

## RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 20th August, 2007/29 Shravana, 1929 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,  
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 101. Shri Manohar Joshi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

#### **Committee on private universities**

\*101. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private universities established under various State legislations and whether they have acquired the status of research universities;

(b) whether Government have received any suggestion from the University Grants Commission for constituting a high level committee to look into the fee and course structure of private universities; and

(c) whether Government intend to set up some new Central universities, including some world class campuses, and if so, the number of such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

(a) According to available information, 12 private universities have been established by State Legislations, of which the University Grants Commission (UGC) has so far included 11 universities under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956. The UGC does not confer status of Research Universities. Research in each university is governed by the concerned State legislation.

(b) No Sir, the University Grants Commission (UGC) itself is empowered under the UGC Act, 1956 to make regulations, with the prior approval of the Central Government, for Admissions and Fee Structure in Universities and Colleges. In respect of Private Universities, the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 have also been notified.

(c) Thirty new Central universities are proposed to be established by the year 2014, subject to availability of resources.

**RE. DEMAND FOR JPC TO EXAMINE THE 123 AGREEMENT**

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Before the Question Hour is taken up; we would like to raise an issue pertaining to the national interest and the Agreement which was entered into by India with US...

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are in Question Hour now. Other issues will be raised after the Question Hour.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, we would like to make a demand that there should be a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Parliament is in session. Things are happening outside the Parliament. Parliament is not taken into confidence. We are not in a position to acknowledge...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please make your suggestions but after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Parliament is not taken into confidence.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: We are not in a position to acknowledge...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: This issue is very important. This is not confined to two groups. Just by compromising it cannot be settled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is going to be a comprehensive discussion on the subject. We will raise all these issues. But Question Hour has commenced. Please let it proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: It has to be decided on the Floor of the House. It cannot be decided outside the House.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: The Government is afraid of facing the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are depriving an hon. Member who has already put a question from putting his supplementaries...*(Interruptions)*... Please...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: The House cannot be kept in the dark. The issue has to be discussed on the floor of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour has commenced. A question has been answered. Supplementaries have to be put. Please allow it to proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question Hour has commenced.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the entire House has to be taken into confidence. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Member to proceed with his supplementary. Please proceed with the supplementaries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Their views have to be...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please return to your seats. Sit down. Allow the Question Hour to proceed. *...(Interruptions)...* Don't deprive an hon. Member of his right to put his question.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, we are more deprived. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. V. MAITREYAN. They have taken the Parliament for a ride.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Where is our country going? What about our country's future? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: When the nation's sovereignty is involved, what is more important than this? The entire House has to be taken into confidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please return to your seats. Please sit down. Please allow the hon. Member to put his supplementary.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Uttar Pradesh): It is a very right and justified demand. They want a JPC on this. This has been demanded by our party also. They have asked for a Joint Parliamentary Committee. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't hear anything. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Jharkhand): Sir, the point I would like to make is, that *...(Interruptions)...* We demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee to examine the 123 Agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour has commenced. Please allow it to go on. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: As the House has to be taken into confidence; you cannot have a deal outside, which is no individual's property. It is nation's property. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, अगर पूरा सदन *...(व्यवधान)...* सर, एक मिनट के लिए *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't violate the procedure of the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सर, यह जो जेपीसी की मांग हो रही है *...(व्यवधान)...* सर, आप सुनें *...(व्यवधान)...* हम एक मिनट के लिए बोलेंगे *...(व्यवधान)...* सर, यह इतना गंभीर मामला है *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to the Chair...*(Interruptions)...*Please listen to the Chair...*(Interruptions)...*

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: लेकिन आपको हमारी बात भी सुननी पड़ेगी *...(व्यवधान)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request the hon. Members to return to their seats?. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: यह जेपीसी का रास्ता *...(व्यवधान)...* समझौते का रास्ता है *...(व्यवधान)...* हम समझते हैं कि पूरा सदन एजीटेड है *...(व्यवधान)...* सर, यह दो तरह के रास्ते नहीं चलेंगे *...(व्यवधान)...*

डा. प्रभा ठाकुर (राजस्थान): सर, यह ठीक बात है ...*(व्यवधान)*... यह क्वेश्चन आवर है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, we have to find out an acceptable method...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an hon. Member who has asked a question...*(Interruptions)*... He has a right to put his supplementaries to that question ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the country is asking this question to the Government...*(Interruptions)*...It is not that only one Member is asking this question. The entire country is asking this question ...*(Interruptions)*...crores and crores of people are asking this question ...*(Interruptions)*...Let this question be replied first...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, we are demanding for a Joint Parliamentary Committee on this issue...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सारी दुनिया हम हिन्दुस्तानियों से सवाल पूछ रही है ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, ज्वाइंट पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी ...*(व्यवधान)*... सर, क्वेश्चन आवर में कौन जवाब देगा, जब सरकार ही ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I request you to go back to your seats? ...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...We can discuss everything...*(Interruptions)*...But, at the moment, nothing is being discussed ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, our question be replied first...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't show any published material, pamphlets or booklets in the House. Here, it is contrary to the rules ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, either you permit me to ask my supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please ask your supplementaries...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, it is not a private affair ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...Please, don't come into the Well of the House...*(Interruptions)*...Please raise any questions you have after the Question Hour. That is an appropriate method in the House...*(Interruptions)*...No ...*(Interruptions)*...There are two things...*(Interruptions)*...Let me clarify two things...*(Interruptions)*...There are established procedures in the House. The Question Hour has commenced. You can raise other matters after the Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, this is an important issue and needs to be replied urgently...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me...(Interruptions)...There is an hon. Member who has asked a question. Don't violate his right of asking supplementaries to that question...(Interruptions)...You can raise the matter after the Question Hour...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister ridiculed the Parliament ...(Interruptions)... He is not taking Parliament into confidence ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please follow your own procedure and raise the matter after the Question Hour...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, we are demanding for a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the entire issue of Nuclear Deal ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't come into the Well. Please go back ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the sovereignty of the country cannot be traded...(Interruptions)...

SHRI N. JOTHI: It is not a personal matter...(Interruptions)...It is the question of the country...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since rules have been violated with impunity, I adjourn the House for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at  
nine minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twenty five minutes past  
eleven of the clock,

Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may proceed with the supplementaries.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether these 12 universities, which have been formed under the State legislative Acts, are working according to the Government norms or not. Is there any procedure to check whether these universities are functioning properly? And, to that extent, what, steps has the Government taken?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, it is only after the private universities abide by the norms and regulations prescribed by the UGC that they can actually proceed further or rather they can function. These are State Universities, which have been established under the State legislations. It is required that they abide by the UGC norms, and rules and regulations. They do abide by them.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: No, Sir. My question was: Does the Government have any procedure to check whether these universities are working in order or not?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the UGC is the regulatory body which was established under the UGC Act 1956. It is empowered to make regulations with reference to admission and fee structure in universities and colleges also. It has been a body which has been issuing regulations from time to time. It issued regulations in 1977, and in 2003 also with reference to admissions, fees and various other aspects. UGC also ensures that the infrastructure is in place before it grants permission to these private universities.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, my second supplementary is this. The hon. Prime Minister was in Mumbai to attend the Mumbai University function. He announced that 30 new universities — I am talking about Central Universities — will be started. What is the programme for that? And, when does the Government propose to start some of the universities out of these 30 universities?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, from the 30 universities that have been announced by the hon. Prime Minister, 16 universities would be initially established in such States where no Central University actually exists. It is only after establishing Central Universities in these States that the other 14 would be taken into consideration. But, initially, the concentration would be in such States where there is no Central University in existence.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question of private universities is assuming increasing importance because we just do not have enough universities in this country to meet the requirements. You had been a university man yourself; I had been Chancellor of universities for the last 40 years. We do need additional universities. The Government has said that it is going to set up 30 new universities. Now, setting up universities is not something you can do overnight until you have the academic inputs, professors, institutions, which will take some time. I do not know why we should take an entirely negative attitude towards private universities. We have to be careful, of course, that fly-by-night universities are not set up. But if there are proper regulations and rules, then, there are a large number of private individuals, trusts and other organisations who can add to the infrastructure of our education. In America, as you know, there are two streams; there are private universities and there are public universities. So, may I request the hon. Minister that this whole matter of private universities — they were going to bring forward a Private Universities Bill in this House, but, I have not seen it on the agenda this year — requires very careful consideration. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: It has been withdrawn.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the hon. Minister sit with some educationists and take some views in this matter? This is a decision which will have far-reaching effect in the future. May I ask the hon. Minister whether they are prepared to take a positive attitude provided these universities are up to the national and international standards?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, private universities have been complementing the efforts of the Government of India in ensuring that education reaches out to all the children in the country.

Sir, with regard to the withdrawal of the Private Universities Bill, this Bill was, actually, brought up for discussion in the Education Ministers' meet held in January, 2005. And, there were divergent views raised by the State Governments. Some of them supported it, while some of them felt that it was, actually, curbing the powers of the State Legislatures under Entry 32 of List II, Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. As there was no consensus on the Bill, the Bill was withdrawn.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, if you look at part (c) of the question, you will find that there is a sentence, which mentions "including some world-class campuses." And, if you look at the reply given by the Minister, you will find that it does not mention anything about the collaborations, if at all, which are happening in this country. In fact, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that today there are 104 institutes which are in collaboration with foreign educational institutions, without getting the approval of any Government body, including the Government body mandated to give such approvals, which is the AICTE. In other words, there are 104 foreign collaborations with foreign institutes which are illegally operating in this country. I would like to ask the Government and the Minister: Have you given a notice to them? Are you prosecuting them? Are you taking any criminal action against them? What are the cases you have filed against them for illegal operation? I would be happy if you could inform this to the House.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, out of 30 universities announced by the hon. Prime Minister, it would be our endeavour first to establish one Central University in those States which do not have Central University. With reference to the world-class universities which the hon. Member referred to, Sir, it has been our endeavour to bring each one of our universities to the level of world-class. I think, we need to strengthen our own universities...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, she is not answering the question at all...(Interruptions).... The question is something entirely different...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let the Minister proceed...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, going back to the collaboration which our universities have been having, there are 104...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: They are twinning arrangements...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: They are twinning arrangements. Sir, we have a vacuum policy at present which the foreign education providers are making use of while entering into these collaborative and twinning arrangements with various universities in our country. Sir, there have been instances that have been brought to the notice of the AICTE. The AICTE has put up the names of all those universities or institutes which have been providing such measures and which are not recognised by the AICTE on its website. We welcome everybody to access the website...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am afraid the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No supplementaries...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Show-cause notices have been issued. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: I am very sorry, Sir...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise a separate question...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Please find out...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please; no supplementary to supplementary. Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सभापति जी। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री सभापति: श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी।

श्री दत्ता मेघे: सर, मुझे कभी पूछने ही नहीं देते। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह बात सच है कि देश में विश्वविद्यालयों की संख्या बहुत कम होने के कारण नए विश्वविद्यालय खोले जाने चाहिए और इसीलिए निजी विश्वविद्यालय का कन्सेप्ट सामने आया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या निजी विश्वविद्यालयों की स्थापना को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए उन्हें रियायती दर पर भूमि, वित्तीय प्रबंधन में आयकर कानून के अंतर्गत छूट व प्रोत्साहन तथा उपकरणों एवं साहित्य के आयात में छूट देने का आपका कोई कार्यक्रम है?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, once again, Central Universities are established under the Central law. State Universities are under the State Law. So, if the States do come forward to incentivise setting up of universities even with private collaboration, I think, it is entirely the prerogative of the State Government.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी: सभापति जी, यह समवर्ती इश्यू है, कन्करेंट इश्यू है, तो इसमें केन्द्र सरकार क्या कर रही है? मैंने बड़ा स्पेसिफिक सवाल पूछा है कि इनको प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कुछ कदम उठाए हैं, आगे कदम बढ़ाए हैं? कृपया इस बारे में मंत्री महोदया बताएं। सर, यह उनका काम है यह समवर्ती सूची में है। तो क्या आप इसमें कुछ इस प्रकार का करने की बात करेंगे?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, when Universities are established under State Legislature, there is little that the Central Government can do, but if they are established under the Central legislation, then, definitely, we would look forward to various State Governments who would want such reputed universities in their State to provide land and other facilities.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, there should be a Half-an-Hour discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it is a good suggestion and the House may wish to consider it. Question No.102; Shri Dwijender Nath Sharmah.