

organisations. The pace of progress has slowed down. There are no funds for the development. Government has not provided money for the main scheme of the Government for the last ten years. Our area is also backward in the field of education due to poverty. There are many rivers in our area.

Punpun-Dargha-Morhar Irrigation Project was sanctioned four years ago but it is still lying with the Irrigation Ministry of the Government of Bihar. In the absence of required funds the work on this project has not yet started. The delay will result in increase in the estimated cost. Therefore, Central Government is requested to provide funds for Punpun-Dargha-Marhar Irrigation Project and get the work started there.

(vii) Need to look into the problems of farmers whose cultivable land falls beyond barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pak border in Punjab.

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (Tarantaran) : There are serious problems of the farmers of three border districts of Punjab i.e. Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozpur whose lands fall beyond the barbed wire fencing and in between the actual Indo-Pak border. For these farmers, their farms have become virtually inaccessible because of the lack of sympathy of the BSF personnel manning the fence. They are not allowed to work there from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. They suffer great crop losses. They are not allowed to sow tall crops like sugarcane, cotton and jawar bajra which are most suitable for the soil. People cannot water their fields at night because of night Curfew on the border. During the day, labour and harvesting machinery are not allowed. Wild animals destroy their crops at night as there is none to protect. They suffer indignities. All over the world, Governments give facilities and incentives to the border people to keep up their morale. Land for border fencing was taken in haste and very little compensation was provided which even up to now has not been fully paid. Gates provided at entry points are at far off distances which must be brought closer. The Government should acquire the land beyond the barbed wire fencing for their own use and adequate compensation given to the farmers.

(viii) Need to include Construction of a Road Bridge at Choukighat on National Highway No. 52 in Sonitpur District, Assam in Plan outlay

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : A road bridge at Chowkighat over river Jia Bharali in Sonitpur districts has been a long standing and overwhelming demand of the entire population of the North Bank of Assam. The only existing bridge across this giant tributary of the Brahmaputra in the upper reaches of the river bypasses the populated areas. The new bridge at Chowkighat will reduce by 38 KM to 35 KM. the distance along NH No. 52 between Tezpur and

all important places on the North Bank including Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. What is more, the bridge will save a large number of villages inhabited by lakhs of people presently under serious and imminent threat of erosion by the turbulent waters of Jia Bharalie. The bridge would also enhance the military capability of the Indian Army by facilitating faster movement to the strategic frontiers with China from the bases in and around Tezpur.

Survey, investigation, detailed project report and preparation of tender documents have already been completed for the proposed bridge at a cost of about Rs. 51 lakhs. Delay in commencement of construction could render this expeditious infrastructure, as the configuration could change due to erosion presently going on unabated.

I would urge upon the Ministry of Surface Transport to accord highest priority to the proposed bridge at Chowkighat on NH No. 52 and include it in the Plan and budget for implementation commencing from the financial year 1997-98, if not from the current year.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : This problem is also there in our area at borders. Farmers are facing problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give notice under 377.

14.35 hrs.

**MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY
BILL - CONTD.**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no Minister connected with the department is present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His colleague is sitting here. He is just coming.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, no Minister connected with education department is present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called him.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : First, let the Minister come. There should be someone to take notes.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : No Cabinet Minister is here, Sir... (Interruptions) You should give strict instructions in this regard... (Interruptions). The House should not be taken so lightly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The concerned Minister has come.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : I agree that three State Ministers are here but no Cabinet Minister is here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ministers are sitting here.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : I am quite aware of the position, but to add dignity to the House at least one Cabinet Minister should be present throughout.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, such an important matter should not be taken so lightly. Some Cabinet Minister should be there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is just coming. You please start.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, we want your ruling in this regard. It is an important business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Instead of my ruling...here comes the Minister.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I welcome Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996. This University is being established for promotion and development of Urdu language and with a view to impart professional and technical education in Urdu. Therefore, I welcome this Bill. Sir, Maulana Azad was a freedom fighter and a great patriot after whose name this university is being named. A medical college in Delhi and an engineering institute in Bhopal is also named after him. This freedom fighter was against partition. Some people wanted to divide this nation in the name of religion and they had started working in a planned way. In such a time despite being belonging to a particular community he worked for the freedom of the country. He opposed the idea of partition and mobilised the people of his community not to vote in favour of partition because by partition they can win the people of their own religion but they cannot make a nation. This university is being named after such Maulana Azad. It is matter of great pleasure that this year we are celebrating the Golden jubilee of our Independence. Naming an Urdu University after him is a welcome step. There may be no one who is not attracted towards Urdu Couplets, poetry, gazals and qawaalies. Urdu has an important place in the history of India from cultural, historical and political point of view when we hear.

"Chisti ne jis zamin par paigame hak sunaya,
Nanak ne jis zamin par Wahdat ka geet gaya,
Mera watan wahi hai, mera watan wahi hai.

or when we hear these revolutionary words of Ramprasad Bismil

"Sarfaroshi ke tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai
dekhna hai zor kitna bajue katil mein hai."

This was a challenge to British regime and during freedom struggle this message reached the million of masses through Urdu or Hindustani Hindi. Urdu has a special importance. When we read :

Oh God, do not give me honour but give me courage to die for my country.

The language which is full of patriotic literature must be promoted and developed. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I was astonished to read a line in the aims and objectives of Maulana Azad Urdu University Bill which was to be introduced in the original form.

This line was

[English]

"The Task Force on Minority Education set up for preparation of programme of action 1992 to give effect to National Education Policy (NPE) as revised in 1992, recommended for setting up of an Urdu University."

[Translation]

Sir, if an Urdu University is established for the development and promotion of any Indian language and if that University happens to be of a National or Central level, is a welcome step. But it is not proper to link only minorities with that language. But unfortunately those who got power after the Independence, they did not promote the feeling of Indianness and nationality but they tried to divide the people in the name of majorities and minorities. Whenever there has been elections in a particular State they would hold conference of Urdu Editors, would appoint Urdu teachers, giving attention towards Madrasas and Imams immediately before election is not proper. It has also been written

[English]

"The Task Force on minority education set up for preparation of programme..."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rawat ji, Urdu is the language of this country. It was born here. It is the language of the whole country not only of minorities.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, we are also saying the same thing. But I am talking about the statement which has been given by the Government. I am opposing that mentality. As I have earlier said, we welcome it because it is being named after Maulana Azad, - better late than never. But we are opposing this minority mentality. Government has this feeling somewhere in mind. A kind of debate has started among the people in the country. An international Hindi University based at Wardha after the name of Mahatma Gandhi is proposed to be set up. Since the proposal to

set up a Hindi University is fraught with dangers. Hindi University is followed by an Urdu University as this proposal was gathering dust for a long time. The Government's contention is that Urdu is an Indian language. But the Committee that was set up in 1975 for the betterment of minorities under the Chairmanship of Shri I.K. Gujral, the present Minister of External Affairs, had come out with 220 recommendations. One of these recommendations was about the development of Urdu. Then, as I have read out from the Aims and Objects, the expression 'Task Force on Minority' raises apprehension.

Thereafter, in 1992 another Committee headed by Shri Aziz Qureshi was set up to give shape to this idea. That Committee submitted its report on 12th June, 1993. Maulana Azad National Urdu University is being set up on the basis of the report of this Committee. Sometimes controversies are raised about Hindi and Urdu. Such controversies should be avoided. It is no exaggeration to say that Hindi and Urdu are the branches of the same tree. The difference is that of the scripts in which they are written. Urdu is written in Arabic script whereas Hindi is written in Devnagari script. If Hindi and Urdu are simplified by removing numerous Arabic and Persian words, I think, the unique language that would emerge would be easy to comprehend.

As I said in the beginning, Urdu is a sweet language. It is full of delicacies, niceties, culture and style. Besides being a language of romance, Urdu has other qualities too. Ajmer which I represent, has a Dargah of great Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti who endeavoured to send the message of love throughout the country through the medium of this language.

Therefore, through you, I would submit to the Government not to commit the mistake of giving an impression that this University is being set up just to appease the minorities. There is an Urdu couplet :

"Lamhon ne khata ki,
aur sadon ne saza payee."

A situation should not be created which fits into the meaning of the above couplet.

I want a few clarifications from the Government on the proposed university. First of all, it should be made clear whether the status of this University should be of a Central University or of a National University. For instance, Delhi University, JNU, BHU, AMU all are Central Universities, but in the case of the proposed university, the word Central is not there with the name. Instead, it has the word 'National' with its name. I want that this University should in the real sense infuse a sense of nationality and patriotism so that the entire country could be knit in a common bond. This is the spirit that works behind setting up a Central University. Similarly, the pattern of this University should also be made clear in the House. Will it have a JNU pattern of a Central University? Shri Bommai is present in the House. I want him to clarify it.

My second clarification relates to the conventional education.

[English]

What do you mean by 'conventional education'?

[Translation]

We have one system of education which is in vogue in the Universities, whether Central or National. By conventional education, do the Government mean the education that is being imparted in different universities and colleges in pursuance of education policy of the country or does it mean the education being imparted in Madaras and religious institutions? I want the hon. Minister to clarify it.

It is good if the objective of this university is the same as that of other national institutes and national universities. It has been stated in the Bill and clarification to this effect was also given that this university would be open to all men and women irrespective of their caste, creed, race or class, and it shall not be lawful for the university to adopt or impose on any person any test whatsoever of religious belief or profession in order to entitle him to be appointed as teacher of the university or to be admitted as a student in the university or to graduate there at or to enjoy or exercise any privilege thereof. Although provision regarding admission of women, physically handicapped or a person belonging to the weaker sections of the society and in particular of the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled tribes is there. Scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and other non-privileged sections of the society have been distinctly mentioned therein, but what is meant by the weaker section? Does it mean minority or is it implied? I am saying this only because it should not be linked with minorities alone. Will it be open for all, as has been said? This may please be clarified...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Rawat, weaker sections does not mean minorities, You too can come under weaker...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I know the meaning of weaker section, but yet there is no harm in seeking clarification...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You and me both come under weaker section...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : When this Government says 'Weaker Section' it means something else. It does not practise what it preaches. Kabir has rightly said :

"Kathni tothi jagat mein, Karni uttam saar,
Keh Kabir karani sabal, utre bhaye jal paar."

If you mean that it is very good, I welcome that. I would like to know about the affiliation of this university. If it were to be a national university, its rules should explicitly provide for the affiliation of Urdu medium

colleges and other Urdu medium institutions being run in the States.

Thirdly, it has been stated that this university would be run on the pattern of Indira Gandhi National Open University and would work for distant education through the Urdu medium. If so, has the Government decided about the relationship between the post graduate and research degrees in Urdu from this University and the careers, services and jobs of the holders of such degrees? Will these degrees be recognised by other universities as equivalent to the degrees of those universities? I do agree that Indian languages should fight for their existence against English language but as of now, the English language is dominating. The States have their own official languages: the Centre has English and Hindi as its official language. In such a set up, what would be the status of Urdu degree holders? Therefore, this point needs to be clarified as to what would be the position when the question of giving recognition to the degrees of this University or giving jobs to these degree holders would come.

Sir, one more thing I want to say. The University Grants Commission gives grants to the Universities irrespective of the fact whether it is the Central University or any other university. But the UGC is facing shortage of funds. Now with the setting up of this national university, more funds would be needed. How that money is proposed to be raised? In the Bill itself, reference has been made to donation, etc. So, in view of the funds constraints, how much funds have been provided in the Budget for this university and what would be the source of these funds? A Central university like the Delhi University witnessed strike of lecturers sometime back. The same is true of other Central Universities whether it is JNU or BHU. Such a situation should not be allowed to be created in the proposed university and hence there is a need to make it self-sufficient. Therefore, it needs to be clarified as to where from the funds would be raised for the all round development of this University?

Sir, the proposed university would be a national institute. But going by the past history of the Aligarh Muslim University and the happenings that have taken place there, I am constrained to say that a burnt child dreads the fire. So, this aspect needs to be taken care of and hence the need for proper monitoring of the affairs of the university. Besides, the provision regarding the court of the university needs to be clearly defined. As of now, it has not been clearly defined. What would be the distinct powers of the senate, syndicate, executive council or court of the University? The Executive council has been taken as supreme and the Hon. President of India would be its Chancellor. It would be better if all these points are clarified a bit.

One more thing which I want to say is that there must be a provision to set up a Sufi Department within this Central university named after Maulana Azad so

that there could be a fusion of Sufi love, India's Vedanta and monotheism of the Arabs. The stream of Un-ul-haq, Sufism, Love and Vedanta that gushed in respect of Sufism, whether it was Sheikh Farid, Nazamuddin Aulia, Moinuddin Chishti or the liberal sufi ideology nurtured by Jaiyasi, Kutuban, Manjhan which tends to knit all into one, needs to be studied and if arrangement is made in this university for such a study, it would go a long way in contributing to the national unity. I hope that this university would become national and progressive in the real sense and would help in the development of Urdu language. I am saying this because at present Urdu is being taught at 40 of the Indian universities but the Urdu departments, their heads, lecturers as well as students are facing problem and these Urdu departments are in a mess. Urdu students are very few and far between. Therefore, a care has to be taken that such a situation does not come up in this university. With these words, I welcome this Bill as it is my conviction that this Bill will become an instrument in the development of Urdu language which has been recognised as an Indian language in the Indian Constitution.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill which seeks to set up a university for the development of Urdu language and heartily congratulate the present day Government for this. Urdu poet Allama Iqbal has said :

"Gesu-e-urdu mannat-e-fazeer shaman hai,
Shama-e-saudayee dil sozee parwana hai.
Alhamdu dil ki kali Khilne lagi hai,
aur bahare jaan fiza ka paigam aa rahi hai."

This is also a fact that the fate that befell Urdu following the dawn of independence is no more a secret. The situation came to such a pass that owing to the deeds of the Governments that came to power, Urdu was extened even from U.P. which was a centre of Urdu learning and from where this language flourished to other parts of the country.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even today the condition of Urdu is such that it will take a long time if I start narrating it. To support Urdu is one thing but to provide supportive infrastructure for it is another thing. Today, in Urdu speaking areas of Bihar, where this language has the status of second language, the teachers of traditional Urdu schools are not getting salaries for fairly long periods.

There can be no end to grievances on this score. Setting up of Urdu university is an addition to the field of language and I rise to support it. Surely, Urdu is a national language.

15.00 hrs.

This is the languages which echoed at the pitch of its voice 'Saare Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara'. This is the language which gave slogans of national

unity and taught that 'Majhav nahin sikhata apas mein bair rakhna'. This is the language which gave slogan of 'Inqilab Zindabad' for the sake of justice. In the wake of injustice, it rose so furiously that it spoke through the tongue of Allama Iqbal thus :

'Jis khet se meyasar na ho dahkan ko rozi,
us khet ke har gosh-e-gandam ko jala do.'

Being a language of justice it is a national language but I regret to say that some of the communal people, the people who dared to rule this country for 13 days...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon. Mr. Dy. Speaker,

Sachchai Chup Nahin Sakti Kabhi Banawat Ke
Usulon Se Khushboo Aa Nahin Sakti Kabhi Kagaz Ke
Phoolon Se.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You go on saying everything, now have patience to listen something also *(Interruptions)* They have wrongly understood so far that this language belongs to a particular community. Urdu is a language of this country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I urge upon the House not to bring bitterness in the sweet language Urdu. It will be better not to say anything controversial.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : People like you were responsible for creating the tendency which led to the division of India, Please don't do anything which may lead to division over the issue of Urdu language...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Truth is always bitter which is why all have got disturbed...*(Interruptions)*

I was saying that such people have uselessly been harsh to this language and tried to target it thinking that it belongs to just one community. It is a matter of happiness that the tune has changed today and the language is being supported, may be due to some compulsions, But even while extending their support to the language out of compulsions, they have uttered quite a few things perhaps in order to generate feelings on the issues of University in future.

Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these realities cannot be wished away but I like to say that let us come forward and make a detailed study of the Bill, have a look over the draft law that it has come before us. I undoubtedly welcome it, yet I would like to draw attention of the Government to certain things.

There was an expert committee. How many recommendations were submitted by that expert committee. But all those recommendations have not been incorporated in the present draft law. What are those recommendations which have not found their way into this draft law. Many of the reasons therefor have not been given in this draft law. The Govt. as well as the

future authorities of the University will have to pay attention to such matters due to which this draft law has fallen short of becoming a perfect law.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one regrettable thing about it is that powers have been vested in the Visitor, the Central Government to a great extent. We are finding the proposed University constrained on several counts. On occasions I have been constrained to wonder whether it will be a University or merely the Government's showpiece. With regard to the powers of the Visitor and the Government, the proposed University will be unable to set up even a centre on its own without the permission of the Government. Why are such constraints being imposed on it. It will not have a free hand even in the preparation of syllabus and teaching and learning material for which it will have to enter into collaboration with someone. Why such restrictions and limitations were not imposed on the Indira Gandhi Open University when it was being set up. This University too will have to prepare teaching material, syllabus and other material so as to bring some destination in Urdu, and it should have the freedom to do this on its own. It should be within its powers to decide whether it should enter into collaboration with Indira Gandhi Open University or not. But it is not proper to attach such type of restrictions to it. There is no reason whatsoever why the Degrees-in-Urdu given by this University should not be equivalent to those bestowed by other Universities and also recognisable by the Government. I would like to say in particular that the proposed Urdu University needs to get such types of reservations, the reason being that there are some people who are trying to put hindrances in the way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you repeating this word, there is no need to do so.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : So, this University needs to be given more and more autonomy so that in case a group of people or party with a particular shade comes to power at the centre, this University is spared of its likely mischiefs. That is why I was saying that it was necessary to give autonomy which I find nowhere in this Bill.

The Bill provides for the formation of a council. But the Court has been given little powers. The Court is required to give advice if the Visitor asks for it, i.e. the Court is to render its advice only when it is asked to by the Visitor. Further, it will be the Court's job to review the progress made by the University and that's all. Here the Court has no role in relation to the Chancellor. Here the Court has no role in framing statutes. As if to cross the limit, the Executive council will not be required to send a copy of the annual report prepared by it and it will not be incumbent on the Court to look into the annual report either. The Court is kept aloof even from the annual accounts, which will be prepared by the Executive Council and sent to the Visitors, so even here the court will stand bypassed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Banatwallaji, an Urdu quartet is coming to my mind.

"Duniyan Hai Yahan. Kam Chalta Hai Saleeke Se. Yahan Patthar Ko Bhi Lal-Va-Goha Kahana Parta hai."

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, you have said a nice thing and I hope the Government will share your views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Quite right.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What I am saying and you are giving attention to, I wish the Government also on its part will try to remove such lacunae. But as I was saying, it is very necessary to go into them. I have suggested as many as 22-22 changes. I congratulate the Government, but side by side, this Urdu University, should become an example not only in India but also outside it so as to add a feather in the cap of India's democracy and secularism.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Now, this proposed University would be a single campus University with no provision for affiliation.

[Translation]

This University will not have powers to affiliate colleges. Indira Gandhi Open University also provides distant education, but it has the power to affiliate colleges anywhere if the latter want to get affiliated with it. To give powers of affiliation to Indira Gandhi Open University on the one hand, while to deny the same to an Urdu University, speaks of discrimination at every step. Why such mental reservations are allowed to come into play. We should get rid of it. As I said, the University has its headquarters in Hyderabad and if it has to set up a centre or even an ordinary laboratory anywhere else, it cannot do so without taking prior approval for the same.

I think too many boundations and restrictions are being imposed on the proposed University. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a good step is being taken, we wish the step in the right direction may continue. There was a Gujral Committee...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAL) : Sir, I want to make one clarification. Sir, he is saying that Indira Gandhi Open University has the power of affiliation. It can start colleges but it has no power of affiliation.

15.16 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I talked of the power of affiliation, but look at section

five, clause ten and clause 27 of the Indira Gandhi Open University Act. I did not read them out as to avoid a fuss over it. Under this clause ten, Clause 27 and section five...(Interruptions) it enjoys the power affiliation as well as admit to the privileges. Anyway, this is the interpretation which is present before us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that there is the Gujral Committee which submitted its report in 1975. This report contains 220 recommendations. I will also invite attention of the Government to the report of this Committee. The Urdu University is included, it is in the process of coming up. We welcome it but I.K. Gujral of the Gujral Committee who is present here, is also a member of the Cabinet. I would urge upon the Government to give practical shape to the recommendations of this Committee. Particularly, two things are there i.e. the dreams of Urdu University and its progress may come true. For this it is essential that the language of instructions at the primary level is Urdu.

Sir, the second point is that the Urdu language which now stands divested of its relationship with livelihood and knowledge should have that relationship restored to it. It should also be provided with job potential and job opportunities I am happy to note, of course that such doors are being opened to a large extent due to technical education but concrete steps are required to be taken in the matter of going more and more employment. I will draw attention of the House to this. The Standing Committee which considered the draft of the Act, says in its report :

[English]

"It was generally agreed that this long delayed measure would prove fully affective only if it was conceived as a part of a larger endeavour to restore Urdu to its due place in society by expansion of Urdu education at the school level, especially for elementary education and the provision of adequate employment opportunities for graduates passing out in the Urdu medium."

[Translation]

It is a recommendation not to be overlooked by us, it is of fundamental importance for the progress of Urdu and its protagomists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are now going to celebrate the golden jubilee of the independence of our country. I wish that this University is established by the time we commence our golden jubilee celebrations from the coming 15th August or even before that.

In any case the Minister may be in a position to give the probable date by this University is likely to be set up. If we look at the Financial Memorandum attached to this Bill, we will find that it speaks of a three years' time. I hope that efforts will be made to set up this University as early as possible...(Interruptions) When I am talking of the Financial Memorandum...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should be no running comments please.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : So, it is necessary to invite the attention of this Government...*(Interruptions)* The previous 13 days Government was anxious about Enron only...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not supposed to respond to the running comments.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I was saying that care should be taken to see that the proposed Urdu University does not feel handicapped on account of resources and funds and all its requirements should be taken care of. It is being said that if we glance at the Financial Memorandum, we will see that non-recurring expenditure likely to be incurred in three years' time will be around Rs. 6 crore. I am afraid, more funds will be required which have not been provided for. About the recurring expenditure likely to be incurred thereafter, the view has been expressed that only Rs. 5 crore will be required annually, further that the U.G.C. will fund this amount out of its own budget. U.G.C. is itself feeling deficient of its own resources. Therefore, the Government must strongly come forward to U.G.C.'s help and will have to ensure that there will be no fear of this Urdu University ever getting deficient on resources and funds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I put forth some more points regarding this University. There are as many as 22 amendments standing in my name. How this Bill has been drafted? While drafting how many Clauses have been copied straightaway from the Indira Gandhi Open University Act, to the exclusion of certain other Clauses. As for example, legally the Indira Gandhi Open University has the right to publish its own research work. In drafting, rights have been copied verbatim while this publishing clause has been left out altogether. I would ask why this has been done? The proposed Urdu University should have powers and should be allowed to publish its own research work. But here this clause is particularly being set aside. I can give many other instances. I have tried to highlight through my 22 amendments. After all how many amendments should be made. Whether there can be so many amendments as to change all its complexion and necessitate re-writing of the whole draft-this is just not possible for a Member. Therefore, I would like the Government to attend to these lacunae. At the same time, would also like to say that the Government deserves compliments. The previous regime took steps in the right direction by setting up committees etc. and obtaining reports thereof. It introduced the draft of the

law in Rajya Sabha. Hon. Minister Mr. Bommai took a step further with courage. The draft of the law was approved by the Rajya Sabha and God willing, will be unanimously approved by the Lok Sabha also. Historian of Urdu in India will doubtlessly write the name of Bommai Saheb in letters of gold saying that during his tenure Urdu University was established with the message for the buds to blossom. I extend my congratulations to the Hon. Minister and this regime and earnestly hope that they will come forward with the same courage, audacity and thinking and will take strong steps on various matters. May they succeed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The hon. Minister of Human Resource Development brought forward the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996 which seeks mainly to develop Urdu through regular and distant educations and provide vocational and technical education and education on ancillary subjects through Urdu at the national level. I support this Bill. The university will help strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and unity of the nation. It will work as a weapon against people indulging in wrong acts of communalism which give rise to riots.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a saying in Urdu which means better late than never. This Bill has come very late. The Government should look into its shortcomings. Maulana Azad played a leading role in the national movement. As a freedom fighter he underwent many a torture. When the country was divided the people who left the country.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : People who were responsible for the partition are sitting in the front row.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The chair has not permitted you. Sit down, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) They caused partition earlier, but now these are trying to do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaiswal, you have not been permitted to speak. You ask the permission from the Chair to speak. Now Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh, you continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if pandemonium will continue like this, a person of my stature cannot speak. Even able and learned members have been warned by the Chair. These

people are not afraid of the popular mandate. The Chair gives chances to all the hon. Members and no one is deprived. Everybody knows it well.

MR. SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : When hon. Members sitting on that side interrupt how can I speak. These people do not allow me to speak, otherwise, I would have concluded in two minutes.

I was going to say that he fought against communalism. When Muslims started fleeing the country, he tried to bring home the point that one can get religion but not the fellow countrymen. Country was dear to him. He loved the country from his core of heart. On this auspicious occasion when the country is celebrating the 50th year of its independence, this Bill has been brought before the House. I thank the hon. Minister for this golden occasion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maulana Azad used to be the President of the Indian National Congress, and the first Minister of Education which is now being called Minister of Human Resource Development. There is no mention about the source of funds in the Bill. It is not enough. It took a lot of time to draft the Bill. Today we need funds. An amendment to this effect should be made, which is a constitutional necessity. There is no indication in the objects and reasons of the Bill as to how the provisions could be implemented. There is also no mention that this national university will be a central university. Some people say that it would enjoy the status of a central university. It would have the same structure as that of the JNU. There is also a mention of taking donations. Wherefrom the UGC shall provide donation money? It has no funds. This aspect should also be taken into consideration. My hon. friend, Shri Banatwalla also pointed out a number of things. There is no mention in the financial clause of the Bill as to how to get fund for running the university. It has not been indicated as to what relation the section in the second paragraph of clause 7 at page 4 has got with Urdu. The officers of university should be allowed to interfere in the affairs of the institution as less as possible. Qualified candidates from among the BC and Pro B.C. categories should be taken. It should not be there they will be chosen with a political psyche. If this is done, there will be no use of having this university. Clause 27 of the Bill states that the examination or medium of instruction can be changed by an ordinance. It is understood that the university will have Urdu medium. Then what does this clause mean. Why there is a reference of making changes. It is against the basic principles of the university. This clause should be deleted.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is also a mention for imparting education to girls in the university. When girls from remote areas will join the university, we will have to arrange hostel accommodation for this. The hon. Minister should take this point into consideration. When

the Government is doing a thing, there should be no paucity of funds to meet all its requirement. The prefect of the university should always be there. Urdu is the language of all of us. People speaking Urdu can be located in the nook and corner of the country. I find that our country is as good as a foreign land. If we do not know English we cannot disclose our identity in Andhra Pradesh. We can not stay in a good hotel. But we could avail all these facilities with the help of a Urdu knowing person. Urdu as a language is spread all over the country. It does not belong to any community or religion. I was also taught Urdu for three years in the school in the beginning. The number of Hindu students were more than the number of Muslim students in the school I studied Urdu. Urdu is a good language and one can find very good words in this language. I would not like to speak anything more than what I have spoken. The Bill has been brought here on an auspicious moment. This will help check many wrongs in the country for which we have been fighting since long. This Bill should have been brought much earlier...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Member supporting the Bill or opposing it.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I have been supporting the Bill from the very beginning and blaming these people. Then what is the difficulty with him.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : If he is supporting, he should prevail upon the Government not to place any political Resolution in the House and allocate required funds for the purpose.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps the hon. Member was busy in gossiping when I was speaking. So he could not hear my speech. At the very outset I said that there should be no politics in it. Politics will harm its cause. I reiterate this and conclude. I support the Bill. When my party is supporting, the question of my opposing it does not arise. I am a disciplined soldier of the CPI and have been working in it for last 41 years.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill which has been brought here after a long wait. This Bill should have been brought here much earlier. I welcome it because the country needed it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have doubt about the aims and objects of the Bill. Is it not so that this Bill to set up a University is being brought here just to appease a particular community. Secondly, does the Government have this thing in mind the Urdu is the language of some particular community. This thing should not be there.

The Bill states that a task force had been constituted for the development of Urdu and suggest ways and means for the same. I am under the impression that in pursuance of its recommendations, the Government

brought forward this Bill. I am also of the view that if any work is done just to appease a particular community, it will not be fruitful. Sense of dedication lacks in appeasing somebody. It lacks will power also. We may have abundant measures but we will not succeed in our efforts if sense of dedication is lacking. Mr. Chairman, Sir, language does not belong to any particular community. Language has no such barriers. Bangladesh is a burning example of this saying. Urdu is the language of India. No other language has the capacity of expressing love and beauty what the Urdu language has. Urdu should get the same status what the other Indian language enjoy. It is only because an feudal language rules the roost in the country. English is a feudal language. As long as English enjoys this superior status, no other language, whether it is Urdu or any other language, cannot develop. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to free the country from the grip of the this feudal language.

Only after that we will be able to achieve the goal in respect of the Bill presented in the House. If it is not done then even setting up dozens of varsities cannot serve the purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a general feeling that one cannot acquire knowledge through regional language. One cannot enrich one's knowledge without knowing the English language. This is a conspiracy being hatched by the English knowing people, whose number is merely two percent, to rule over the poor masses numbering in crore who are living in utter poverty. I would like to submit if you want to fulfil your dream of setting up this varsity then you must get the nation free from the supremacy of English language. Today, every nation is making progress on the basis of its regional language but here in our country we are of this view that English language is must for the progress of the nation. I pity on Shri Banatwala who always tries to support the cause of Urdu but has never given us a chance to hear him speaking Urdu. If you want the regional language to enrich themselves and link them with employment then you must do this. If you want to provide employment to the people then you will have to link these language with employment. In order to maintain this relation you will have to resolve that from today onwards you will speak in Urdu in the House, which is your mother tongue. If an outsider comes to this House, we finds that members knowing Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Punjabi and Gujarati whenever speak, speak in English only. In these circumstances, how you can expect Urdu and other regional languages to prosper. Therefore, a conspiracy is being hatched.

It is said that a language like Hindi which had 7.5 lakh words 30 years ago, is not competent enough and English is a competent language. I am of this opinion that be it Urdu or for that matter any other language is incompetent. Suppose these language are incompetent even than if you want the country to make progress and language as job-oriented than the development of

regional languages is essential. Can you achieve this goal by ignoring the regional languages. No, you cannot do so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever is true about a language is also true about a utensil. Once late Dr. Ram Monohar Lohia had said, if you keep a utensil for long time it will gather moss and foul smell will start emanating from it. Once you start using it, it will give lustre. The same thing happens with a language. Even a incompetent language will become competent once you start using it. Otherwise it will become dead. Then No amount of effort can revive it. I therefore want to submit that I do support the idea of establishing a varsity. Mr. Banatwala you should try to link language with employment. But we will have to put an end to such propaganda like regional languages are incompetent. One cannot get higher education in science Medical and Engineering through these languages. There can be only one answer to counter such prepoganda and that is the willpower with which you have brought this Bill in the House, with same determination you will have to resolve that we will do our utmost in getting the country free from the clutches of this colonial language during the tenure of our Government.

15.50 hrs.

(Shri Basu Deb Acharia *In the Chair*)

I would like to make one submission to Shri Banatwala and that is my earnest desire that from now onwards he should always speak Urdu in the House. I do not have any malice towards you but of the people like you do not practice what they preach then it hurts people like us. You have rightly said that these are great people in the House. You should enlighten our path...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about both the sides. I have already said that if some outsider comes in the House he will find that whenever people speak here then it looks like...*(Interruptions)* I have repeatedly said that the only answer to such propaganda that without English language knowledge cannot be acquired is that Shri Banatwala and other people from both the sides are sitting here and they do have their mothertongue. Therefore, they should speak in their mothertongue only. Interpretation facility is available here. Even though this thing is cemented in their mind that speaking in English will add to their status. The language which we learn from our mother is a thing of proud. One who feels shy in speaking one's mothertongue is in fact brings dishonour to his mother and one who speaks in his mothertongue is really faithful to his mother. Therefore if you want to honour your mother and country and want the Urdu language to prosper then for that you will have to get rid from English language.

With these words, I once again support this Bill.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, I thank you for providing an opportunity to speak over

the Bill. With this I also want to thank the hon. Minister and the Government for bringing Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996 in the House. Our Government has done some wonderful things during the last six months and this Bill is another step in that direction for which I would like to thank my Government and hon. Minister Sh. Bommai.

A University is being setting up in the name of Maulana Azad. Maulana Azad had been a great freedom fighter who gave his personal contribution towards the building of the nation. Besides, he was also a educationist and a journalist. For a long period he has been an editor of an Urdu daily in Calcutta. He had also served the nation for quite a period as first education Minister of the India. Today a University is being set up in the name of that great soul and personality which is a welcome step.

This Bill is being discussed since yesterday. A number of hon. Member have expressed their feeling regarding the Bill. I feel that everybody has welcomed the Bill because Urdu is spoken in many areas of our country. Many a member has expressed that Urdu does not belong to any particular community. It is spoken by the people of every cast, community and religion. Be it Hindu, Muslim or Sikhs, it is used by all of them. The demand for setting up an Urdu University is a long pending one. This is a dream come true for the people who have been making demand for it.

I feel that Hindi and Urdu are twin sisters and both are similar. I understand that the aim, with which this Bill is brought is clear in itself. The aim of the Urdu University will be development and promotion of Urdu language and using it in vocational and technical education. This is the role aim behind this Bill. The another aim of this Bill is to give proper attention towards imparting education to women at a large scale.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that merely setting up an Urdu University cannot ensure the development of Urdu. We will have to go in the depth. This is not going to benefit the Urdu knowing people. Merely providing education at varsity level is not sufficient. Therefore it requires to strengthen the roots in this regard. We will have to ensure that for the persons interested in studying Urdu should be started at the lowest level. Unless it is done they cannot make progress. For the promotion of Urdu, first we will have to take in account the number of primary and secondary schools where Urdu is taught. There are many States where education is imparted through Urdu Medium but there are States where Urdu is not in the school syllabus. Unless we take into account all these aspects till then we will be unable to promote Urdu. Therefore, in my view, in order to fulfil this dream we will have to introduce Urdu at primary level. I would urge upon the hon. Minister that he should ensure arrangements to provide Urdu education to Urdu speaking person at primary level so that we can develop Urdu properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in a minute.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would take some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you can continue tomorrow

16.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barsat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion regarding the price rise of all essential commodities with your kind permission. It hardly needs any mention about the stark reality that all essential commodities, including the foodgrains, have shown signs of an unparalleled increase during the last few months. It is the experience of life that can provide us the much needed argument than the argument from me or any display of excellence is mentioning or collecting the statistics about the market. Therefore, I refrain myself from quoting certain statistics from the books supplied by the Government.

In this connection, there has been a change in the governance. We have here a Government of the United Front. This United Front is a coalition Government with the cooperation or coalition of 13 or 14 political parties as on today. When this Government took over the responsibility of governance, they announced a Common Minimum Programme. It is very relevant for me today to mention in this House and quote from the Common Minimum Programme what the objective of this Government was in relation to price stability. With your kind permission, I quote from page nine of the Common Minimum Programme :

"The public distribution system will be strengthened to meet the twin objectives of price stability and make available essential articles to the poor. Special cards will be given to the families below the poverty line and essential articles under the PDS will be sold to them at half of the normal issue price. Access to the PDS will be barred from the affluent sections of the society while the responsibility of supplying foodgrains and essential articles will remain with the Centre and State Governments and the management of these shops will be under the control or jurisdiction of Panchayat Raj System."

I appreciate that this is the only way to meet this kind of price spurt in all essential commodities. I humbly request the Government to inform the hon. Members of this House to what extent they have been able to implement the assurance that was made by the Government before assumption of the office.