

## **Regarding filling up the post of Vice-Chancellors in Universities of Kerala**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Thank you, Chairman Sir.

The tussle between the Governor of Kerala and the State Government has put the entire higher education administration and governance on a standstill and it is impacting the delivery of quality learning and critical areas of research. The lack of appointment of Vice Chancellors in almost all universities is causing a total halt in continuity of administration and academics. This situation demands an immediate resolution.

The educational excellence achieved in the higher education sector is under question as the political tension between the Governor and the State Government led by the Chief Minister is impacting the quality of education in the universities of the State of Kerala. Posts of academic significance, like that of Vice Chancellor, are being used and exploited for satisfying political points, which is a blatant violation of UGC norms and guidelines. The controversy surrounding the appointment of Dr. Gopinath Ravindran is the latest of such shameful incidents that erode the quality of higher education in Kerala. The same is the experience with appointment of Vice Chancellors in Kerala Technical University, Fisheries University, and other universities.

There are at least 14 Universities that do not have regular Vice-Chancellors. The purpose of educational excellence and research output of national importance is not achieved as these institutions have become battlegrounds for political contests and people of loyalty rather than academic quality are being appointed through the backdoor. This is a very serious situation in Kerala.

The higher education in Kerala is also facing a serious problem because the Governor and the State Government are going different ways. The Governor is appointing a Vice-Chancellor and the State Government is appointing another Vice-Chancellor. So, the entire higher education system is totally paralysed. ?

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please put your demand now.

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Yes. Now, the students are going abroad because of this issue. Dropouts issue is also there in colleges and universities of Kerala. ?  
(Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Next is Shri Vincent H. Pala.

? (Interruptions)

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** A number of students are going out of the State. This is a very serious matter. ? (Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Every issue raised in this Parliament is very serious.

? (Interruptions)

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Yes. This issue is related to education. Everybody is aware that education system in Kerala is appreciated by everyone, but the recent situation in Kerala -- where the Governor and the State Government are going in different ways -- is causing the entire system to collapse. ? (Interruptions)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please be brief.

? (Interruptions)

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Yes. I would like to request the Government of India, especially the Ministry of Education, to interfere in this matter and ensure that quality education in higher education sector is provided to the students in Kerala. Thank you.