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Title: Need to review the proposal regarding formation of Higher Education Commission of India.

*SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI) : Hon. Madam Speaker, Vanakkam. University Grants Commission (UGC) came into existence in the year 1956. UGC, since then, has been engaged in regulation and promotion of education and research activities in all the higher institutions of the country, besides providing grants to them. The Ministry of Human Resources Development has sent a draft bill seeking the suggestions of the States with regard to replacing University Grants Commission, UGC by a Higher Education Commission. UGC has now administrative and financial powers, This is sufficient. Rather the proposed Higher Education Commission may not have financial powers for granting funds to the States. As this Higher Education Commission can only be a regulatory body, Tamil Nadu government strongly feels that there is no need for such a Commission replacing UGC. The financial powers to allocate grants for implementation of Higher Education programmes should only vest with UGC. If this power is taken away by the Union Government, many higher education schemes implemented in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu will be much affected. As many as 13 Universities located in Tamil Nadu get 100 percent grant from UGC for implementing several higher education programmes. We are afraid and it is a matter of concern that if UGC is replaced by Higher Education Commission, who will provide grants to these Universities. UGC is now functioning with utmost transparency. Replacing UGC by a Higher Education Commission with

less powers is not at all needed. The proposal to take away the financial powers from UGC and giving them to Ministry of HRD or any other Body, is also not necessary. Several States including Tamil Nadu will be much affected by this proposal, as well.

That's why Tamil Nadu has been vehemently opposing the proposal of setting up of Higher Education Commission. UGC provides 100 per cent grants to the Higher Institutions of the country. If the financial powers are taken away from UGC and given to Ministry of HRD or some other institution, then the fund-sharing will be in the ratio of 60:40 between the Union and the States. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to give up the proposal of setting up of Higher Education Commission in place of UGC and allow UGC to continue its functioning in its present form. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री पी.आर. सुन्दरम, कुंवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चंदेल और डॉ. जे. जयवर्धन को श्री के. अशोक कुमार द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।