

Chairman, University Grants Commission

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*1256. { Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
 { Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, University Grants Commission, can enter into political questions when he is serving under Government;

(b) whether any exemption is given to him to do so; and

(c) if so, on what grounds?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): (a) to (c). The Chairman of the University Grants Commission is not considered a Government servant in the normal acceptance of the term. There is thus no bar, such as is applied to Government servants, about his dealing with political questions. The question of giving an exemption to him therefore does not arise.

In such cases conventions may gradually grow up.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: Without going into the merits of the political problems which the Chairman of the University Grants Commission touches more often generously, may I know whether Government have not framed rules and regulations as to impose restrictions on the activities which will impinge on the scope and function of the UGC?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I think I have already answered that question. There are no rules under which the Chairman of the University Grants Commission can be debarred from expressing any opinions on political questions. At the same time, I have said that in these matters, it will be much better that good and healthy conventions grow rather than to frame rules. In my opinion, the office of the Chairman of the University Grants Commission is one of the highest offices that we can think of in this

country and it would be much desirable to develop healthy conventions round this office rather than to have rigid rules. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the pay of the Chairman, University Grants Commission, at present and the allowance and TA paid to him?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I am answering this from memory because this question does not arise out of this. I think the pay is Rs. 3,000. He is drawing his pension also, which, as far as I remember, is, Rs. 1,200. This is subject to correction. As regards the allowances I think he draws Rs. 20 per day as D.A. when he is on tour. But this information may be subject to correction here and there. I am just giving it from memory.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the rule of the Finance Ministry that the retired Government servants shall not be allowed to draw their pension has been relaxed in this case and, if so, why? What is the reason for that?

Mr. Speaker: This does not arise out of this question.

Shri Raghunath Singh: This question relates to the Chairman, University Grants Commission.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member will see that this question relates only to this as to whether the Chairman of the University Grants Commission can be allowed to participate in political activities. That is all that the question relates to.

Shri A. M. Tariq: If, for instance, the Chairman, University Grants Commission, addresses a political or public meeting or, for instance, he goes to the Swatantra Party meeting will Government not take any action against him?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I think I have explained my point of view. I can also express my personal opinion on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Evidently hon. Members want that the Government should

take steps to frame rules if possible in this regard. That is all that is at the back of their mind.

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: I have answered that question also saying that in these matters it will be much better to develop healthy conventions..... (Interruption).

Shri Tyagi: What are they?..... (Interruption).

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन और यूनिवर्सिटी ग्रांट्स कमीशन के चेयरमैन के राइट्स और प्रिविलेज में क्या अंतर है? क्या दोनों के अधिकार एक से ही हैं? या उनमें से एक पार्लियामेंट में भाग ले सकता है और दूसरा नहीं?

डा० का० ला० श्रीवास्ती : दोनों का काम अलग अलग है और दोनों का काम का क्षेत्र अलग अलग है और दोनों के हक अलग अलग हैं ।

Shri Raghunath Singh: No, I want to know about privilege and rights.

मैं सिर्फ यह जानना चाहता हूँ.....

Mr. Speaker: Evidently they want to know whether the Chairman, UPSC, can go and address such meetings. But that is not within the province of the hon. Education Minister.

Shri Raghunath Singh: We want to know whether (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : दोनों के वास्ते कन्वेंशन होना चाहिए ।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Home Minister is not asked to answer these questions..... (Interruption).

Shri Joachim Alva: Has Government allowed this concession to the Chairman, UGC, out of a sense of consideration of the British practice or convention regarding the Chairman of the University Grants Commission in Britain or is it a question of allowing the hon. gentleman to have it both ways?

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: As far as I am aware, the Chairman of the University Grants Commission in U.K., will not take a partisan view, that is, he will not associate himself with party politics though on public questions he would certainly express opinions. Therefore I had suggested that in these matters it would be much better to develop healthy conventions..... (Interruption).

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: What is the healthy convention?..... (Interruption).

Dr. K. L. Shrimall: The convention should be that as far as possible a person who holds the office of the Chairman of the University Grants Commission should not be partisan because once the universities are dragged into party politics all kinds of difficulties are created..... (Interruption).

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Where is the question of party politics here..... (Interruption)?

Shri Raghunath Singh: We want to know the opinion of the Government in this case..... (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Unfortunately hon. Members are becoming too excited. The simple question is whether the Chairman, University Grants Commission, can enter into political activities or political questions when he is serving under the Government. The simple question has been answered. Rules have not been framed but the hon. Minister expects healthy conventions to grow.....

Shri Tyagi: What are the healthy conventions?

Mr. Speaker:..... meaning thereby that he ought not to take part in partisan politics. The question as to whether he ought to talk about corruption or not does not arise here. Therefore let us proceed to the next question.

Shri Raghunath Singh: No, no. (Interruption). What is the healthy convention in the view of the Government? (Interruption).

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I seek one minor clarification?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I ask one more question?

Shri Raghunath Singh: There should be half-an-hour discussion.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members know how to ask for a half-an-hour discussion. Next Question.

Stabilising Village Roads

*1258. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Road Research Institute has worked out any scheme for stabilising the village roads with local materials;

(b) whether it has also experimented for stabilising the hill village roads with local materials; and

(c) if so, in what way that knowledge has been taken to the village level and made known to the villagers?

The Deputy Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Dr. M. M. Das): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The knowledge has been passed on to the State Chief Engineers, Municipalities and District Boards. I may add that we have also asked for the co-operation of the Ministry of Community Projects in this matter.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether any literature has been prepared regarding these matters in some regional languages and made available to the Block Development Officers?

Dr. M. M. Das: This Road Research Institute publishes regularly bulletins in which the accounts of the research are given.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether Block Development Officers have been given information so that the hill roads which are being eroded day by day may be stabilised at an early date and the erosion that is taking place and is bringing so much sand to the Bhakra Dam may be stopped?

Dr. M. M. Das: The Ministry of Community Projects have been written to about this.

Administrative Reforms

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 { **Shri Bhanja Deo:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 *1260 { **Shri Damani:**
Shri Harish Chandra
Mathur:
Shri Manabendra Shah:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the existing rules of procedure in Government administration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The problem of improving and simplifying procedures in Government administration is constantly under review and improvements have been effected by organisations like the O&M Division, Cabinet Secretariat and the Special Reorganisation Unit. Some steps have also been taken for reducing duplication of noting in the Secretariat, the Liculcation of greater initiative at middle levels, effective decentralisation of powers and delegation of authority at all levels and a more vivid appreciation of the importance of human relations in administration. Certain general suggestions made by me on this subject are under examination by the different Ministries. Steps are also being taken to set up internal groups to make a detailed organisation of the selected segments of administration with a view to simplifying the procedure and expediting the disposal of work.