

Hindu heritage. The mosque has been abandoned since 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now, it is a listed monument under the Archaeological Survey of India. However, it is deeply concerning that the members of a certain community have been throwing stones at Hindu artefacts, obstructing the efforts to reclaim and restore this sacred site. Such acts of vandalism threaten the prevalence of India's culture and religious heritage. & "Sir, the Adinath Temple needs to be protected at any cost. Inside the temple, Shiva Lingam, Yoni Peeth and other Hindu symbols are present. But it is unfortunate that miscreants belonging to a particular community, on certain specific days, have been throwing stones on those symbols. If such attempts are continuously made to vitiate the atmosphere, then what is a symbol of the ancient tradition of West Bengal in particular and India at large and which is a testament to thousands of years of our history, would be in grave danger. The Adinath Temple is one of those thousands of temples, which was, following the invasion of West Bengal, destroyed by the invading hordes. Efforts are on by certain quarters to identify the temple as Adina Mosque in front of the world. I hope that the Government of India, the Archaeological Survey of India, will look into the matter seriously."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Samik Bhattacharya: Shri Chunnial Garasiya (Rajasthan), Shri Madan Rathore (Rajasthan), Shri Kesridevsinh Jhala (Gujarat), Shri Deepak Prakash, (Jharkhand), Shri Mahendra Bhatt (Uttarakhand), Shri Pradip Kumar Varma (Jharkhand), Sh. Brij Lal (Uttar Pradesh) and Shri Mayankkumar Nayak (Gujarat).

Now, Dr. Fauzia Khan, 'Concern over the problem of proxy teachers in Government schools'.

### Concern over the problem of proxy teachers in Government Schools

डा. फौजिया खान (महाराष्ट्र): सर,

*'गुरु गोविन्द दोऊ खड़े, काके लागू पाय।  
बलिहारी गुरु आपने, गोविन्द दियो बताय ॥'*

These words of Kabir underscore the deep respect for teachers in our culture. Yet, today, this noble profession is marked by increasing commercialization and

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& English translation of the original speech delivered in Bengali.

alienation. One of the manifestations of this practice is the practice of proxy teaching in India, especially in Government schools, as highlighted by a 2018 World Bank Report. Officially-appointed teachers illegally delegate their duties to unqualified substitutes while remaining absent for long durations. In August 2024, reports surfaced that a Government school teacher in Gujarat stayed away for years and settled in the U.S. while still drawing a salary. The malpractice exposes students to untrained individuals, impacting their development and quality of education. The ACER report 2024 noted a 12.5 per cent teacher absenteeism rate at the primary school level and 13 per cent at the upper primary and higher levels. In August 2024, the Gujarat Education Department decided to terminate the services of 150 teachers who were missing from duty for a year. Sir, fake ID cards and documents enable unqualified individuals to impersonate real teachers. Even biometric attendance systems are being cleverly circumvented. Education officers are party to this corruption. It is said that the Education Department is the most corrupt department of all departments. Poorly-managed underfunded teacher training institutes compound the issue. Sir, degrees are issued without adequate training or classes. As per the UDISE 2023-24 report, 48 per cent of pre-primary school teachers were professionally unqualified. Why do teachers not send their own children to Government schools? This is a question. Urgent interventions are needed. The order of the Rajasthan High Court of 2023 has set a precedent by mandating strict measures and enforcing zero tolerance against proxies. Strict action must be taken against absentee and proxy teachers, including FIRs, disciplinary actions, and salary recovery. Sir, we must also strengthen teacher training institutions to cultivate competent and ethical teachers. Taking money for teacher recruitment has also become a practice, especially in private-aided schools. This should be made a criminal offence. मासूम बच्चों के भविष्य से खेलने वालों को सलाखों के पीछे रहना चाहिए, धन्यवाद।

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Fauzia Khan : Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu) and Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala).

Shri A.A. Rahim. Demand to address the plight of small-scale business persons in the country.