

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY (KHARAGPUR)  
BILL 1956—*continued*

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: As I was saying, this Institute has now got 21 additional post-graduate courses. It had only two last year. I do not see why it should continue to remain as an Institute for training under-graduates only or mainly, really speaking this should be an institute for high technological training and research.

Another point which I want to mention is about the selection of teachers and research workers in these Institutes. There is a Selection Committee and the Selection Committee selects the names and they will have to be approved by a Board, which is all to the good. But I am told that the selection of teachers in these Institutes is being made in a manner which leaves much to be desired. I am told that in these important Institutes the teachers are selected to some extent for political reasons and to some extent for some personal reasons. When instruction is given in these Institutes in higher technological courses and these Institutes are very few, I do think that the teachers who are selected should be selected with great care on their own merits so that the standard of research does not go down at all. I am reliably informed by the people working in these Institutes that during the last few years there has been a perceptible and visible deterioration in the standards of teaching and research in these Institutes because the teachers are not selected with care, I am glad that in the Bill, specially with regard to appointments to higher posts, the President's sanction will be taken. This has given some sort of assurance but I do hope that in future, in these Institutes, the selections in all grades will be made very carefully, purely on merit and not on any personal or political grounds.

Lastly, I submit that these research institutes should not be living in a rarefied atmosphere of their own,

isolation and segregated from life. Research is mainly for practical useful purposes, and it has to be applied to life. Wherever I have gone—and I have visited a number of Institutes recently—there are very few pilot projects, and research work seems to have little connection with the needs of life. Even at Dehra Dun where I was for four days last time, I was told that there were about 2000 enquiries for work and when I asked about the replies they sent, they said that replies were given somehow. It was quite apparent to me that the public is interested, but it was not apparent to me that the research workers themselves were interested in the needs of the public. The public wants to utilise the results of the researches in a practical manner, but the research workers are not fulfilling that desire of the public. I think, therefore, that wherever there is such a research institute, there should also be provisions made for pilot projects so that people in the business or trade can have proper training in these and then utilise this knowledge in the service of the public. Only the other day we had a very fine lecture by Mr. Thapar, Secretary of the Food and Agriculture Ministry, who told us that in China, which is as backward a country as ours is, perhaps more backward, the results of research in agriculture are immediately communicated to the peasants. They have a beautiful service spread all over the country which is much superior to our services in the Community Projects Administration. I wish I could say the same thing about our research institutions which are increasing in number. I wish they will increase in efficiency and will function properly. Sir, I welcome the Bill.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Mr. Deputy Chairman, no person can object to such a Bill. I welcome it, but there is a tendency in our country that almost every college wants to become a university, and every institute, giving under-graduate training, wants to build itself up into a university. The result is that we are increasing the number of universities. Any college

principal wants to become a Vice-Chancellor, and every head-clerk wants to become a Registrar, so that they may add to their prestige. What is the aim or object of this Institute? If it is only producing under-graduates and the hon. Minister has pointed that there are about 1200 under-graduates and the number of post-graduate students is only about 80 or 82.....

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Last year it was only 12.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Yes and then on the top of it they are going to fulfil the function of solving the stray problems of the industry and trade, namely, queries may be put to them and they will answer them. It means that this Institute is going to perform three distinct functions, namely, the under-graduate training, post-graduate training and a research centre for answering the difficulties of industry. These three things can never be performed by one Institute. They require different types of staff and different methods of working. The result will be that it will only become an under-graduate teaching institution. The present staff will be continued; there will be no screening. As was pointed out that in Institutes of this type, it is very difficult to get suitable men. Our country is new in technology. We are very backward in technology and in most industries we don't know the technical know-how. To get suitable professors is very difficult. This institute is going to be made into a national institute. The present existing staff, whether they are qualified up to the standard, or not they will be made permanent and will be taken on the Institute staff. Then there are a large number of vacancies as the other speakers have pointed out and naturally all sorts of pressures will be applied and people will somehow get into it. The result will be that it will become just an ordinary Technological Institute teaching the under-graduate students and it will be very expensive. In our country there is really no institute for higher technology and people have got to go out of India.....

3—25 R. S./56

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: Except in Bangalore.

PROF. G. RANGA (Andhra): What is the solution?

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: I am going to suggest in two minutes.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI : Run it on right lines.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: If you see the number of subjects it is a very large number. An hon. Member has pointed out that in Massachusetts there are 900 subjects and 900 teachers. The number of subjects are increasing rapidly because new industries are being started and new technical know-how is required and the subjects are increasing. Therefore, I submit that we want a National Institute of Technology and our scheme should be that the under-graduate teaching be taken up by other Institutes of smaller scale. We may have 4 or 5 National Institute of Technology doing mostly post-graduate work. There will be great need for them. We have a Second Five Year Plan and we are in need of experts, say for the Hydro-electric schemes and for so many industries which are being set up and we want under-graduates also. We want many graduates for manning all these industries and projects but we want the higher technical staff also. Rather you make this into an under-graduate institute, and have 1200 or 2,000 students, teaching the normal course of subjects of technology and one may be on the hydro-electric side also, one may be electrical engineering and some chemical engineering and one or two other subjects like that—just a regular University type of thing training under-graduates for their degrees. That is a very consistent thing and can be done. You can increase the number and for that you don't need this Rs. 48 lakhs as a recurring grant for a normal technical institute giving training to the under-graduate students. The other side is that we have 4 National Technological Institutes spread out all over the country specialising in certain

[Shri Kishen Chand]

subjects. I don't want repetition of the same subjects in every University, in every Institute of Technology. We have about 4 of them spread over the various parts of our country to take up these subjects of technology. There, what do we want? We want a very high standard of post-graduate teaching. There is hardly any need of attaching the under-graduate students with it because their number is naturally very large and the attention of the professors is diverted in giving the normal training to these boys. While on the other hand, if you have 500 students in the Post-Graduate section and even 300 teachers. I would not mind it. Because for high technology there must be high degree of specialisation and you cannot have big classes and large number of students. You cannot have specialised classes with 20 or 30 students. You should have 3 or 4 students and probably 2 teachers and two professors specialising in that particular branch, and teaching that particular subject. If we want to have a National Institute of Technology, this Institute is not going to fulfil that function as constituted at present. For that you should have only post-graduate classes, have a large number of specialised professors. Possibly you will have to import in the beginning at least 50 per cent. of them from other foreign countries—from Europe where technology has advanced tremendously.

PROF. N. R. MALKANI: We don't mind that.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: The other alternative thing will be to send students abroad. And if we have to send 4 or 5 students, it will be more expensive than to import one man to teach those 4 or 5 students. It will be far better because not only he will teach them but he will create an atmosphere in that institute for higher education.

I have gone through certain parts of this Bill. The most important thing for me in an Institute is the Academic Council. I am not interested in big directorate, with the Finance Com-

mittee etc., which are the normal paraphernalia for spending money or to carry on the administrative work. But I was very much interested to see about the Academic Council because that is the body which governs and controls the standard of education and teaching. I went through that and its Constitution and I will read out its constitution for your information: The Director shall be the Chairman of the Council. Then comes the Deputy Director, then the Registrar and then the Professors appointed or recognised as such by the Institute for the purpose of imparting instruction in the Institute and then such other members of the staff as may be laid down in the Statutes. Of course the first 3 or 4 are administrative officers.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The Director's position is analogous to that of a Principal of a College.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: In most Indian Universities, as far as I know, the Principals don't do any teaching. They generally get out of contact with the subjects. In the beginning they may have been teachers or may have risen from teachership but that is the common practice. On paper he will be.....

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: They are experienced teachers.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: I have some experience of Universities and I know what happens in a University and how the principal functions. There is a tendency in our country to always go to the administrative line. Very few professors have real love for their subjects, to stick to those subjects. They always try to become big administrators. In a University whether they are Deans of Faculties or Principals of Colleges or Vice-Chancellors or Pro-Vice-Chancellors, there is always a tendency to go away from the research side to the administrative side because by that they get more honours, more emoluments and more prestige. I will be very glad if in this Institute they do not adopt that policy and the Director is a research worker who continues to do research.

Then there are professors and other members of teaching staff. As I pointed out, the present staff is going to be promoted and will become professors in this institute and be an important body. They will among themselves form a body of mutual admiration, each professor or lecturer praising the other man as being very able and naturally the standard of teaching will go down. In all the Indian Universities during the last 50 years there has been little of first-class research work. It is all due to the fact that there are undergraduate classes attached to Universities. Most of the time of professors is wasted in teaching those classes. What little is left is spent in party politics and getting their own promotions.

1 P.M.

Therefore, Sir I would like that in this Academic Council, there should be a fair element of experts from outside. At least 30 per cent. of the members should have been people who are Professors in some other Universities and, preferably, at least 10 per cent. of them should be from foreign countries. I do not mind if they have to come to India and advise once or twice a year and check up the progress of our education.

**SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR** (West-Bengal): Are we sitting through lunch hour, Sir?

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** There are five Bills and one Resolution and we have to finish them by today and tomorrow.

**SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA** (Bihar): We must have at least one hour for lunch, Sir.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Shall we meet at 2 p.m.?

**SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR** (Uttar Pradesh): Let it be 2-30 p.m. Sir.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** There are a large number of speakers.

**SHRI KISHEN CHAND:** But this is a very important Bill; it is a question of higher education and technical education.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** We will meet at 2 p.m. There is a message.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

#### THE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION BILL, 1956

**SECRETARY:** Sir, I have to report to the House the following Message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bill, 1956, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st September, 1956".

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The House will meet again at 2 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, **MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

#### THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (KHARAGPUR) BILL, 1956—continued.

**SHRI KISHEN CHAND:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I was saying something about the Academic Council and now I want to draw your attention to the Board. Sir, in a university there is the Senate and there is the Executive Council. The Senate generally consists of 200 or 250 people while here we are going to have only a Board of twelve people, and this Board is going to run this Institute under the control and direction of