

Supreme Court Judge will be meaningless in Haryana if the present political situation continues Sir, it is meaningless I had also been to Meham Nobody will come forward to give evidence With the political situation and the atmosphere available there, nobody will come forward to give evidence This is very important

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Prof Kurien, it is not necessary

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) Why are you once again trying to advocate the case that you have last

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER These points have already been made

PROF P J KURIEN It is a very important point You should know that Nobody will come forward to give evidence in Haryana if the present political situation continues and if the present Assembly is there Therefore, if you want an impartial inquiry, it should be under the President's rule I would only like to go on record that our apprehension is that an impartial inquiry is impossible with the present atmosphere prevailing over there That is what I want to say Secondly, he was saying about the Bill's

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER What is this? That is to be discussed in this Session Now, next time—Calling Attention Shri Hota

15.30 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported increasing tension in the Jawaharlal Nehru University

[*English*]

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA (Sambalpur) I call the attention of the Minis-

ter of Human Resource Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon

"the reported increasing tension amongst the teachers students and non-teaching staff of the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto "

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA) Sir, As the Hon ble Members are aware, the Jawaharlal Nehru University was established by an Act of Parliament in 1966 and it has been endeavoring to promote the study of the principles for which Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru worked during this life time—national integration social justice secularism, democratic way of life, international understanding and scientific approach to the problems of society During the past 24 years JNU has grown to become one of the premier Universities in the country

Hon ble Members may recall that the JNU experienced a period of turmoil culminating in violent incidents and disturbances on the Campus in 1983 A number of academic and administrative measures were taken to restore normalcy in the University As a result of these the University has seen a period of peace tranquility and progress during the last seven years However, in February this year, the JNU Students Union (JNUSU) agitated for about a fortnight in connection with some of their demands The main demands of the JNUSU were

- restoration of provisional admissions,
- restoration of the progressive features of the old admission policy,
- students' representation on Academic Council, Executive Council and Finance Committee,
- revocation of hostel rules prohibit-

[Sh. Chimanbhai Mehta]

ing entry of male students of girls' hostels and vice-versa;

- rationalisation of library fines; and
- liberalisation of mess rules.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

15.30 hrs.

I would like to apprise the Hon'ble Members of the background of the changes in JNU's admission policy. From 1974-75 to 1983-84, admissions to JNU were made on merit. Special consideration being shown to persons belonging to deprived sections or regions and also providing for due reservation to SC/ST, etc. However, feeling that there was decline in admission of academically meritorious students, after extensive deliberations, the Academic Council of the University approved the new admission policy which came into effect from 1984-85 academic session and is still in operation. Admissions are now made on the basis of merit adjudged in an All-India Entrance Examination. Though the weightage for economic, social and regional deprivations has been done away with, reservation of 15% for SCs and 7 1/2% for STs and 3% for physically handicapped students are provided as hithertofore.

The Academic Council of the University in its meeting held on 14.3.90 discussed the demand for restoration of the old admission policy at length and resolved that the admission policy and procedures of the University be reviewed periodically every four years. As the last review was undertaken in 1985, a fresh review be made in 1990. The question of review of the admission policy in all its aspects, keeping in view the objectives of the University, has been referred to the Standing Committee on Admissions for its consideration and submission to the Academic Council by September this year. The membership of the Standing Committee on Admission has been expanded to include

the President of the JNU Teachers' Association and the President of JNU Students' Union or their nominees.

The University has also taken steps to mitigate difficulties being faced by candidates who are granted provisional admission but are unable to furnish necessary documents to the University by the last date prescribed for registration, i.e. August 14. It has been decided that for the academic year 1990-91 candidates, figuring in the merit list, who are unable to produce marksheets of the qualifying examination by August 14, may be offered admission in the ensuing Winter Semester or in the next academic session, without reappearing in the entrance test, provided their cases are recommended by the Centre and the School concerned.

The Hon'ble Members would agree that the University's policy regarding entry of boys and girls into hostels of the opposite sex has to be in tune with the cultural ethos of the society in which we live. All Universities in the country have placed reasonable restrictions on such entry. In the circumstances the authorities of the JNU are not in a position to accede to the demand of the Students' Union for unrestricted entry into girls' and boys' hostels by members of the opposite sex.

The University authorities have also been sympathetic to the difficulties highlighted by the JNUSU in regard to library and mess fines. The President, JNUSU has been nominated on the Advisory Committee of the Inter-Hall Administration, where hostel matters are discussed. The Inter-Hall Administration has acceded to the demand of the students to liberalise the rules regarding payment of mess bills and fines, and eviction of defaulting students. Similarly the Library Committee has also relaxed the provision regarding payment of library fines and taken steps to facilitate zeroxing of text books. Library timings have been revised for the convenience of the students.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that there is representation for students

on the Boards of Studies of the Schools and the Academic Council of JNU. While the Board of each School of Study has an elected student on it, the Academic Council has two meritorious students elected on it by each School of Study. There is no representation of students on the Executive Council and the Finance Committee of any Central University. The Executive Council in its meeting held on 8.3.90 considered the demand for representation of students on the Executive Council. It was of the view that this is a policy matter which concerns all Central Universities and may be considered by the Government and the UGC on a uniform basis for all Universities.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that in addition to redressal of students' grievances the University administration is in close touch with the Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) and the Jawaharlal Nehru University Staff Association (JNUSA), which represents the non-teaching employees of the University. The Vice-Chancellor and senior officials of the University have been meeting office-bearers of these associations from time to time for exchange of views on issues of mutual interest and for redressal of their grievances. The President, JNUTA, in a letter to Vice-Chancellor, JNU, has expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the last meeting between the representatives of JNUTA and Vice-Chancellor on 15.2.90. The General Secretary of the JNUSA in a letter to Vice-Chancellor dated 13.2.1990 has also expressed the appreciation of his Association for the vice-Chancellor's sincere and genuine consideration of the grievances of the non-teaching employees of the University.

The University administration has been sympathetic to the demands of the teachers, students and non-teaching employees and has been taking necessary steps for redressal of their grievances. After the withdrawal of the agitation by Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) in the middle of March, the atmosphere on the Campus has been peaceful and examinations have been

conducted smoothly. The University is now in the process of conducting the entrance test for admissions for the next academic session.

Universities today are large and complex organisations which are trying their best to cope with the multi-dimensional problems thrown up by the dynamics of change. As microcosms of our diverse and plural society they cannot but be affected by the pressures and pulls being exerted from outside. While we are fully aware of the need for democratic functioning of Universities, we would do well to remember that we ourselves have conferred universities with autonomous status to enable them to meet the challenges of higher education without interference in their affairs. I would like to reaffirm the commitment of this Government to upholding the autonomy of universities, while at the same time making them more responsive and accountable to society.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA (Sambalpur): I thank the hon. Minister for this commitment of this Government to uphold the autonomy of the University. He has not told only about the Jawaharlal Nehru University but about all the Central Universities which are under the control of the Central Government. He has further assured that at the same time the attempt was to make them more responsive and accountable to society or the Government. It is a very doubtful proposition from my point of view because certain things which have been happening in the Jawaharlal Nehru University confirm my suspicion as to whether the authority of the Jawaharlal Nehru University are responsive and accountable to anyone else in this country or society or not.

First of all, as has been rightly pointed out the Jawaharlal Nehru University was set up to promote the study of the principles for which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru worked during his lifetime for national integration, social justice, secularism, democratic way of life, international understanding and a scientific approach to the problems of the society. During the last 24 years as the hon. Minister

[Sh. Bhabani Shankar Hota]

has said, the Jawaharlal Nehru University has grown to become one of the premier universities in this country. It is true. At least in one sense it is true that in the Jawaharlal Nehru University the *per capita* average expenditure on one student is as high as Rs. 3,500 per annum, as against the national average of Rs. 15,000/- while the *per capita* expenditure in the Science School of the Jawaharlal Nehru University is as enormous as Rs. 50,000 per student per annum, which is even double the sum of the prestigious science institutions in his country. As I have already explained, the *per capita* expenditure per student is Rs. 35,000 and for the Science Schools it is Rs. 50,000 per annum per student. This is the position in one of the prestigious universities in the country. That is how it is working. As to whether the students are really reading, whether the type of education for which the University was created is imparted, I do not want to say anything, and I am not competent to say anything.

Let me quote what the Vice-Chancellor has stated in a recent press conference. In an interview to a newspaper he has said:

[*Translation*]

"The students are of the view that the reasons for the academic degradation in the post 1983 period are the oppressive rules imposed by the University Administration upon them coupled with the inhuman behaviour of the Vice Chancellor."

[*English*]

That was the question and the answer of the Vice Chancellor was:

[*Translation*]

"All their allegations are baseless. The students themselves are not interested in the studies.

[*English*]

The students are not interested to read.

[*Translation*]

They are holding us guilty for their own incapacibilities."

[*English*]

Thus, the Vice-Chancellor has admitted that the students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University on whom the nation is spending Rs. 35,000 per students, are not interested in their studies. That is the version of the Vice-Chancellor. This is what he has stated in an interview. May be, it was a tape-recorded interview.

Why has it happened like this? Why are the students not interested in studying? what is the situation? What happened in 1983?

There were some demands. As has been admitted by the hon. Minister, the first demand was for restoration of provisional admissions. What were these provisional admissions? The second demand was for the restoration of the progressive features of the old admission policy. The third was for the inclusion of students; representatives on Academic Council, Executive Council and Finance Committee.

Sir, again I will draw your attention to the fact that the original goal of setting up this University was imparting a democratic way of life among the students. Out of so many other goals, this was the most important goal. Now the students do not have any say; the teachers do not have adequate representation. Even if they have representation, their rights are curtailed. Non-teaching employees form a very basic part of the University system, but they do not have any representation at any level of the University functioning. There is no students representation in the Council or any such high powered body of the University system. That is why, they are fighting for these demands and are also demanding restoration of the origi-

nal admission policy. Under the present policy a large number of students from backward states, backward areas, under-developed areas, SC&STs are deprived admission. We have to go back to the original moto for which the University was created i.e. to give enough scope to the people, to the meritorious students, down-trodden students of the backward and under-developed areas. This has been stopped since 1983. I may share some of my feelings as to why it was done. I was present at a particular place where one of the ex-Prime Ministers had invited some of the teachers, students and employees. I being the General Secretary of the All India University Employees confederation which I am continuing now also, happened to be a participant in that particular meeting where it was thoroughly discussed how to erode the progressive character of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. It was decided in that meeting—of course that meeting was informal—that if you cut down the admission of students from backward states, SC&ST and other areas and encourage students from the metropolitan city, then only the progressive character of the University and the students' behaviour will change. It was a well-thoughtout and conspiratorial attempt by the Government to curtail this admission policy, to reverse the original admission policy whereby students from backward and under-developed areas and SC&STs have been deprived. The SC&STs are not getting required percentage of admission in the University. Now the rule is that 15 per cent of SCs and 7-1/2 per cent of STs must get admission to different schools of the University. But in actual practice only 6 per cent of Scs are there in the University. Students from States like Bihar, Orissa are deprived of admission in the University.

There are a large number of cases where the University authorities are not discharging their duties, but they themselves are indulging in lot of corruption. Out of 30 retired teachers from the University 28 of them have been re-employed. Six officers of the higher ranks, after their retirement they are re-employed in the University. This has

become a den of retired officers and teachers.

1500 furniture items are missing. Embezzlement of Rs. 2.32 lakh worth fraking machine and postage was detected. The Audit had found it out and the University was asked to proposed on the matter. But the University authorities are keeping silence on the matter. Although it is a criminal case, they have not intimated the police. They have not filed any FIR. Still they are trying to suppress the matter. Do you believe that one officer was to retire in two years time? But two years before his actual date of retirement, he was given extension or re-employed in the University for three years from the date he is going to retire after two years. This is the style of functioning in the University. The telephone Bill of the highest officer, who should be the moral guide for others in University, is Rs. 89,000 in the month of June, 1988. You cannot discuss about the Register, the Vice-Chancellor, OSD. Almost all of them have formed a caucus in the University and they suppress all the students, teachers and the employees and do whatever they like.

Sir, the hon. Minister has said about the autonomy of the university. We also respect autonomy but, autonomy of the university without democratisation in the university system has no meaning So, my demand is the Government must initiate the process so that the whole of the university administration not only in Jawahar Lal Nehru University but also other universities including the central universities, there is a system of democratisation. This has been done in West Bengal, that is in 7 universities this system has been there since 1982. So, in this pattern certain concrete steps have to be taken to democratise university administration and to check corruption and to bring the erring officers to book. I request the hon. Minister to take effective measures so that the corruption that is found in the university is totally removed, so as to justify for the creation of this university to serve the society as well as the deserving students.

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the growing tension prevalent among the teachers, students and the non-teaching staff of the Jawahar Lal Nehru University is not a novel phenomenon but a continuation of the age old pulls and pressures. What is the reason behind this tension and turmoil? The Government established this University in 1966 with the sole aim of setting up an Indian University that may turn out meritorious students who can make some contribution to the national development. In pursuance of this ideal, a Central University was established so as to train and educate the best teachers of the country. This why the University has earned a name for itself not only in the country but outside India as well.

The Jawahar Lal Nehru University is a very good university that gives us such capable and meritorious youth who will prove to be very hopeful for us, for the country and for the future generation in particular. But why is there tension, turmoil and bungling at present? Have you got any justification or an answer to reveal to us as to why does all this happen there? This is what is happening today. I know that any party that is voted to powers, taking the exception of our party for a moment sees to it, after forming its own Government, that their supporters are employed there as teachers and they select them alone while making appointments. The previous government appointed the persons of their choice as teachers in JNU irrespective of their abilities, merit, academic qualifications etc. because they wanted to install such 'yes-men' there who would comply with their commands and directives and work in accordance with their intentions and whims. I know that all this was happening due to only this reason.

In this connection, I am a bit aware of the fact that such teachers and Vice-Chancellor were appointed there as would toe the line of the government. This is a very good university and is recognised the world over. This university can not produce competent youth

the country is in need of if the wishes and vagaries of the Government are carried out there in this manner. The most vital question today is whether there will be an end to this tension or not?

Why and when does a given situation turn tense? It happens when the general public comes to know about everything happening around. People remain silent until they are unaware of the happenings and circumstances as they prevail in their country, in the world and of the Governmental activities, the way exploitation takes place between the exploiter and the exploited; and once they come to know all about that they part with their silence. Then they impress upon making amendments in certain things, want that their demands should be granted to and their aspirations fulfilled. They want and try to give expansion to their sentiments and the resultant after math is the growing tension. Whatsoever is happening there is happening because of this reason. All these development took place there after the young students came to know about the extent of bungs under way in the campus, the way people were subject to exploitation and the extent of corruption and the people responsible for and indulging in all that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not now that the corruption has crept in there, nor is the present six month old government responsible for it but this practice has been continuing for the past 24 years up there and we have many a times raised these issues in the House but the previous Government took no remedial measures in this direction. We, today, are hopeful that the present Government of Shri V.P. Singh will bring about a transformation in the existing system and make good any flaws or loopholes present in it. The Government should expedite measures in this direction.

My hon. Colleague enlisted certain reasons and I would like to add 2-3 points to it so as to bring to the notice of the Government as to why does an environment of dissatisfaction and mutual mistrust prevail there. This is the report of the Committee or

the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes of the seventh Lok Sabha, volume No. 39. It has been enumerated in it that there should be 12-1/2 per cent reservation for the scheduled castes and 5 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes but this has not been implemented there. The reservation targets achieved there are 6.64 per cent in case of scheduled Castes and 5.35 per cent in case of scheduled Tribes. Emphasis has been laid many times on filling at least the reservation quota of 15 per cent and 7-1/2 per cent set for the scheduled castes and Tribes respectively in the Education Department but this remains to be implemented. In a similar manner, the U.G.C. had issued a directive to set 55 per cent merit as the basis for Scheduled Caste and Tribes candidates willing to contest for Ph. D. degree but it has remained as 58-59 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, such and other similar bunglings are going on there and that is why this turmoil has erupted there. I have many more points to raise but for the shortage of time. Therefore, I would only like to say that the Government should pay consideration to it forthwith and initiate necessary action so that such bunglings do not take place in future.

There are bunglings at every level in this University and the Vice-chancellor is no exception. How can the University have a favourable atmosphere under these circumstances? I would, therefore, suggest to install an administrator, not only in JNU but in every central University, who will keep a watch of the day-to-day affairs thereof and, again, to make a uniform cadre of the employees of all the central universities so as to facilitate their transfer from one university to another. The Government should take this fact also into consideration that there are more chances of bunglings in the absence of such provisions when people work and stay at one place alone for 20-25 years altogether.

Lastly, I would like to render an important suggestion that the hon. Minister should constitute a Committee that would look into the reasons responsible for all this mismanagement and give its findings and referma-

tive suggestions so that the university can regain its old prestige and earn a name in the country.

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL (Tonk):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister made his statement regarding the Jawahar Lal Nehru University. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government as well as the House that the difference of opinion between the teacher and the taught is an constant increase in the world of education, today and there is no sense of esteem and reverence in the mind of a taught towards his teacher in our country as was commanded in the past. We will have to analyse as to why does not today's student hold his teacher in esteem. This needs to be reasoned and contemplated.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the extent of corruption found in JNU has no match in any other educational institute in the world. I would like to submit that the issues like the fat telephone bills, 1500 furniture items found missing, embezzlement of Rs. 2.32 lakh in postage etc. demand deep consideration and analysis. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the students for launching this movement against corruption. I would like to thank such students who have launched a movement against the rampant corruption prevalent in the sacred temples of educational institutions including the JNU that has a great name and respect in our country. The Government should encourage such fights of students against corruption, wherever they are launched.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that misappropriation of lakhs of rupees is taking place in the name of residential and other facilities granted to Vice-Chancellor and other officials of the University and for furnishing their residences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present students belonging to backward classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and students belonging to poor classes are not provided due encouragement. In the agitation that took place in 1983, the students of that area

[Sh. Gopal Pacherwal]

demand that priority should be given to the people belonging to backward regions, schedule castes and schedule tribes in respect of admissions. But in 1983, during the regime of Indira Gandhi restrictions were imposed on them and their admissions were restrained. I would demand from the Government and the Minister that the backward, oppressed and depressed people, the people belonging to backward regions and people belonging to underdeveloped areas should be given admission there.

Mr Chairman, Sir my next submission is this that the Welfare Minister is present here and our Prime's Minister's policy is also to uplift the backward people. This work was not successfully done by the previous Government during the last 40 years. Will the minister tell in his reply to my query as to why even one per cent reservation is not being filled in the Jawahar Lal Nehru University. The quota of reservation meant for the backward, oppressed and depressed classes is not being filled. Not even one per cent recruitment in their case is being done. I would like to know from the minister, as to why the reserved posts messenger to lecturer and professor were not filled. If discrimination is practised in the field of education and people belonging to backward classes are ignored then how can we uplift the backward. The Hon. Prime Minister very often refers to the issue of uplifting the backwards and if these people are neglected in the educational institutions which are considered sacred then it will be an act of great injustice to them. I would like to hon. Minister to answer whether he would investigate into the corruption prevalent there? Lakhs of rupees are being embezzled in the same of furnishing the quarters and houses, whether you will look into it? There are telephone bills of thousands of rupees in the name of one officer, will you investigate into that matter? Rs. 2 lakh 32 thousand have been misappropriated and embezzled. Would you get it investigated?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon.

Minister to answer my question as to whether the reserved quota in the Jawaharlal Nehru university would be suitably filled?

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dombivli): Mr Chairman, Sir, the statement that has been given today by the Education Minister regarding the Calling Attention motion is very ambiguous and all the facts have not been properly projected, moreover many facts have been concealed. As far as para one is concerned it tells that the idea behind the establishment of this university was to provide higher education to the meritorious and bright students. To attain this objective there were two specialities in its admission policy—one was the backwardness of the area and the other was socio-economic backwardness. The students of backward areas like North East, U.P., Bihar, M.P. and the tribal areas used to get weightage along with the people belonging to backward classes, schedule castes and schedule tribes. And their admission was done on that basis, but as a result of the new admission policy which came into force after 1983, admissions of these students to the University was restricted. The strength of Jawaharlal Nehru University was reduced from 3500 students to 2500 and consequently it lost its All India character. My Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring this fact to your notice that at present 70 per cent students are from Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi, whose total population would be barely 30 per cent and the students hailing from 492 districts in India and constituting 70 per cent of the population, do not get admission. As regards their academic level, research work is not being done. It is mentioned in the report that number of researches have been conducted regarding one subject and it was thought that the students there will turn out to be intellectuals and specialists in various subjects. Many out of them used to come in I.A.S but now it is not so. They are going only to Multi National Companies, Big Industrial Houses and commercial organisations and there they are doing the job of liasoning. This is the state of affair of J.N.U. after spending so much of money. There exists gross resentment among teachers and employees

organisations. It has been wrongly stated here that the vice chancellor of that university meets the students teachers and employees. He does not do that at all. His attitude is quite dictatorial. Employees association have filed a writ in Delhi High Court against the corrupt practices of Vice Chancellor and it has the support of senior teachers. I want to know from the Minister as to what he wants to say in this regard, since he has not mentioned about this fact in his statement.

I also want to say something with regard to the meetings of boys and girls in hostels and at other public places. Right from 1966 till 1975-76 there has not been a single incident where boys have misbehaved with girls or might have indulged in eve teasing. In the previous policy, it was not laid that they may live together in the same room but they might meet in the conference hall, lounge or dining hall publically and establish an ideal, where students from various places and religions come. However since some restrictions have been imposed on their meetings, some incidents have been reported. I want to draw your attention towards the monetary corruption there about which some of our colleagues have made a mention.

[English]

Audit report for the year ending March 1987 has indicated financial bungling and loss of books amounting to nearly Rs. 10 lakhs from library.

[Translation]

When physical verification was carried out in the library, books worth lakhs of rupees were found missing. The students immediately contacted the then Education Minister Prof. M.G.K. Menon and a delegation from that institution met the present Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh also. They knocked at every door. As such I want to say in very clear terms that you should ask this Vice Chancellor to proceed on leave. An inquiry into all these complaints be conducted by the visitor of the university. A meeting of the

representatives teachers, students and employees, should be called and in that meeting the terms reference could be fixed and then only you will be able to settle the issue of J.N.U. This is not only a case with JNU, in all central universities like Kashi University there is rampant corruption. They are being run under an ordinance. Their democratic set up has been lost. There should be proper participation of students, teachers and employees in them. In case you run the universities by adopting dictatorial attitude and corrupt practices you will not only wipe out education but even the reservation for Harijans will also be proved to be a fraud. A teacher maltreated a Harijan student. A police case was registered and this issue was raised in the House too. This happened in 1983 but till date no action has been taken on that. With regard to all that is said about reservations, I want to say that in the name of Harijans and Adivasis etc, those who know English and can speak it fluently, those who come from North East are admitted to complete the record and Harijans from U. P, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Adivasi regions do not get admission. People knowing English or belonging to the families of bureaucrats and big businessmen get admissions. As such it is an elitist culture which restricts the education. In this way this university is deviating from its primary objective. As such an inquiry is absolutely essential.

[English]

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Mr. Chairman, I am benefited very much by the contributions made by the hon. Members and I have studied well the representations that have been made to them by the concerned people, teachers, students and other persons.

Now the very fact is that it covers some of the vital suggestions that it should be democratised and we are all for that. University administration requires democratisation because they are appointed by visitors, important Bodies and supervision and check and accountability to a lower level is not available in the present constitution of the

[Sh. Chimanbhai Mehta]

University. This is happening in several Universities and we are facing this problem, not only in JNU but in other universities also and we are examining and we are seized with the matter, how to improve upon the Act concerning the University and how to democratise it. We may be able to do something in the matter with the cooperation of the students, teachers and parents also in this very vital sector and they cannot be neglected in the society as such. So, we will be consulting all of them and the Education Review Committee that has been set up to review and revise National Policy on Education, 1986 is also going to look into the matter. Hon. Members are also invited to make representations there also and thus all sections are properly represented on the Committee.

Now about the reservation for SC and ST. According to our provisions, around 15 per cent for SC and 7-1/2 per cent for ST is reserved. But the eligibility for admission also requires a second look. At the moment, there is an entrance examination and that is applicable to all the students. But in the case of SC and ST, minimum marks of 45 to 60 per cent required in the qualifying examination to enter the University, is relaxed. Only qualifying in the examination, that is, passing is required. Secondly, there is five per cent relaxation is given to these students in the entrance test as compared to the marks acquired by other students. Today, out of the 22 per cent of the reserved quota, reservation has reached to around 14-1/2 per cent. We wish that it should be raised further—how it can be done; whether some pre-coaching can be given etc.—that can be one of the aspects. If the Review Committee feels otherwise, they have the option to suggest. But all the suggestions of the Review Committee are going to come here and our Members of Parliament are going to have a vital say in decision making process. So, ultimately, you will be the deciding factor as to what extent relaxation is required and

to what extent, it is not required. Up to 1983, it was correct that for backward regions, social and economically backward sections of the population, there was a relaxation and 20 per cent weightage was given to them while considering them. But then the University found that the general academic level of the student community was going down, was declining. That is an observation by them. (Interruptions)

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Domariaganj): Was there any evaluation done of it?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: This is what the University has informed us.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only the names of the Members which have appeared in the list can participate. That is not the way. I cannot allow. Please take your seat. Without my permission, you cannot raise it. Please take your seat. Nothing will go on record of what he has said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I have given the view that is given by the University and they are examining all these aspects because obviously some standards have declined about the criteria, about the students ability and all these things have gone down. To that extent, a detailed analysis has to be done. And this will be looked into, certainly. And we can take care of it.

Now the point is about the corruption. We are least interested in defending corruption. The hon. Members have given here facts about telephone bills, nepotism, favouritism, re-employment methodology and various other things. We are certainly going to look into these. We do consider that such a thing has to be taken seriously by the Department. So, they can understand from that what we can do in such matters.

*Not recorded.

Now, about hostel entry I do not know why the Members are insisting. Generally, according to them—I have not examined all the university hostels—there are some restrictions on the entry into the girls' hostels and boys' hostels. Other Members are not raising it. But certain things cannot come in broad day light. People have their own prestige and other considerations. But we have to consider the social ethos and other things. Not that they are not allowed to mix up in the campus but the only restriction is in the hostels at a particular time. They study together in these colleges.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Why was this restriction imposed? Was there any report or the students demanded? What was the basis for imposing this restriction?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We will look into it as you are insisting. I thought that this will not be a point of the debate.

About the stamping, fee defalcation, we had asked ourselves—when it came to our notice—that matters should have been reported immediately to the police and action should have been taken. But the person involved in this defalcation had died. There are some facts. I will place them before you. After two years, it was revealed that there was a defalcation of stamps worth about Rs. 2 1/2 lakh or something like that. But we have given our view that immediately the matter should have been reported to the police. They have taken some legal opinion of the legal adviser, which says that in such a matter immediate is to be taken.

There are some other points. A matter was raised about Vice-Chancellor's salary. The matter has also been raised in the High Court of Delhi. There was a write petition which was dismissed there also.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: What about the Visitor's inquiry?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I understand that Visitor's inquiry was a very serious

matter. One is to have all the considerations. Various kinds of facts have to be gathered and then Visitor's inquiry ordered. Therefore, we do not commit on this aspect. We are told that in certain respects, they are going to examine it.

SHRI BHABANI SHANKAR HOTA: I would like to say whatever I know, whether it is right or wrong. Firstly the High Court has not opined anything on the merit of the case. They have simply said that they will not go into the question and the Government will ultimately decide. Secondly, I am not going to say what happened in the past. But I would like to draw your attention to what may happen in future. Three days back, the main gate of the University Library had collapsed and one month back, a portion of the building of the Environmental science block had collapsed. The authentic report about the library building says that there is no fire-fighting equipment in the library building. Anything may happen at any time and then, we may blame the terrorist of Punjab or Kashmir for that. The man who has given the certificate that the fire-fighting installation has not been perfect this is the same man who has now been appointed as the officer to look after that University. This is what is going on.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: We are going to look into all the points which have been mentioned by the hon. Member here. This means that an explanation will be asked from the concerned persons. We will examine the matter. When I say that I will look into, I really mean it. As far as corruption is concerned, it is a very serious matter. Regarding appointment, transfer and students entry, we are taking a little rigid stand sometimes with our own hon. Members. Therefore, we are bound to take a really serious look at the problems that hon. Members have mentioned. And we will certainly examine them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the next item, namely, Item No. 13.