

tion to ensure that at least minimum wages are paid to the poor peasants who are engaged in these relief works ? We have reports from Gujarat and other States that wages as low as Rs. 1.50 per day are being paid to peasants who are employed in these relief scheme.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, first of all, in the areas affected by drought, the Plan projects are identified. Suppose in the type of situation which the hon. Member has mentioned, the State Government does not succeed in identifying programmes for providing relief to the people, we do not fetter the State Government's discretion to take up other activities. Then the hon. Member says that this would dislocate the whole thing. But I can tell the hon. Member—he can go through the report of the Finance Commission and other discussions which have taken place on the floor of the House—that there is complaint of wastage of funds many times. Many complaints have been made on the floor of the House that in drought relief, a lot of wastage is involved.

I think much more systematic effort is being made now and I think there is need to bring about some discipline in the economy also so as to see that whatever resources are available are spent purposefully and properly. In case we feel there is some anomalous position, then we shall review the position in future. We are not having a blind eye to the situation. The present approach is a very sound approach.

As far as minimum wages are concerned, wages are related to piece work and all State Governments are taking care to see that minimum wages are paid to the labourers. What is important is to provide employment in a difficult period. The other matters can be attended to along with that.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Half an hour is taken on one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is an important question involving many States.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : In the out going year as a

result of 5 waves of floods Assam suffered damage to the extent of Rs. 100 crores. As a result of five waves of floods, I think about one lakh of people inhabiting in the largest fresh water island, MAJULI by name, are still to be rehabilitated. Government of Assam has been facing extreme difficulty in rehabilitating these people. Their cultivable lands have been rendered useless due to the filling up of the lands by sand. According to the formula adopted by the Sixth Finance Commission, Assam is having only Rs. 4 crores. So, Sir, I like to ask the hon. Minister what special considerations are thought of by the Central Government in the case of Assam which is having the maximum hardships due to frequent floods or their affects causing extreme erosions to the Plans ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We have tried to help Assam Government both by way of advance plan assistance and short-term loans. There is no drought in Assam, though the people there did suffer from recurring floods. The Brahmaputra and its tributaries have caused devastation there. Somehow from our survey we find that in spite of these difficulties Assam crops have fared very well. I think the hon. Member should have no worry on that account.

*325 [The questioners (Shri D. Thengari, Shri O. P. Tyagi, Shri V. K. Sakhelecha and Shri Subramanian Swamy) were absent for answer vide col. 30 infra]

Report of the Committee on the Visva Bharati University

*326. **SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :**
SHRI KALYAN ROY : †

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 556 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th March, 1974 and state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed by Government to chalk out the programme for the development of the Visva Bharati University has submitted its report;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what action Government have taken on the recommendations contained in the report; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Report of the Committee is being drafted and is expected to be finalised shortly.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Unfortunately the Visva Bharati University is in a mess. The Vice-Chancellor does not like the staff nor the students. In turn, the students and the staff do not like him. There is mutual distrust between the two and he was gheraoed. There is an atmosphere of confrontation and he has been able to bring such a famous international university nearly to the point of collapse. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the term of the present Vice-Chancellor had expired sometime in January ? Is it not a fact that the Executive Council which was to recommend a panel to the Court has been instructed by the Government of India not to submit that panel in order to allow the old and superannuated Vice-Chancellor to continue to bring the whole University to the total disaster ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Does it arise from the question ?

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Of course. This is in relation to Visva Bharati University. I am only talking about the University.

Sir, please listen to me. I am asking about the Visva Bharati University. Why was the Committee appointed ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It concerns the development of the Visva Bharati University.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I am also concerned about the development of this University. Is it not a fact that the development there has been halted by the activities of the Vice-Chancellor who was to retire recently ? What steps is the Government taking to see that the development there is not halted and that development takes place there after the removal of the Vice-Chancellor ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, this is a matter of opinion. But I would like to say that the Committee is trying to expedite its report and it had to consider a large number of memoranda and other things which were received. So far as the Government is concerned, it is interested in the processes taking place as quickly as possible and we have no interest in holding up anything.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, my question has not been answered again. I only asked whether it is not a fact that the term of the present Vice-Chancellor has expired and, if so, why he is being allowed to continue. He has to reply to this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is a different question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : How is it a different question ? The question is about the University and its Vice-Chancellor. How are these two things different ? I only asked whether it is not a fact that the Vice-Chancellor has been allowed to continue although his term has expired. This is the question which he has to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question whether he is to be continued or not does not arise out of the main question. So, you put your second supplementary.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : May be it is a political issue...

(Interruption)

SHRI KALYAN ROY : What is the use of my putting another supplementary when this has not been answered ? This is not a political issue at all. We are interested in knowing the fact. Sir, I find the honourable Minister in great embarrassment and I do not know what the source of Mr. Hassan's embarrassment is. I do not want

to pursue it further if he is embarrassed. Can he please tell the House...

(Interruption)

SHRI P. N. BISI : Sir,...

SHRI KRISHNA KRIPALANI : Sir,

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : Sir, these people are from this University and they should be allowed to put a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalyan Roy, you please put your question. Please do not listen to them.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, is it a fact that this Committee was of the opinion that the present Vice-Chancellor should not be allowed to continue and that is why the whole report is being delayed ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : No such information was submitted to the Government by the Committee, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I hope you will consider my question as very valid. One of the reasons why the report is delayed is that the present Vice-Chancellor is interested in continuing in order that he can obstruct the normal processes that were started there, whatever they are. Is the honourable Minister aware that there is a great deal of discontent against the present Vice-Chancellor who is against many of the teachers and other staff and who is very unpopular even among them and who has got a coterie to run the institution as he likes ? In view of this, I want to know why the Government is not expediting the matter by asking the Committee to submit the report and also by giving them a time-limit to do so. Meanwhile, why should it not be possible for the Government to get this Vice-Chancellor 'revoked' in the sense that he is asked to go, because so long as he is there, nothing can happen ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the Government had originally decided that it should finish its work as quickly as possible. But this suggestion I will bear in mind and convey to the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is very good.

SHRI P. N. BISI : Sir, May I know from the honourable Minister who the present

Vice-Chancellor of the Visva Bharati University is ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please resume your seat. Why are you standing ? You please sit down. Then the reply will come.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, if it is your order that I should reply, I will reply. It is Dr. P. C. Gupta.

SHRI P. N. BISI : Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No second supplementary, please. Please sit down.

SHRI KRISHNA KRIPALANI : Sir, I happen to be a guilty party, being a member of the committee that was appointed by the Government of India for the Visva Bharati University, and I should like to say, from my experience, that if the Government of India and the authorities of the Visva Bharati University had been serious, the work could have been completed in three months instead of over two years..

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Very important..

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The cat is out of the bag....

(Interruption)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The member has said that the Government is not serious. Will the Minister give an explanation ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : It is a matter on which I would have liked to refrain from commenting, but since it has been raised, I would like to say that it is very strange that the hon. Member who has been entrusted by the Government of India to take up this work, does not ask his colleagues to expedite the work and he blames the Government for that. Government are not interested in delaying..

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN ROY : He says that he has been restrained from functioning in the committee because of the particular policy..

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, it is your privilege to protect the help-less Member. He tried to get it done but could not do it, because of the attitude

of the Government. He has divulged this in the House and he should not be taken to task.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has specifically replied that the Government is not interested in delaying. That's all...

(Interruptions).

श्री रवी राय : सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय के प्रतिष्ठाता स्वर्गीय रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर जब ज़िन्दा थे तो स्वर्गीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने उनके साथ वात-चीत करके यह बात कही थी कि भारत सरकार जब इस विश्वविद्यालय को अपने हाथ में लेगी तो इसकी विशेषता को कायम रखने के लिए विशेष प्रयत्न करेगी इस सिलसिले में जो कमेटी बनाई गई है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्वर्गीय रवीन्द्र नाथ ठाकुर ने जिस उद्देश्य के लिए विश्व भारती विश्वविद्यालय को गठित किया था और जो उनका मंशा था, क्या इस विश्व-विद्यालय का विकास करते समय और यह कमेटी गठित करते समय उनकी मंशा को याद किया गया है ?

प्रो० एस० नूरुल हसन : जहाँ तक मुझे याद है, गुरुदेव रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर का देहान्त स्वतंत्रता के बहुत पहले हो गया था, इसलिए उस वक्त श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की तरफ से कोई वायदा करेंगे, यह मवाल पैदा नहीं होता। जहाँ तक दूसरे हिस्से का ताल्लुक है, यह कमेटी बिलकुल इसी बात के ऊपर काम कर रही है और इस बात की जांच करेगी कि जहाँ तक हो सके गुरुदेव के जो आदर्श थे उनको पूरी तरह से ध्यान में रखे और इसीलिए जिस कमेटी का गठन किया गया है उसमें ऐसे-ऐसे मशहूर लोग रखे गए हैं...

SHRI RABIRAY : What are the terms of reference ? Also give the names.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Holy names, let us say.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : And how are you obstructing ?

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : That is the second part. ...

(Interruptions)

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Justice S. A. Masood, Judge, Calcutta High Court. The terms of reference are : To determine the lines on which the University may develop and to recommend guidelines for amendment of the Visva Bharati Act. The other members are : Dr. P. C. Gupta Vice-Chancellor ; Dr. S. Gopal, Chairman, National Book Trust ; Prof. V.V. John, Visiting Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Simla ; Prof. Sankho Chaudhury, Hony. Secretary, Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi ; Mrs. Anita Banerjee, Reader in economics, Jadavpur University ; Dr. Anil Sadgopal, Biologist, Kishore Bharati ; Shri Krishna Kripalani, our distinguished colleague ; Shri R. K. Chhabra, Secretary, U. G. C. ; and Shri R. S. Chitkara, Director, Ministry of education and Social Welfare.

Dr. Anil Sadgopal subsequently resigned from the membership of the Committee.

SHRI KRISHNA KRIPALANI : Sir, will you allow me to say a word of explanation ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : During Question Hour, it is not the practice.

Demurrage paid for detention of Ships carrying Food and Fertilisers

*327. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD : †

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. V. A. Seyid Muhammad.