that there are many things which had happened during the emergency or before that with which we cannot agree on which we cannot justify. But I might assure you that since we have assumed office, within three months after that, we had taken steps for appointment of the Visitor's nominees in the Court and similarly in the Executive Council which were completely formed late in 1977. Now when the duly constituted Court and the Executive Council and also the Finance Committee which is in existence and which is looking into the financial affairs, are there, we should not the reaction of the duly constituted bodies and afterwards, if we find that there is some scope for further enquiry, certainly nobody can prevent us from taking that step. However, in the meantime, I had personally spoken to the Governor of the State. He is the chief Rector of that University and he is also looking into some of these matters. So, the Government is fully conscious of the difficulties, which to my mind are the teething troubles and difficulties, and the Government is trying to take such steps as will be useful for the people of those areas.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the North-Eastern Hill University came into existence by virtue of an Act passed by Parliament and it raised great hopes in the minds of the people of the north-eastern region. While passing this Act, under which the University came into existence, the Members of both the Houses expressed the view that this University was going to be a landmark in the northeastern region because one of the objectives of this University, apart from the other normal objectives, was to provide instructions, disseminate advanced knowledge, provide modern facilities and to pay special attention to the improvement of social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of hilly areas and in particular their intellectual and cultural advancement.

Unfortunately, Sir, the development that has taken place in this University has completely belied the hopes and the casual manner in which the hon. Minister has replied to the queries of my learned friend also indicates that the Government at the present moment even is not taking the affairs of this University seriously. Since 1973 when the University came into existence till today, it is 1978 now, i.e. during the last five years, not a single meeting of the court has taken place. Can you imagine that the first Court of this University never met during its life time, and the second Court which has been constituted also has yet to meet and the hon. Minister says that the University is functioning properly? If the University is functioning properly even without the court meeting once in the last five years, I think it is better to do away with the Court and amend the Statute immediately. If a University can function without a Court, why should we constitute a Court under the law? Similarly, Sir, there is no Academic Council of the University for the last one year in spite of the fact that the Academic Council has been given important res-

possibilities under the Statute. Academic Council has the full authority to look in to the academic aspect of the University. It is a strange University where it can run very smoothly, according to the hon. Minister, even without an Academic Council, If this is so, I think there was something wrong with the two Houses of Parliament when they provided for constituting of these bodies in the law, because, according to him these bodies seem to be redundant.

Sir, the University has yet to appoint a Registrar. For the last five years there is no Registrar and I think there is no parallel example in the whole world where a University has run without a Registrar. The hon. Minister says that he is not happy with what happened in the emergency. It is more than a year now that the emergency is over and yet the Vice-Chancellor of the University is functioning in the same way. He has arrogated to himself the full powers of the Registrar. The present term of the Vice-Chancellor, as I am told, is going to expire on 18th July, 1978. Under the Statute rules for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor are to be framed by the Executive Council and submitted to the Visitor within 45 days before the expiry of the term of the Vice-Chancellor. Nothing has been done in this respect. The Vice-Chancellor wants to take advantage of the lacuna in the Statute so that he could linger on his appointment.

Then, Sir, the hon. Education Minister has said that the relations between the teachers and the authorities are cordial. If that is so, can he deny that a memorandum has been submitted by teachers complaining of all sorts of anomalies? Has the hon. Minister taken note of that memorandum?

Uptil now, Rs. 4.93 lakhs have been collected as fees, but no formal receipt, I am told, is given to the students when they pay their fees. Can

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you imagine a university or an authority which collects fees but does not give a formal receipt? Again, I am told, a very peculiar feature is that this University deposited a sum of Rs. 95 lakhs during 1974-75 in a bank in Delhi for defraying expenses of the University in the capital. Imagine Rs. 95,000 being deposited in a bank in Delhi for defraying expenses in the capital. God knows what expenses you have to defray in the capital. And because there have been no accounts whatsoever, the amount was not adjusted and in the statement of assets and liabilities it has been shown as unadjusted remittance. Not only that, Rs. 12.39 lakhs have been shown for purchase of furniture and equipment. But the Stock Register shows only Rs. 4.64 lakhs. Again, the audit has objected because these purchases to the extent of Rs. 12.39 lakhs have been made without calling for tenders. The audit shows, again, that Rs. 1.58 lakhs were paid by the University to the Vice-Chancellor and other officers for advance payments for T. A. etc. But uptil now, for these Rs. 1.58 lakhs, no bill, no account has been submitted by the Vice-Chancellor. The Finance Department of the University has also taken objection to the purchase of furniture worth Rs. 16 lakhs without calling for tenders and favouring only one firm. But the most serious thing is that the University purchased books and journals worth Rs. 45 lakhs through fictitious quotations. This University Act has been framed by Parliament in order to advance the economic and social conditions of the people of the North-Eastern region and if this University is in the habit of processing various deals through fictitious quotations, it is better we do not have a university of this type for these simple

people because all we will be teaching them is how one can create fictitious documents. And still I find a very casual attitude on the part of the hon. Minister.

Now my questions will be, this University has the Governor as the Chief Rector and under the Act the President of India is the Visitor. Under Section 8(1) of the Act, the President is authorised to make an enquiry into the affairs of this University, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. May I know from the hon-Minister whether in view of the fact that the Court has not met for five-years, in view of the fact that the Academic Council has not met for one year, in view of the fact that this University is functioning without a Registrar for five years and in view of the allegations of misappropriation of lakhs and lakhs of rupees, he will advise the President or request the President to initiate action under Section 8(1) of the Act to make an enquiry into the affairs of this University

My second question is, will he make an enquiry as to how far this University has been able to achieve the specific objectives with which the University was brought into existence?

Thirdly, the hon. Minister has said that the audited statement of accounts for 1974-75 is almost ready, it has been received and will be placed under Section 29(1). Under this Act, every year the annual accounts and the balance-sheet have to be examined by the Comptroller and Auditor General and there must not to be a gap of more than 15 months. When it is a statutory obligation to render the accounts every year and the only gap permissible is of 15 months, how is it that the only audited accounts and the statement of objections which the Minister has received relate to the year 1974-75? What has happened to the statements for the subsequent years? Has not there been default not only on the part of the University but also the other departments of the Government? Is it not a fact that there is a violation from ill quarters

of the statutory provisions? Will the hon. Minister look into it and place the latest - audited statement of accounts?

Lastly, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister on what basis he gave the answer. Has he collected the answer on the basis of the reply given by the Vice-Chancellor because our allegation is against the Vice-Chancellor? Has he made some sort of an independent enquiry to enlighten the House about the answer or has he only to read the answer which the Vice-Chancellor has provided? If the answers are on the basis of reports of Vice-Chancellor then there is no need for such answer. We know that only Vice-Chancellor Will give answer of this nature as these answers suit him.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: Sir, I deny the allegation that I had made my statement in a casual manner. In fact, I have tried to give the details with dates and other particulars. I had said that there are many things which happened during the emergency and earlier for which we are not responsible. At the same time I can say that since the new Act had come into force, the University was not acting in a vacuum because the first Court, the first Executive Council and the first Academic Council had been duly constituted. Afterwards, when the term had come to an end, somehow this Court had not been fully set up. Therefore, within three months after our taking over of the office we have tried to do what was not done earlier. So we, may be responsible for the activities of last one year. But I would say that the new Executive Council had held several meetings and the Academic Council which will be constituted will be done on the basis of a new statute which has recently been sent to us.

A meeting of the executive council was held on the 4th March, 1978, only the other day. We are not making unnecessary delay in this matter. Therefore, the allegations that the hon'ble Member has made against us, I would most respectfully say, are not properly justified.

As regards the various items of financial irregularities the audit was done on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General by the Accountant-General of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. It is not possible for the Minister or the Ministry to look into all the financial irregularities. This is statutory audit under the statute provided by the authority of Parliament. So long as the objections do not come to us we cannot take any steps. It must be done through a proper procedure. Then the audit report will be placed before this House. Certainly this House will get an opportunity to criticise any adverse comment that might appear there. Finally, the Public Accounts Committee is there which will scrutinise the accounts and ultimately if some irregularity is found, certainly proper steps should be taken by the proper authorities.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The hon'ble Minister has not answered the specific query which I made that under section 29 (i) of the Act that the Annual Account and the balance sheet of the University shall be prepared under the direction of the Executive Council, once at least every year and at intervals of not more than 15 months. I did not say that the Government has to make the audited statement of accounts, but under the statute the Accountant General on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General has to audit the accounts every year at an interval of not less than 15 months. It is the duty of the Government to see that the provision under section 29 (i) is fulfilled. I wanted to know whether the Government has made a study in this matter. I did

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not know what the earlier Government did or this Government did. After all, the Government acts in a continuity and my allegation is to the Government itself whichever government it might be.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER; The account has been audited of 1974-75. Admittedly there has been delay. I have not made any suppression of the fact. Now when the next audit report will come the delay statement will be signed by the Ministry and it will be laid before the House. If at that time the cause for delay is not satisfactory to the hon'ble Member, certainly, at that time points can be raised.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA (Assam): In answer to a specific question the hon'ble Education Minister stated certain facts. From his statement it is clear that for three or four years the North-Eastern University has been functioning not only irregularly but also illegally. We cannot think of a University which functions without a Court, which functions without an Academic Council and, above all, which functions without a Registrar. Registrar is the only legal link between the University and the outside and it is very strange to note that for five years the University there goes without a Registrar. Who signs all the documents on behalf of the University? Now, this point has been answered by the hon. Education Minister. It is true that this University has got certain dark aspects of the Emergency of 1975. Originally, in the initial draft of the University Bill, the University was to be named after Shrimati Indira Gandhi but somehow or other, after certain objections, the name was changed and it was made the North-Eastern Hill University. But the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and subsequent activities of this Vice-Chancellor very clearly show lengthening shadow of the Emergency authoritarianism and personal rule of the Vice-Chancellor who has violated in a planned manner all the provisions of the University Act.

How, Sir, the hon. Minister has pointed out that the academic life of the University has been running very smoothly. But may I ask the hon. Minister: How can the academic life run in a University without an Academic Council? The very Act says that an Academic Council shall be principal academic body of the University and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes and Ordinances, coordinate and exercise general supervision over the academic policies of the University. Well, if the very authority to coordinate and supervise the academic life of the University is absent, how can there be an academic life in this University? It is a matter of great concern for all of us, especially to this Parliament. Now, what has happened? In the kind of centralized administration that has been there we find that this University is very far off from New Delhi and this University is run by a single man who is now the Vice-Chancellor. He has got full authority. Since he has the blessings of some quarters in Delhi he does not need help either of the Executive Council or the Court or the Academic Council or the Registrar or the Librarian. Yet, these are the most important offices or authorities in the University. Now if thing goes on like this, how can you expect this University to fulfil the objects for which it was really started? One of the objects laid down is to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the hill areas of the north-eastern region and, in particular, their intellectual, academic and cultural advancement. Now may I point out, Sir, that this University for the last five years, has not advanced the intellectual or academic or cultural life of these hill areas? It has only advanced the pecuniary benefits of the Vice-Chancellor and some of the officers who have been imported by him up to lowest grade of employees into this University. Even the post of a peon has been denied to the local khasis.

Now if this be the University's purpose and if the University was started in Shilong for this purpose, then we are only wasting national resources and doing great harm not only to the people of that area but the whole nation. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister immediately to take action under the provisions of the Act. Under section 8 of the Act, it is the duty of the Visitor to cause inspection into the affairs of the University and to make an inquiry about it. Now I urge upon the Minister immediately to take action under this particular section and make an inquiry into the affairs of the University in the interests of the academic life of the University as well as the general advancement of the people of the north-eastern region. Now, in this respect, I hope the hon. Minister will give his opinion whether an immediate inquiry will be made into the affairs of the University. Under the regime of the present Vice-Chancellor, things have been managed and done in such a way that the real interests of the University have suffered. Now the inquiry must be made before he retire on July 18, 1978. In this respect, I must also point out that in all universities or institutions the highest people who have got some relations with New Delhi go on merrily doing anything and everything. This is what is happening in the case of the North-Eastern Hill University, because of the special connections the Vice-Chancellor has in New Delhi. So he can do anything and everything and he has not been subjected to any inspection or any action from the Government of India or any other authority. I particularly request the Education Minister to inquire into this whole affairs and Put a stop to the anomalies in the University and, at the same time, create an environment for real academic advancement of this University.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, it is true, as the hon. Member has pointed out, that the Registrar and the Finance Officer have not been duly appointed. The Visitor could have appointed the first Registrar and the

first Finance Officer for a term of three years, but that was not done. But that does not mean that these duties were not being looked after. There was one Officer on Special Duty, Shri C. C. David, who was looking after the academic work of the University. Subsequently, there was another officer. And finally the services of Shri Kharloki, an IAS officer, were borrowed from the West Bengal Government, to work on special duty for campus development. Similarly, there was a Finance Officer. The post of the Finance Officer was not duly filled in, but there again the services of Shri B. L. Boipai, an IA&AS officer, were borrowed from the Comptroller and Auditor General for a period of three years and he had been appointed as Officer on Special Duty (Finance). After his reversion, this gentleman, Kharloki is looking after this. Now, when the matter came up before us, we found that it was rather too late to appoint the first Registrar or the first Finance Officer. We wanted to have regular appointments. For this, a new Statute is being prepared and it will be placed before the Visitor and, as soon as it is approved by him, we will proceed to see that these officers are appointed.

Then, as regards the inquiry, many hon. Members have been, pressing this demand. I might say that in respect of almost all Central Universities such a demand is being made regarding the Banaras Hindu University, the Delhi University, the Punjab University, which is being looked after by us, the Jawaharlal Nehru University. How many inquiries will the Visitor hold? Therefore, as I said let us see how the regularly constituted Court and the Executive Council work, how the Finance Committee works, and ultimately if we get serious objections from the Audit authorities, the whole question can be re-examined.

SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI: Sir, how can an 0~D v/Tk in place of a Registrar? (.Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: There is one point of clarification. The hon. Minister has said that because there are demands of inquiry for all universities, it cannot be done. Is this the only ground that, because there is a demand from all universities, he is not going to take recourse to section 8(IX in spite of the fact that there may be a case for inquiry? In that case, delete section 8(1). Let him at least tell us that, because the demand is for all universities, the President is not taking recourse to section 80)- And I want to know from him if this is the only ground.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will reply to it when he replies.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO (Orissa): The North-Eastern Hill University has been created, as has been said by other Members who spoke before me, for definite and distinct purposes other than the purpose for which universities are usually created elsewhere. It is not only a Central university, but it has some specific role to perform also. That was how Prof. Nurul Hasan said when he introduced the Bill in the House. He said that it had a socio-economic work also to do, being located in the North-Eastern region to serve the interests of the three North-Eastern hill States. After much wrangling over naming it, whether it should be made as Mrs. Gandhi University or anything else, it was named as the North-Eastern Hill University.

We are very much particular about the universities and university education in the background of the things that are happening in the country. While you see the universities getting closed down in the whole of northern India for other reasons, here is a university in the North-Eastern hills region where the hill tribe people who ordinarily cannot do those things which others in the northern India do, are required to face the same lot of the closure which the Hon.

Minister may refute. But, Sir, would you call it a closure or a collapse? I am asking you. I am not asking him. There is no academic council, there is no court and no sittings of the court and there is no registrar. The Minister's initial reply, when his attention was called to this question was that the examinations were held and that, therefore, he should not call it a case of collapse. Is a university of this type meant only for the examinations? How does he say that the university is functioning and has not collapsed when he says and when every Member says that no receipt is being issued, that Rs. 50,000 are being held by a particular person without depositing them in the treasury or elsewhere and he is keeping them in his own hands? How can things happen this way?

As others have pointed out and he has admitted later that there no post has been filled up for the last so many years. He suggested that we would wait for the statute to be examined and passed and that then only they will think of filling up of those posts. So, the University which was created for a particular purpose in this particular form, and yet the Minister wants us to accept that it is not a case of collapse of the university education.

I have no hesitation in saying that as far as the North-Eastern hills area is concerned, not only this Ministry, but its predecessor also, had shown what I will term, "unpardonable recklessness and criminal callousness." You take the railways, you take education or anything else, you will find this attitude of this Government. Even in the political affairs, even in the planting of the nuclear device and everything else, you see that this is the way they have been doing. It would be very dangerous for us. We know what this area means for us. And with that thing being within our knowledge, let us not be in a muse.

I do not want much time. My question is: Does he feel that the Univer-

sity can do without these bodies which are not there and without these officers? Every Member has pointed out these things and I will do the same thing because these posts should be filled. They were created by law and cannot remain vacant for years to come. This thing and that thing cannot be shown as the reason for that. For, every one of these institutions have specific roles, specific duties have been assigned to them, specific functions have been given to them by a law that was made for them. How can they remain vacant? Yet the Minister says that they were being looked after by others. The Minister says, it may not have this body but such and body is looking after its work. Sir, does the Minister, who is also a very great educationist, feel that these bodies are not necessary or in other words, there are redundant? And if he feels so—because that was the tenor of his answer—would he have the law amended to see that these bodies are not there in the framework of the law?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: Sir, most of the points raised by the hon. Member have already been answered by me. It is not that there were no bodies. There were bodies; still there are bodies. But these bodies should work in a proper manner. We have taken up this matter with the Chief Rector also. He is also looking into this matter. We are conscious of the great future for this university. It will certainly serve the members of that region.

"SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Sir, at one stage he answered that this is the feeding time. What, according to him, will be the length of this feeding time?"

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: It depends on the individual concerned. So also with institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Mr. Dinesh Goswami raised something.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Does the Hon'ble Minister really feel that there is need of either an inspection of the university or an enquiry? After inspection, if he is convinced, he can make an enquiry. Does the Minister feel the necessity of any of these steps?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUN-DER: I have not shut out the possibility. I have simply said, let the July constituted bodies function and let the Auditor-General give us the report; then the matter will be considered.

MOTION RE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LOKPAL BILL 1977

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next item. Mr. S. D. Patil.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint two members of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Lokpal Bill, 1977, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Shri K. A. Krishnaswamy and Shri D. P. Singh from the membership of the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd April, and 9th April, 1978, respectively, and resolves that Shri N. K. P. Salve and Shri V. V. Swaminathan, Members of the Rajya Sabha, be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

REFERENCE TO HUNGER STRIKE BY N. D. M. C. EMPLOYEES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions. Shrimati Rajinder Kaur.

DR. SHRIMATI RAJINDER KAUR (Punjab): Sir, I wish to mention in the