

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is good that our Prime Minister does not speak in the accents of General Ayub Khan and we welcome that he speaks with restraint in such matters. The only thing that I would like to point out here is this. It seems to us that while condemning these deplorable incidents—and they must be tackled at the diplomatic level—steps should be taken by us at the same time. I think the Prime Minister is quite right when he says that we must heighten our activities here to protect the minorities. That will be one of our answers.

AN HON. MEMBER: We are taking steps.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes; he does and I would support them but I do not like such aggressive questions put by my friend, Mr. Jaswant Singh. He is an aggressive person, as you know. I think the answer to this is at home, right here, giving more protection to the minorities and that will bring about amity. The other answer is that we should use the normal diplomatic channels so that such things would not happen again. On that I think the Prime Minister on the whole has a right, constructive and correct approach and we should support him.

MOTION RE THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION—continued

PROF. M. B. LAL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also express my sorrow at the sad demise of Dr. Krishna who, we hoped, would work as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission. I also express our gratitude and tributes to Dr. Deshmukh and other members of the University Grants Commission for the work they did for university education.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

Sir, as a teacher I am pleased to note that the Government have appoint-

ed an old teacher, Dr. Kothari, as the Chairman of the University Grants Commission. We are proud of his probity, of his scholarship and of his devotion to duty and we feel that under his able guidance the University Grants Commission would be able to render increasing service to the cause of education in this country. I am glad to know from the Education Minister that the University Grants Commission and the Education Ministry are functioning harmoniously but I wish to point out that in the last Report of the University Grants Commission, the Commission pointed out certain difficulties in carrying out its responsibilities. I do not know what steps were taken afterwards to remove those difficulties and to ensure to the University Grants Commission autonomy which is its due. Sir, we are holding conferences of the Ministers of Education and conferences of the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities and I feel that we should also hold conferences of the Chairmen of the University Grants Commission of various States. I have reason to believe that a State University Grants Commission . . .

SHRI K. M. PANIKKAR (Nominated): Are there State Commissions?

PROF. M. B. LAL: There were some appointments in certain States, but I was coming to that question. Now, University Grants Commissions are needed not only for a few Central Universities but they are needed for all universities in the country. We cannot talk of the autonomy of universities unless we ensure autonomy to the universities which are controlled and run by the State Governments.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: But the Central Government has no jurisdiction over the State universities.

PROF. M. B. LAL: In spite of that jurisdiction, we are holding conferences of Vice-Chancellors of universities and we are holding conferences of the Ministers of Education of various States and in these conferences we are dealing with various educational questions. If there are

[Prof. M. B. Lal]

no University Grants Commissions in certain States and if they are not functioning properly, it is the duty of the Education Minister at the Centre to deal with that problem also in the conference of the Ministers of Education of the various States, if they find some difficulty in having a conference of the Chairmen of the University Grants Commissions of the various States. I do submit that the universities are not functioning as autonomously as perhaps the Education Minister wished them to function. I know that in the last Report of the University Grants Commission it was said that freedom is vital to good education and democracy and I know that our Education Minister today also repeated the same idea in other words. But I am afraid that interference in university education is rather increasing. The bureaucratic spirit is tending to dominate the university life much more than it did when we were under the British regime. Universities in certain States are tending to be instruments of the Government's policies. Intra-party conflicts at Government level and often conflicts between the State Government and the Union Government in certain cases cause difficulties in the harmonious administration of the universities. I do know that for the present state of affairs teachers and students are to an extent responsible, but I beg to submit that the higher authorities are in no way less responsible for the present state of affairs in our universities. Without mentioning names, we know that proper care is not taken in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. If the system of election has failed, selection by Government has proved no better so far as the cries of the Vice-Chancellors are concerned. In many universities, the Directors of Education are chosen as Vice-Chancellors and I have reason to believe that their selection is in general resented by the professors of the universities concerned. I do admit that some of the Directors of Education might be fit even to be in charge of universities,

but I do feel that if the Government wish that persons in charge of secondary education should also take interest in university education, it is proper to appoint them as university professors before they are appointed as Vice-Chancellors of universities. I have in mind a person like Dr. Amarnath Jha, who belonged to the provincial educational service. He served as a university professor, had experience of university education, and then when he became the Vice-Chancellor of the University, he discharged his duties as Vice-Chancellor admirably well. I wish to point out that personal character, wide human sympathy, interest and understanding of university education, capacity for leadership, faith in the democratic ideals, reputation for learning and confidence of the authorities are necessary in a good Vice-Chancellor and proper care should be taken in devising ways and means for selecting proper persons as Vice-Chancellors of universities.

I welcome the new pay scale of teachers of the Central universities. I do wish to point out that there is a great need for the amalgamation of the grades of lecturers and readers. Much of the teacher conflicts are due to these two grades of lecturers and readers and greater harmony will prevail among teachers in case the two grades, subject to certain efficiency bar, are amalgamated. I do feel that there is no marked difference in the abilities of teachers of Central and State universities and there is need for equalisation of the pay of teachers of State universities. Whoever may be responsible for the difference in pay, the country would suffer if there is no equalisation of pay, because disaffection would continue to prevail and this disaffection for unequal pay for equal work will tend to spoil the university life and university standards.

I wish to point out that to avoid certain difficulties due to incompatibility of temperament among teachers or between teachers and authorities, some system of transfers under the

guidance of the University Grants Commission should be encouraged. I think that will be conducive to the promotion of harmony and avoidance of friction causing difficulties to the Government and to the university.

The large majority of our universities are affiliating universities and by far the large part of their students are enrolled in affiliated colleges. The conditions of the affiliated colleges are very bad. The teachers in these colleges suffer from various difficulties. When we talk of university education, we only take into consideration the conditions of teachers of certain universities, but do not pay due consideration to the needs and conditions of the teachers of the affiliated colleges. And these conditions are a source of great trouble. May I point out to the Education Minister that the teachers of secondary schools and the teachers of affiliated colleges constitute the bulk of the registered graduates of the various universities? And the disaffection of the secondary school teachers and the disaffection that prevails among the teachers of the affiliated colleges, affect the elections to the court and to the academic council by the registered graduates of certain big universities. Therefore, if we want to improve the standard of our education, if we wish to have a higher standard of education in our country, it is necessary for us to deal adequately with the problems of the affiliated colleges also.

I wish to invite the attention of the House as well as the attention of the Education Minister to the proper teacher-student ratio in educational institutions. According to the Report placed before us, the ratio is increasing. It has increased from 65 students per teacher in 1939 to 114 students per teacher in 1958. In Great Britain, Canada and Australia, according to the reports, the ratio has decreased. It has decreased to nine and ten per teacher. I do feel, 1 P.M. Sir, that unless this ratio problem is dealt with properly, it will not be possible for

teachers to have proper contacts with students so necessary for promoting academic life and for promoting good life in the universities.

Sir, I wish to point out that purely pre-university course would not solve the problem of deficiencies of the secondary education. The secondary education is an important link and at the same time the weakest link in our system of education, and I do feel that whatever can be done by the Union Ministry of Education will be done to improve the standards and conditions of secondary schools.

In the end, Sir, I wish to associate myself with Shri P. N. Saprú in our protest against the recommendation of the University Grants Commission that the teachers should not have power to seek election to the Legislatures but that they may go to the Legislatures as nominated members. Sir, the whole suggestion seems to me to be absurd. If we wish to degrade the teacher in the eyes of the students, make him a nominated member of the Legislature, whichever Party may be in power. He will be considered by the students as a stooge of the Government, and some of us as old teachers and new teachers will be tempted to butter the Government authorities with a view to having the dignity of being members of the Legislature.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That part of the University Grants Commission's report seems to have a funny idea about politics.

PROF. M. B. LAL: I have no doubt in my mind that the teachers' right of participation in political life should be kept inviolate, and I do feel that so long as a teacher is a teacher, he may seek election to the Legislature and he should not be tempted with an offer of nomination by the Government. Once a teacher is nominated by the Government he loses his independence. I do feel, Sir, that in this matter we should unanimously dis-

[Prof. M. B. Lal.]
agree with the views of the University
Grants Commission.

I know, Sir, you are looking at me
and my time is finished. So with
these remarks I wish to conclude my
speech.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The
House stands adjourned till 6 15 P.M.
to receive the Budget papers.

The House then adjourned
at four minutes past one of
the clock till fifteen minutes
past six of the clock.

The House reassembled at fifteen
minutes past six of the clock, Mr.
Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 1961-62

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND
CIVIL EXPENDITURE (DR. B.
GOPALA REDDI): Sir, on behalf
of Shri. Morarji Desai, I beg to lay
on the Table a statement of the esti-
mated receipts and expenditure of the
Government of India for the year
1961-62.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The
House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M.
tomorrow.

The House then adjourned
at sixteen minutes past six
of the clock till eleven of the
clock on Wednesday, the 1st
March, 1961.