

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, I have allowed Shri Joshiji, Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Agarwal, so their points should be replied.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just now replied to the point raised by Shri Joshiji that there is no question of premium. No earnest money would be charged from the cooperative establishment but other institutions would have to pay 10 per cent earnest money...(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is not giving satisfactory reply to questions of hon. Members. Some hon. Members asked question regarding the price of wheat and availability of wheat but the hon. Minister could not give a satisfactory reply. Under such circumstances there is no use of sitting in the House. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that either he should give proper oral reply or give a written reply to the questions raised by hon. Members...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no clear reply is being given by the hon. Minister. Position regarding wheat stock in the country is not good. People are not getting wheat...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, I think, you noted the points raised by the Ministers. I would suggest that you should send written replies to them.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : All right, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Joshi, I want to draw your attention. Please ask your Members to sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, you know the procedure of this House. The Minister has agreed and I have also asked him. The Minister would or might have taken down all the points that have been raised.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have raised matter regarding import of wheat. It is an important point...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Nitish Kumar, please sit down.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since we are not satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister we are walking out.

15.44 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and some other hon. Members left the House.

15.44¼

MULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up further consideration and passing of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, all this has been done by the Delhi Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are on the other topic.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : If it is all right, but those who were raising slogans...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Sivaprakasam is on his legs.

*SHRI D.S.A. SIVAPRAKASHAM (Tirunelveli) : Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to extend my support to the Bill to form Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Urdu University which has been introduced by Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development. It will be a welcome move to start Universities for all the Indian languages especially the ancient and classic languages.

Some of us have got a tendency to ignore English as a foreign language. But we must not forget that it was English that united this country to what it is today. Prior to English, much before Britishers could come to this country, it was Urdu that united the major parts of this country.

Urdu language and its cherished traditions of arts and culture have pervaded into the Indian society. Urdu literature definitely has its welcome impact on other Indian language literature. For instance, in Tamil we have an epic poem called 'Seera Puranam' written by Umaru Pulavar. Probably it is the only epic poem of its kind in any of the Indian languages about one of the Prophets. 'Seera Puranam' means 'great epic'. It is found only in Tamil language.

I am of the view that the setting up of a Urdu University can definitely pave way for the nation's unity and strengthen national integration. This would enable us to have researches on comparative literature. Interaction with other language literature would be possible then. This would enable scholars from several parts of the country to come under one roof. They can work together. This would facilitate the creation of an academic and research atmosphere.

While welcoming this move and the Bill I would like to put forth some of my suggestions too. I wish the

* English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Union Human Resource Development Ministry take note of them.

As far as India is concerned, it is the southern part of the country that had social, cultural and trade ties with the Middle-Asian countries from the ancient times. The ancient Islamic and Christian worlds' ties with the southern India are not adequately highlighted in our Indian history. I hope that the establishment of this Urdu University would focus its attention to bridge the gap. I hope proper research studies on sociology, history and culture would be carried out through this University.

In Tamil Nadu, the districts of Tirunelveli and Ramnad alongwith Vellore and the surrounding Arcot region and in Kerala, the north-western coastal region alongwith the Malappuram area have got sizeable Muslim population. These areas have got ancient Arab world connections. From time immemorial they have had trade links with the Arabian countries.

In my constituency, Melappalayam, Tuticorin, Kayalpattanam, abiramapattanam, Keelakkarai, Kadaya Nallur are important Muslim towns. Several Muslim villages and many famous Dargahs are also situated there. Nagore in the erstwhile Tanjore is a famous pilgrim centre.

I would like to point out one thing here. Unfortunately there seems to be a north-south divide in the Urdu speaking population too. The Urdu influence that came through Persia and the subcontinental regions that have had ancient Arab links are found to be living apart. This Urdu University can bring these two sections together. This will strengthen the Unity of the country. Hence I request the Minister to bear this in mind while giving shape to the proposed University.

It is appropriate to establish a University dedicated to the name of one of our great freedom fighters Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. While setting up this University, you may also think in terms of establishing Extension Centres of this Urdu University in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The proposed Urdu University's Higher Education Autonomous Centres should also be started in areas of the country where Muslims reside in good number. I would like to request you to set up an Extension Centre of this University in Tirunelveli, the town that is famous as an Education Centre. I would like to point out that Urdu medium of instruction is available in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Hence it is needless to state that this Urdu University should reach those people too.

I fervently hope that the functioning of this Urdu University will bring together all the scholars and Muslims shedding their differences as Shias, Sunnis, Lebbais and Rowthers. Urdu language education and research facility would be provided to all those who are interested in Urdu. Urdu can play an important role in preserving the unity and integrity of this country. To that end, this Urdu University can play a vital role. So I express my support to this Bill and conclude my speech thanking you again.

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KUGALGI (Belgaum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Bill presented by the hon. Minister. I am extremely happy that the government has named this University after Maulana Azad, a great freedom fighter and an eminent scholar of Urdu.

Sir, in this context I want to bring to your notice that there is a need to establish a university for women. Kittur Rani Channamma was the first woman who fought for the freedom of this country. I request that a women's university be established at Kittur, in the name of Kittur Rani Channamma who fought against the British.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I come from a State where urdu is the State language. There are three regions in J & K. The Kashmir valley, Jammu and Laddakh. Though urdu is the State language, 90% of work in offices is done in English. Nobody cares for Urdu. No efforts are made for the development of the language in the State. In last 50 years the strength of urdu knowing people has declined. No development of urdu has taken place since then. In the circumstances when the Government is introducing a Bill for the development of urdu, I would like to know whether any infrastructure has been raised for this. The Bill seek to import technical education in urdu.

[English]

"The Bill to establish and incorporate the university at the national level, mainly to promote and develop Urdu language and to impart vocational and technical education in Urdu medium through conventional teachings and distance education system and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Urdu should be linked with the daily life and daily livelihood of people. In the State of Jammu and Kashmir the Government work on the courts used to be done in urdu, earlier. All work pertaining to revenue is being done in urdu in the State. But Patwaris are not available now. Urdu knowing people are not available, because people know that they won't get jobs if they study urdu. I, therefore, request the Government to link urdu with the daily livelihood of people. Then only this language can develop. From my experience I say that urdu suffered regression in the State of J & K. We never considered urdu as a separate language. Urdu and Hindi are twin sisters. But the way this Bill has been brought, one can notice pseudo secularism in it. While one Bill on Hindi was brought linking Gandhiji's name with it, another Bill on urdu has been brought after Maulana Azad's name. This shows the psyche with which the Government proceeds. We

want urdu to develop but all work in this regard should be done honestly. Infrastructure should be fully revised and urdu should be linked with daily livelihood of people.

I fully support the Bill.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, several of the hon. Members expressed their views on this Bill. In this connection I would like to tell the hon. Minister that Bareilly and Deoband are the two centres of Islamic culture in North India. Many a work is done in Urdu in these two places. Children are taught accordingly. If we want development of Urdu, we should pay special attention to these two places so that urdu can be developed in the schools at these places under the existing set up and procedure. I cannot understand how can there be co-ordination between Hyderabad and these places. I represent Bareilly. The centre at Bareilly and the Hazarat Alla family is known to all in the country and abroad. Had the university been set up after his name, it could have given recognition to him and an opportunity for the ideology to proceed further.

The Bill mainly seeks to ensure progressive use of Urdu in the industry, trade and other fields. But I feel that nothing of this sort is being done in that direction.

Is it not so that all this is being done just to appease some people. Whatever may be its real objective, I suggest that eminent persons who take keen interest for the promotion of urdu should be consulted so that the University would be of maximum utility. The Government should have taken a decision only thereafter. Then only we could have given proper direction to this Bill and do something.

Finally, I would suggest that we should take into consideration how to link Bareilly and Deoband the two centres where an ideology already exists and which are known to people inside and outside the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just remember that at 4 o'clock, there will be a discussion under Rule 193.

[English]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : I will take more than two or three minutes.

In addition to the points that have already been raised by various Members, I would like to point out two or three points. In this Act, there is no age limit prescribed for the Vice-Chancellor.

15.58 hrs.

(Shri Basu Deb Acharia in the Chair)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now we are discussing the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill and I would not like to take much time. I would only like to add two or three points which have not been taken into consideration in the Bill.

Firstly, in the Bill, no age limit has been prescribed for the Vice-Chancellor. Under various Acts and under various amendments, the academicians have come to a point of view that no Vice-Chancellor should be appointed beyond the age of 65. I do not find any mention in the Bill about the age of the Vice-Chancellor. I would request you to kindly examine this point from that analogy.

Secondly, regarding the Executive Council, I would request that in such a University, which is named after such a big hero of the country, there should be a provision for the representation of the teaching community, of the graduate community and the experts in Urdu. I have not been able to find out if there is any provision for those people in the Executive Council. For example, in the Punjab University Act, we have different categories. Some people are elected by the teaching faculty, some members are elected by the professors of the University and some members are elected by the registered graduates of the University. I do not find anything of such sort in this Bill. I would request that do not leave the Executive Council only to be nominated by the Minister or by any highest dignitary. Kindly provide for different categories, namely, experts in that field. I would request you, do not fill this University with mere politicians. Somebody may be an important political leader, but if he has no academic background, with respect, I would submit that such persons should not be appointed to the universities highest bodies. Kindly make a provision for giving representation by way of election from teachers, graduates and experts in the field of Urdu.

Thirdly, now it has been observed, of late, that the internal autonomy of the universities is being infringed. We have come to know of certain cases where the State Governments unnecessarily interfere in the internal working of the universities. I would request you to kindly ensure that the Government does not have much powers over the universities.

16.00 hrs.

The final decision should be left to the wisdom of the Executive Council and other such authorities. The Government should not be given the power to annul any decision taken by the Executive Council unless it is very contrary to the Constitution of India.

About pro-Vice-Chancellor, I would like to say a few things. I have an experience of working in a University for sixteen years. I was in the Senate of the Punjab University. This pro-Vice-Chancellor turns into anti-Vice-Chancellor. All anti-Vice-Chancellor activities take place in the office of pro-Vice-Chancellor. Please do not proceed further with this idea. This will create a lot of problem.

So, I would request you to kindly examine this Bill from that angle. Thank you very much.