

It is important to note that the current number of seats for M.Phil/Ph.D. in different departments and centres of JNU has got fixed by the 93rd Constitutional Amendment which mandated expansion of seats for implementing OBC reservation during 2008-11. The number of seats since then has remained unchanged. So, it would be a gross violation of the Constitution if either the UGC or the JNU administration attempts to curtail existing number of M.Phil./Ph.D. seats in the name of adhering to some specified number of 'supervisor/research student' ratio. We believe that the UGC should ensure this ratio by expanding faculty recruitment in the universities and not through reduction in student intake.

Therefore, Sir, I demand this the JNU should be allowed to uphold its institutional autonomy and prepare a robust defence of its present M.Phil./Ph.D. admission policy along with the Nafey Committee recommendation and present to the UGC model that already fulfils the principles that might have guided many of the specific technical provisions of the UGC notification. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री हरिवंश (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

**Use of Devanagari numerals in new currency notes of
₹ 500 and ₹ 2000 denomination**

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the new currency notes of 500 and 2,000 denomination, issued by the Reserve Bank of India, after the

demonetization and withdrawal of legal tender of the old ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 rupee denomination, contain the Devanagari numeral, which is a script of Hindi language. It is contravening the Constitution of India.

Sir, Article 343(1) of the Constitution clearly says that "the form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals." The only exception to this clause is the Presidential Order of 1960, which states that, "A uniform basic policy should be adopted for the use of Devanagari numerals in the Hindi publication of the Central Ministries, depending upon the public intended to be addressed, and the subject-matter of the publication. For scientific, technical and statistical publications, the international numerals should be adopted uniformly in all publications." Sir, it is certain that the new currency notes do not fall under the category of Hindi publications of the Central Ministries. Also, they do not cater to the need of a section of the people.

Further, Sir, Article 343(3) of the Constitution says it more clearly. It says, "Notwithstanding anything in this Article, Parliament may by law provide for the use, after the said period of fifteen years, of the English language or the Devanagari form of numerals for such purposes as may be specified in the law." So, if at all the currency notes have to be used with Devanagari numerals, it has to be done only after the passage of an Act of Parliament, but it has not been done. Sir, the Preamble of our Constitution grants equality of status and fraternity assuring dignity of individual to all. And the values and ethos which we maintain in our country consider diversity of linguistics in this country. But the cultural haste which the Government has shown seems to have given preference or privilege to one particular language in this country. Additionally, the use of 500 and 2000 rupee notes also contain the Emblem of the 'Swachh Bharat', which is preposterous for a Government to promote schemes through the medium of currency notes. Sir, in a country as diverse as ours, use of Devanagari script on currency notes, which are used by the people across the country, not only shows preference to the Hindi-speaking groups but may also lead to a feeling of alienation among those who do not belong to this group. This move of the Government is extremely condemnable. They have to withdraw this, maintain the status quo and immediately the international form of numerals has to be used in our currency notes. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. T. S. TULSI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MUKUL ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

**Threat to the environment due to illegal sand mining on
Ken River in Madhya Pradesh**

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, मैं आपके संज्ञान में एक महत्वपूर्ण मामला लाना चाहता हूँ। मान्यवर, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा से लगे नदियों किनारे बसे क्षेत्रों में खनिज सम्पदाओं की लूट हो रही है। नदियों से हमारे निषाद समाज का संबंध जुड़ा है। नोटबंदी के बाद गरीब लोग बेरोजगार होकर सूरत, गुजरात से वहां लौटे, तो वे नदियों के किनारे बालू में जायद की फसलें, जैसे—ककड़ी, खरबूजा और तरबूज आदि पैदा करने का काम करने लगे, लेकिन बालू माफिया से जुड़े लोग उनकी फसलों को उजाड़कर वहां अवैध रूप से खनन करने का काम करते हैं।

मान्यवर, केन नदी में 30 मीटर से लेकर 60 मीटर तक की गहराई करके अवैध रूप से बालू निकाला जा रहा है। इस संबंध में 26 जुलाई, 2016 को मध्य प्रदेश विधान सभा में भी श्री आर. डी. प्रजापति जी ने एक प्रश्न किया था। मान्यवर, छतरपुर जिले के मवाई घाट, परेई, बरुआ, फत्तेपुर, रामपुर, हरई, कुरधना, बघारी आदि गाँव, जो केन नदी के किनारे बसे हैं और मध्य प्रदेश तथा उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा से लगे हुए हैं, वहां एलएनटी और पोकलेन मशीनों को लगाकर नदी से सीधे अवैध खनन किया जा रहा है। वहां आए दिन अपराध की घटनाएँ होती रहती हैं। अभी हाल में, मवाई घाट में फायरिंग हुई, उसमें कई लोग मारे गए। चूंकि हमारा क्षेत्र वहीं से