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Title: Regarding alleged irregularities in functioning of Indian Maritime University, Chennai.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Respected Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the following matter of urgent public importance for taking immediate remedial action.

Indian Maritime University is functioning in Chennai. Though irregularities and illegal actions have come to light, no action seems to have been taken against the person responsible. During the present Vice-Chancellor's tenure, 34 persons have left and resigned from the University and some were forced to go to their parent departments. The Registrar of the University has also resigned within 44 days of joining.

Irregularities in appointments, pay fixation etc. had taken place and they were exposed by the then Vice-chancellor. The University illegally managed to get Rs. 30 crore from ASFA, Ministry of Shipping without proper Budget sanctions. There were irregularities in the utilisation of government grants in the University. There were instances of blatant misuse of University funds through illegal means. Rampant corruption is taking place in the appointment of employees in the University.

When the then Vice-Chancellor exposed irregularities, instead of taking action against the person responsible, action was taken against the whistleblower. The net result is that the former Vice-Chancellor of IMU was suspended for more than 21 months. But wantonly, neither the charge-sheet was issued nor was his suspension revoked, defying the directions of the DoPT and the orders of the Supreme Court of India. The University authorities have defied the orders and directions of the nodal Ministry, which is the Shipping Ministry, under Section 50 of the IMU Act.

Hence, I request the hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene in the matter and take action against the person responsible in the Indian Maritime University.

Thank you.