

(xvii) Need to provide funds for development of Vadaradu in Prakasam district (A.P.) as beach resort

SHRI C. SAMBU (Bapatla): The Vadaradu of Chirala, Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh is a good beach resort. Every day a number of tourists and also foreigners come to Vadaradu but there are no facilities for the tourists. The State Government sent proposals for development of Vadaradu as a good beach resort at an estimated cost of Rs. 57 lakhs. I request the Government to kindly consider this issue and provide necessary funds for this beach resort to develop, as a tourists centre in Andhra Pradesh.

(xviii) Need to protect the rights of linguistic minorities

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy-speaker, Sir, the Annual Reports of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities have been gathering dust and though some have been tabled in the Parliament, there has been no discussion on them during the last decade or more. In the meantime, the three language formula has been implemented in a distorted manner by the educational authorities, both at the Centre and in the States.

The minority languages in every State and Union Territory have been practically eased out of the status of medium of instruction at the primary level and out of the school syllabus at the secondary level. This is so even in the CBSE system followed by the Central School Organization such as Navodaya Vidyalayas and Central Schools. This is constitutionally discriminatory and a matter of concern for the linguistic minorities. It should also be a matter of concern for the nation as a whole, as such exclusion militates against national integration. Also minority languages have not been given due place in administration or in Government media.

I would request the Government to consider the legitimate demand of the lin-

guistic minorities to give them due place in education, administration and Government media and issue guideline to the State and Union Territories.

I would also suggest that the Prime Minister or the Minister for Human Resource Development convene a meeting of Chief Ministers and Education Ministers to consider the implementation of the Three-Language formula and the protection of the right of linguistic minorities, in every State and Union Territory to have their mother-tongue as the medium of instruction at primary school level and as their first language in the three-language formula, with the principal language of the State as their compulsory second language and with Hindi or English as the third language.

16.18 hrs.

ASSAM UNIVERSITY BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item, the Assam University Bill.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Sir, before the Minister moves the Bill for consideration, I want to make a submission for two minutes... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Bill has already been introduced. At this stage, you cannot raise any objection. You will be given an opportunity to speak. Let the Minister move this Bill for consideration first. I will allow you after that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

in the State of Assam and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration”.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Assam and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Sir, we want to point out that this Bill has been brought totally disregarding the views of the State Government on the question of establishment of the headquarters of the University. The Government of Assam wanted that this University should be established at some middle place of the State and the Government of Assam found that Tejpur was the ideal place for this purpose. The jurisdiction of affiliation has been given to universities of four districts. In our view, this decision has been taken for petty political considerations and this academic decision will emotionally and politically divide Assam. Therefore, we cannot be a party to the passing of this Bill and as a protest, we walk out before the Minister makes his statement.

16.19 1/2 hrs.

Shri Dinesh Goswami and some other hon. Members then left the House

SHRI N. TOMBISINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. In the beginning, I would like to congratulate the people of Assam and particularly the people of Barak Valley who will be the recipients of this Central University. I would also like to express my whole hearted appreciation of the Prime Minister who has taken this decision. I request the Education Minister to convey my feeling to the Prime Minister.

Sir, the State of Assam is a multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual State. We cannot take care of this State unless all the aspects relating to different communities are taken care of. So, this Central University which as come after a long time—this decision was long overdue—will certainly please the people of Assam. It is unfortunate that the AGP Members sitting on the Opposite side have walked out on a very flimsy ground. This is something very unacademic particularly on a matter like the location of the university, more so in a State like the Assam which is inhabited by a number of communities. The walk out by the AGP Members merely show their weakness and it has exposed that the AGP Party does not want to see a comprehensive Assam. I feel pity that they will not be able to take part in this debate which I consider an absolutely academic debate.

Assam and for that matter the entire North-east was in need of a boost in the university sector and higher education side. Assam has now two universities; one located in Guwahati and the other one in Dibrugarh. This is the third university located in Cachar district of Assam which is inhabited by many linguistic and ethnic groups. Taking care of this particular region of Assam through the Central university is a very appropriate decision taken by the Government.

In the North-eastern State this is the second Central University. Already there is one University in Cylone called the NEHU, North-Eastern Hill University. But this university is not able to open campuses in the Cachar and other districts because of certain limitations. A district like Assam which has to take care of Bangala speaking people and then Cacharies and Manipurie are also there, opening of a Central university is the only befitting reply. I think this university will meet the requirement of this region.

Sir, the universities all over the country today need a boost in the academic standard. The Calcutta University was in charge of the North-east State. Then in 1948

Guwahati University came up which gave some relief. Afterwards we got Dibrugarh, NEHU and Manipur Universities. We cannot say what should be the adequate number; I do not know what is our yardstick with regard to having the number of universities in a particular region. I think we still have less number of universities and we should have more universities.

16.22 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Now, the Cachar district will have a Central university. We do not have any objection rather, we request the Central Government to consider to have some more universities either at the State level or at the Central level. I think the State of Assam as well as the Central Education Ministry will think about it and we may have another university in the Tezpur district. This sector is still in the need of a university. We have no objection in this as the Assam will get another Central University.

Now, I will come to another aspect and that is regarding the location. I do not know why there should be such an undue debate on the location of the Central universities. You must first see the history of Assam, which is thousands of years old and also particularly the history of Cachar District. The people of Cachar should be looked after by the Central University. The history of Cachar has been the history of Assam. It occupies a very important place. It should be the magnanimity of the Assamese people, who form the bulk of population—although it is controversial matter that there is no major community in Assam—to see that Cachar District should be the main campus. So, in this background, it should be magnanimity of the Assamese population and particularly the AGP political group to agree to it that Cachar District should be the main campus.

Then provision has been made for opening of campuses outside the Cachar District and affiliations extended to such

colleges which are within the jurisdiction of other universities, provided such universities have no objection. These things are probably be taken care of on merits.

I would like to suggest a few things in this regard. The service conditions of teachers of colleges and universities in the whole of the country should be uniform just as I had said a little earlier than the standard of examination, the standard of instruction, etc. all over the country should be more or less uniform. We have been suffering for a long time from a very low standard of education. Of late, we have increased the percentage of literacy but that does not reflect any qualitative improvement. The boys and girls from North-East who come for admission to the metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and other places, suffer because the whole examination system, the standard of education and the standard of instruction there are considered low. We came to the mainstream of national education quite recently. In this background I would request the Central Government that they should provide service conditions to the teachers and also the non-teaching staff in the universities and colleges of the North-East which are at par with the rest of the country. This will ensure a rise in the standard of education, the standard of examination and also the standard of instruction, there.

We have had already the experience of North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong. We do not like to increase the number of universities of the orthodox style. We need universities to meet our requirements. What are the requirements? The requirements are providing employment, providing basic means of livelihood, after education. The educated people—Graduates and Post-Graduates—should not only run for the Government employment. This has to be stopped. In order to do that, mere political slogan does not help. The education must be a man making education.

Now, the new Assam University that has come up will be located at Cachar. It would be one of the new experimental uni-

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

versities where the job oriented courses and job oriented disciplines would be started so that the problem of educated unemployment in the North-East is solved.

You will see most of the insurgents, particularly the boys and girls, in Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura, are educated unemployed. Because of unemployment, they become agitated. Due to these, they go in for insurgency and also do other anti-social activities.

This has to be stopped. A university should be a good forum for improving things. The Bill has provided for research facilities for a deserving region in which this will be located. The Cachar region has not been properly surveyed. We should make a proper survey of the history of the Bodo people, Cachar people whose history has been the history of thousands of years. Now these people are facing an extinction. They have to be rescued. I think my friends of AGP must be following the proceedings of this very important Bill, because this is a political kind of stunt. Academically, they cannot oppose it and they don't oppose it.

I hope this University and such a kind of step will strengthen the unity and integrity of the country, particularly that of Assam. Now, they are afraid that Assam is being divided. Mr. Dinesh Goswami has just now mentioned that this will lead to further division of Assam; this will weaken Assam. This is something very wrong; He is seeing the whole thing from a wrong angle. By satisfying the people who are still frustrated, not satisfied, they will strengthen the unity of Assam. Only Assamese speaking people cannot claim that they should rule Assam; they should have all the facilities and benefits of the Assam State. Only after satisfying the interests of different sections, different groups, linguistic groups, ethnic groups and cultural group, they will be able to consolidate the unity and integrity of Assam; and such a step should be welcome by them.

Last but not the least, Assam has got a language issue; wherever it happens, it is a very sensitive issue; it is also a delicate issue at the same time; it may take any form. Now, this University will take due care to take care of the language issue in Assam. This will be located in Cachar District and Bengali will be the major community taking care of it. Then there are other groups, namely, Manipuri, etc. Now, Manipuri language in Assam and Tripura also, as the hon. Minister of Education knows, has been hampered by certain elements; this problem does not happen in the main-land. A community known as 'Vishnu Priyas' likes to call themselves as Manipuri. They like to use the word Manipuri as a prefix to their language, which is absolutely illegal, unconstitutional and immoral also; this should be stopped and the University should give a due recognition to the status of Manipuri which they are demanding in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. They should not make any room for any hindrance; an hindrance is being created by the Vishnu Priyas Committee. I think this University can take care of this. Side-by-side, the Tripura State is yet to have a university. There is nothing like a campus or a Post-Graduate study is being open in some State Capital representing some university, however, good or high it may be like the Calcutta University. Tripura should have its own university at the earliest. Till then, the Central University, I think, will be able to take care of the Tripura State. Affinity in the language and ethnic relations will certainly be a favourable atmosphere.

With these few words I support this very important Bill and also in conclusion I would like to congratulate the people of the Barak Valley in Assam and also thank the Prime Minister for this very important measure taken in this Bill.

SHRIHAREN BHUMIJ (Dibrugarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while taking my stand in support of this Assam University Bill, I must congratulate our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Human Resources Ministry for having taken this decision—this timely and right decision—for the establishment of

the Central University at Silchar in the Barak Valley of Assam.

Assam consists of two Valleys, the Brahmaputra Valley and the Barak Valley. The Brahmaputra Valley is predominantly inhabited by more than 25 per cent of Adivasi people known as 'Tea and ex-Tea Garden tribes'. Along with them, the Hindi speaking and Bengali speaking population also is there, which is not negligible. Out of the total population of the State which is above two crores, the people of this tribe alone constitute more than 25 per cent. The Bengali speaking people and the minorities also constitute not less than 25 per cent of the total population. There are tribals, there are Nepalis, Manipuris, Demachas, Kacharis etc. If there will be census in true and proper sense in the State of Assam, the so-called Assamese speaking people will be in minority. I repeat that they will be in a minority. In spite of the establishment of three universities, not two, Guwahati University established in the year 1948, Dibrugarh University in the year 1965, and later on after two three years the Jorhat Agriculture University—which was only agriculture college affiliated to Dehrugarh university, but later on it was bifurcated as a full-fledged agricultural university—the linguistic minorities, particularly the Bengali-speaking people have never met with a fair deal in pursuing the higher education in the state.

My AGP colleagues have staged a walk-out today. If they were here, I would have asked them how could they forget the sad and the pathetic days of 1960-61. I did not want to go further. Why do they forget the events occurred in the year 1960-61? That was the year of language disturbance. It was my misfortune that I happened to be the final year student of the Guwahati University. And in that year because of the eruption of language disturbance, all the students belonging to linguistic minorities, particularly Bengali speaking students, were forced to collect transfer certificates and rush to other Universities outside Assam. Not a single voice was there to resist this. It was not the only incident. Later on, on several occasions, there were language disturbances.

The Tea & Ex-tea tribes in the Brahmaputra valley have adopted Assamese language while the Tea & Ex-Tea tribes in the Barak valley have adopted Bengali language.

Sir, in the year 1960 in first language disturbance was occurred. The then Home Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri visited the State, made on the spot study and rendered suggestions, know as "Shastri Formula". One of his suggestion was to bring necessary amendments in the Official Language Act. Further, he made a suggestion that communications between State headquarters Cachar and autonomous hill districts are to continue in English until replaced by Hindi and at State level, English will continue to be used for the present and later, English will continue along with Assamese. One of the suggestions of Shastri Formula was that there should be safeguards to the linguistic minorities. In view of the Shastri Formula in the year 1961, Assam Official Language Act was amended and Bengali language was recognised as the sole official language in the Barak valley.

Then, in the light of the recommendations of Kothari Commission in 1970, the Board of Secondary Education prepared a curriculum based on academic grounds to provide equal opportunity to different linguistic groups and to recognises the languages—Assamese and Bengali. But this curriculum was never implemented. What to speak of implementation, it was never introduced.

Then, in the year 1972, the Dibrugarh University as well as the Guwahati University took a decision to impose Assamese as the sole medium of education in the Universities and in the Colleges, which resulted in another language disturbance. I am going to justify the location of the Central university because the AGP Members staged a protest on the location. When this imposition was made, at the time, the then Home Minister, Shri K.C. Pant, visited the State in 1972. He evolved a formula and according to that, both the universities accepted English as one of the languages to be continued as medium of instruction for ten years. Even

[Sh. Haren Bhumi]

then, time and again, it has been the persistent attempt to impose Assamese as a compulsory language. Language disturbance once again had erupted in the year 1986 when the Secondary Board of Education vide its notification on 28th February, 1986 introduced Assamese as compulsory subject from Class VIII onwards. But because of vehement and constant agitation from all corners, the AGP Government had to withdraw this notification. This language crisis could have been averted by the AGP Government by establishing a separate university in the Barak Valley. But that was not looked into. Instead, time and again, it has been their attempt to impose Assamese speaking language on the shoulders of the non-Assamese people who constitute a major percentage of the State population. This is the past history.

I do not understand why the AGP friends staged a protest through only a few months ago, it was the Chief Minister of Assam who made a statement in the Barak Valley that the Assam Government had no objection if a university was established in the Barak Valley. Now they are in a mood to oppose this Bill when a Central university has been proposed by the Central Government to be established at Silchar in Barak Valley. Having a university at Silchar in the Barak Valley would mean not only the development of Cachar but the development and achievement of State of Assam. After all, Cachar in Barak Valley is a part of Assam. They have also moved amendments which say: "Page 2, line 47, for Silchar substitute Tezpur and page 5, line 14, add at the end—provided the university concerned in whose jurisdiction the colleges are now located has no objection". By bringing this amendment in the Bill, the AGP members or the so-called faction of the Assamese people, have once again established their hatredness, their anguish, their callous attitude towards the non-Assamese speaking people. This is the time the AGP Government, the so-called faction of the Assamese people, those who are opposing and protesting all the time, should have

taken a right decision to welcome this Bill. They should have taken this opportunity to embrace the people of the State of Assam which is a miniature India, where people from all concerns of the country are inhabiting. They should have evinced that all those who are staying there are their brothers. They should not have evinced their anguish, their hatredness, their callous attitude towards the other community people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI HAREN BHUMI: The establishment of the Central University at Silchar in the Barak Valley is undoubtedly a timely and right step in the direction of national integration, as students from all corners, of all communities, cultures and languages—Bengali speaking students Hindi speaking students, Assamese speaking students and students speaking other languages—will pursue their higher studies in campus of this highest temple of education.

Here, I would like to add that all the three existing universities are located in the Brahmaputra Valley. After having all this bitterness. I have contacted large number of non-Assamese speaking people through out the State and found that it is the feeling of the non-Assamese speaking people that a time has come when they will get a chance to have a sigh of relief and get their children educated at such a place where calm and tranquility will prevail, where there exist an academic atmosphere.

Here, I have some suggestions to make. First of all, I would like to suggest that just to establish the truth that the Central Government has never been apathetic towards the people of Assam, rather it has wholeheartedly been sympathetic to them, the Central Government should come forward with a proposal for a second Central university in the Brahmaputra Valley. At the same time, I would request the Central Government to come forward and take over one of the universities, preferably the Dibrugarh University, which is surrounded by industries, such as, tea, coal, petroleum, plywood and

others, which is the most backward area. Though it is the richest district in India, but the people of this district including Arunachal Pradesh are most backward. So, I would request the Central Government to take over the Dibrugarh university and convert it into a Central university because both these universities are facing acute financial crisis. Lastly, I request the Government to create corners in the central university of Barak valley erecting statues of Sahityarathi, Lakshminath Bez Barua and Kula guru Vishnu Rabha as gesture of goodwill so as to win the hearts of the Assamese in the State of Assam and those sections of people who are opposing all the time, who are showing their anguish and hatred towards the Bengali-speaking people.

Sir, again I repeat the necessity of a second Central University in the Brahmaputra Valley. It is the need of the hour. Sir, my suggestions should be given sympathetic attention and once again I wholeheartedly support the Bill and also thank the Government for the establishment of a Central University in Cachar, in Barak Valley.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the proposal of establishing a University in Assam because setting up a University in the hilly place in the country will not only help the students in that area but also help the State. Sir, Cachar district and its surrounding areas needs a university very much. Nobody will deny that. There was a spate of agitations and movements in Cachar for establishing a University there. But the point is why there is no consensus between the Central Government and the State Government for the location of the University. Definitely I think that it is very much necessary to have a consensus between the Central Government and the State Government in the matter of location of the University.

Sir, I shall confine myself to the different sections of this Bill. I find that some Section of the Bill would erode the rights which are being enjoyed by different universities. Prac-

tically, this University will be under the Department in the ministry of Education. This gives scope for interference with the activities of the Assam University by the Department. I may give some examples in this context. Section 8 Sub-clause (ii) says that the Department can annul any proceedings of the University and that cannot be referred to the Court. That means whatever the University decides and adoption of the proceedings in the university can be annulled by the Department. There is a free hand for the Department. There is no change in this. The Section says that the Visitor shall have the right to reject the Panel of the University in the case of the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. There is a clear permission that the Visitor can reject the Panel which will be referred to by the Vice-Chancellor. So, I am against that Section. The third point is that the Executive Council will have the right to make the Ordinance on the recommendations of the Academic Council. So, the recommendations of the Academic Council will be referred to the Executive Council and they will act according to the Members of the Academic Council but the Executive Council may not approve all the recommendations of the Academic Council.

17.00 hrs.

If there is any difference of opinion between the Executive Council and the Academic Council, then the issue will be referred to the Visitor and the Visitor's decision will be final. So, one by one we will see that all powers are in the hands of the Central Government or the Ministry.....(*Interruptions*)

My contention is that virtually this University will be a department in the Ministry of Education.(*Interruptions*)

I am cent per cent correct. you just go through the Bill.

Sir, there is a super body called planning body and the planning body can direct the Executive Council or the Academic Council for the development of the Univer-

[Sh. Ajoy Biswas]

sity. If the Executive Council does not accept the recommendations or the directions of the planning body, the matter will be referred to the Visitor and the Visitor's decision will be final. Everywhere, in the Executive Council or the Academic Council, all the powers are vested with the Visitor and the Visitor means Ministry of Education. The Executive Council will appoint a Pro-Vice Chancellor on the recommendations of the Vice-Chancellor. In this case also, if the Executive Council does not approve the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor the matter will go to the visitor and the Visitor's decision will be final. So, in this way, there is enough scope to interfere, to intervene in the day-to-day functioning of the University. Next is, there will be an elected Student Council. This is the first time I see that there will be an elected Student Council. But that will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor or the Executive Council. Why should nomination be there? No election will be held, no elected body will be there. They should have the right to express their views. Next is, students will have to sign a bond of allegiance to the Vice-Chancellor that they will not disobey the Vice-Chancellor and other authorities. Students are not bounded labourers. When the labourer is going to work with some land lord, he has to give some allegiance but not in writing—that he will not go against the landlord. This type of thinking, this type of approach has been incorporated in the Bill. So, I solely oppose this. If any dispute arises between the worker and the employer, then that will be referred to the Arbitration Tribunal and the decision of the Tribunal will be final and the employee will not be able to get support. In this way, I think that many provisions have been incorporated in the Bill which need to be removed. Otherwise, the functioning of this University will not help to create a good atmosphere in that area. I shall request the hon. Minister at least to see what anti-democratic and obnoxious clauses are being incorporated and they should be removed.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. Even though the State

Government is not able to come to a conclusion where the Central University is to be situated, since in the Assam Accord, the Central Government is committed that there will be a Central University in Assam, rightly a University has been set up in Assam by the Central Government. In the Bill itself, there is a provision that Assam Central University has got jurisdiction throughout Assam. The students reading in the other existing Universities in the States can as well be admitted to this University provided those Universities have no objection. Under these circumstances, there is no reason why certain Members should take objection to the establishment of this University in a particular district when the Central Government is fulfilling its commitment. Higher education is in a mess. 'Education' is in Concurrent List and, as such, the Central Government, though it has to work for the implementation of the national Educational Policy on partnership basis with a State cannot remain a silent spectator to implement the National Education Policy if the States fail to implement it. It is not a State Education Policy, it is Central Education Policy. To implement that, the Centre should take such steps where a State is not forthcoming to implement this policy. The UGC has been criticised for the declining standards in teaching, research and examination and for not spending all it can on higher education. What is lacking is implementation.

The Estimates Committee also wants the UGC to have a continuing dialogue with the State Government Universities and teachers to find out the loopholes.

The Estimates Committee also criticised the UGC's organisational set up. It cannot do in-depth studies of individual Universities and their problems. It should be expanded and its working streamlined. Giving more money to the Central University has also been criticised and it suggested that sufficient amount should be given to the universities in the States.

I want to invite the attention of the hon. Minister through you that the State Govern-

ment as well as the Universities in the States have got their duty to perform. The state Governments as well as Universities have their Development Officers. They should also educate the Colleges under the Universities in the State. Till today some colleges have no knowledge of Sections 2 (f) and 12 (b) of the University Grants Act, more so in Orissa, and till today many private colleges and Government Colleges are not able to take advantage of the grants given by the UGC. It is because of the fact that they have not been recognised by the UGC under Sections 2 (f) and 12 (b). It is not that the UGC is lagging behind but the applications have not been sponsored by the universities to the UGC in the proper proforma. Under these circumstances, there is no use blaming the UGC alone. The State Governments and the Universities should come in a very big way to take the advantage of the grants given by the UGC.

I would like to say that during this Session, we could not discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to some aspects. I have already met and told him. But nothing has happened so far. No attention has been paid. In the Seventh Five year Plan, the Government want to raise the status of 500 colleges to that of autonomous college. I do not know how many colleges have been raised to the status of autonomous colleges in India. Now, the Seventh Five Year Plan is going to end by march 1990. In this connection, I have to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to certain things. Sir, in Orissa the names of four colleges have been suggested by the two Universities—Utkal University and the Sambalpur University—to the Government of Orissa to raise the status of those colleges to that of autonomous colleges. I plead with the Government that immediately the status of those four colleges should be raised. Here I would like to point out that not a single college under Berhampur University has been recommended for the purpose of raising the status to that of autonomous college. Therefore, I would request that the Government

should take steps to see that the Government College at Berhampur and other private colleges under the Jurisdiction of that University are raised to the status of autonomous colleges. The previous Minister has assured me that there would be a Navodaya Vidyalaya in the Aska parliamentary Constituency in Ganjam District of Orissa. It should be done immediately.

Coming to the B.Ed colleges, I would like to say that the two B.Ed Colleges in Utkal and Sambalpur Universities have been upgraded to Advanced Institute of Education and Comprehensive College of Teachers Education. I have to point out that not a single college under the Behrampur University has been raised to that status. So, it should be done immediately. The other fact is that some of the universities do not come forward, for obvious reasons, to implement the new education policy. Some of the States also do not come forward to do this. I am only citing some examples. We, the Members of Parliament, bring to the notice of the hon. Human Resource Development minister that these defects should be rectified and they should be rectified in consultation with the Members of Parliament also. It is not that he should leave everything to the States and depend upon the States for the implementation. If it is so, then the Central Government cannot implement its New Education Policy. To implement the New Education Policy, the Central Government should also take the Members of Parliament into confidence in bringing to their notice the lacunae in the implementation process and to suggest as to how best this policy can be implemented. Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government that the B. Ed. college under the Berhampur University should be upgraded.

17.44 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would like to make another point in this regard. This is not alone in Bihar or Orissa. I am speaking of the different States. The Colleges in the State of Bihar as well as

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

Orissa have been instituted and running for the last 8-10 years. But permanent affiliation and permanent recognition has not been given.

Only temporary affiliation is given to such colleges. That is the reason why these colleges are deprived of UGC grants. So, the steps should be taken by the Government and if necessary, UGC Act should be amended in such a manner that the temporary concurrence or the affiliation should be given to colleges only for three years. Thereafter, either the concurrence or affiliation should be withdrawn or permanent concurrence and affiliation should be given. The question of provisional and temporary affiliation should be only for three years and not more than that. And after that, permanent affiliation should be made so that these colleges also can get the UGC grant. Thank you.

17.16 hours.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, education is the most important subject today. India is a unique country with mosaic population consisting of people from various castes, culture, languages and of different styles living under one umbrella, thus, protecting and preserving the diverse culture. Unity in diversity is our origin. I welcome this Bill. I want to congratulate our Prime Minister who has taken right step to set up one Central University in Assam. I also want to congratulate our Human Resource Development Ministry. At the same time, I congratulate the Minister of State for Home Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev because when he was not the Minister, it was his persistent demand for setting up a Central University in Cachar District. Thought the Prime Minister is the final authority, the Government has the final authority, yet due to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev's constant endeavour, the Government has fulfilled the demand of the Cachar people.

I do not know why my AGP friends today walked out in protest against this Bill. It was

a fact that there was no consensus regarding the location of the university. There are some differences. But I think, due to location, no political party can defy the education of a State. I think, it is their political walk out. They walked out because they knew that they were not able to maintain, they were not able to fulfil the demands of the Assam people. That is why, they have walked out. Of course, people will judge whether they have done right or wrong, I think, this is a great blunder done by the AGP people to have walked out on protest against this Bill. They should respect the education at least. Today, we are trying to provide educational facilities, we are trying to create more universities. I do not know how have they walked out. I know these AGP Members sometimes pose like progressive Members. Where is their progressive attitude? They walked out because this university is going to be set up in Cachar district. They are the ruling party there and they should welcome this measure. They should welcome the minorities. According to our Constitution, according to our party manifesto, Congress always gives protection to the minorities to the weaker sections of the people. These AGP, the ruling party there in Assam should give protection to the minorities. But instead of giving protection to the minorities, they have walked out. I do not know why have they walked out. They said: "if you are going to set up this university in Assam, there will be one division." Who are you to make a division? The Congress is not going to divide any State. But these people have started so many agitations against minorities, they have arrested people belonging to minority community and beaten them up like anything and they have killed them. I think, what the AGP people have done is really a mistake. It is a shame on their part.

I respect Shri Dinesh Goswami. I told him before this Bill was taken up that "Dineshji, you don't oppose this Bill because minorities want protection and they want to get education. Why are you opposing the whole thing." He said that he is not going to speak. But I do not know why they have walked out.

In Assam in 1948 the Government set up Guwahati University, in 1965 the Government set up Dibrugarh University and the Government is now going to establish one IIT in the northern part of Assam. Why these people are discriminated, I do not know. But I want to request the members that instead of walking out, they should respect the minorities' demand. I think the government, instead of giving political powers there, it should give proper education to the people.

It is not only today's demand, it has been the burning issue of Assam. In 1960 it was the proposal of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Home Minister. In 1970 it was the recommendation of the Kothari Commission. In 1972 it was the proposal of the Pant Committee. Now in 1985 the Prime Minister announced it publicly. Then the AGP Government had agreed to set up a University in Assam. But I do not know why they are not in favour of Cachar.

I welcome the Government's initiative and I would like to specially congratulate Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev who has achieved this goal and fulfilled the demands of the people of Assam. I went to the Cachar district many times. It is the demand of the local people, it is the demand of the ladies, the youth and the students. The Government has fulfilled their demand and that is why I congratulate the Government.

SHRISAMAR BRAHMA CHOU DHURY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to register my support to the Bill. As has been said by some Members here, Assam is a multi-lingual State. The geography and topography of Cachar is such that it is separated from the Brahmaputra Valley by Karbi-anglong and North-Cachar hilly areas. There is a transport and communication difficulty. Moreover, Cachar is mostly inhabited by Bengali speaking people. Though Assamese is the official language of Assam, in Cachar Bengali has been recognised as the official language. So this University will definitely fulfil the long-standing demands of the Cachar people and will help promote academic atmosphere there.

Of course, if there could have been a consensus on the decision to locate the Assam University in Silchar between the State Government and the Central Government, it would have been better. It could have avoided the dissatisfaction and the controversy which has been generated. In that event I presume the AGP Members also would not have walked out.

Though immediately it is generating controversy, I feel in the long run the establishment of Assam University in Silchar of Cachar district, will help to avert many unpleasant incidents of future. Because language is a very sensitive issue and in a multi-lingual State like Assam it is even more sensitive than it is in any other State. The language has been the cause of many riots, even blood-sheds, hampering the better understanding, and hampering the integrity of the State. The location of this University in Silchar will definitely, I feel, help avert many incidents or happenings that could take place on the ground of language.

I realise the justification of location of the University, because though I belong to Brahmaputra Valley I come from non-Assamese speaking population of that area. The Universities which are located in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, have Assamese as the medium of instruction. When Assamese was introduced as a medium of instruction in these Universities, we, who belong to non-Assamese speaking group—wanted retention of English as the medium of instruction. The tribals, more particularly, the Bodos had to take the help of court of law to retain English as the medium of instruction.

Along with this Assam University, which is going to be located in Silchar, I feel that there should be another Central University, to cater to the needs of non-Assamese speaking population of the Brahmaputra Valley. So I appeal to the Government and I also appeal to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, who hails from Assam, to make all-out efforts to convince the Union Government to sanction

[Sh. Samar Brahma Choudhury]

another Central University to be located in Brahmaputra Valley, specially to cater to the needs of the non-Assamese speaking population.

While I support this Bill, — pending sanction of another Central University - I would ask the Central Government to consider the case of establishing a campus in Kokrajhar, the heart-land of the Bodos. The Bodos as well as the non-Assamese speaking population want to get rid of the Universities, where Assamese is the medium of instruction. Under the protection of court of law, we are using English as the medium of instruction in colleges, located in tribal areas,

So, I urge upon the Central Government to consider the location of a campus at Kokrajhar, pending sanction of another Central University in Assam. with these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SUDARSAN DAS (Karimganj):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to lend my support to the Assam University Bill, 1989.

This bill seeks to establish a University in Cachar of Barak Valley. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Barak Valley, want to thank our hon. Prime Minister for giving us this University. The teachers, the students and the guardians of the Barak valley had fought a combined battle for years. It was a non-violent and democratic battle. At last we have got a university. I would also thank Shri Shiv Shanker Ji and Shri Shahi Ji for giving a university to Barak valley.

It should not be a sentimental issue. It is an educational issue. It is not that Barak valley has won and Brahmaputra has lost. It means Assam has won; democracy has won and non-violence has won. Before Independence when the idea of a university was mooted two major centres in Assam — Sylhat (now in Bangladesh) and Gauhati — were the contenders for the location. Soon partition of India followed and major part of the

Sylhat district going out of the country Gauhati was the lone choice left. So a university was established in Gauhati in 1948. Thereafter two more universities—one in Dibrugarh and the other in Jorhat - in the Brahmaputra valley were established. South Assam was badly in need of one and for that matter the establishment of a Central university in this region has been on the cards for a long time. The demand started from the people of the Barak valley in the early 1960s because the students from the valley being Bengali-speaking were ill-treated, assaulted and denied any kind of healthy academic atmosphere in the existing two universities of Assam. Further these two universities at Gauhati and Dibrugarh are gradually switching over to Assamese medium creating problems for linguistic minorities in Assam. Education can be best imparted when it is done through a medium that comes naturally to a learner. There is also the problem of medium of instruction in the two valleys. Brahmaputra valley is pre-dominantly Assamese speaking. Bengali as an official language in the Barak valley of Cachar and Karimganj was the outcome of tragic killing of 11 students who were protesting against the imposition of Assamese language in 1962—popularly known as Shastri formula — came into operation but the attitude did not change when AGP Government came in power. They again tried to make Assamese compulsory at secondary level by a notification issued in 1986. They, however, had to withdraw it after tremendous protests from the people of Barak valley in which two students were killed in Karimganj. Our late Prime Minister Indiraji gave us the assurance that establishment of a Central University in Barak valley should be considered and so also the present Prime Minister on more than one occasion had assured us. But what baffled the people of Barak valley was that the present State government made all possible efforts to have it in the Brahmaputra valley. We made demands and were able to convince the Union Government of the legitimacy of our demand but the State Government wanted to get away with it to somewhere other than Barak Valley. Their views were that the Central University was to be

established in Assam and hence it could be anywhere in the State. We failed to understand by what logic they wanted it to be inside Assam, but outside Barak Valley. Did it not mean that in their psyche Barak Valley was outside Assam? We, the people of Barak Valley, are for an integrated and prosperous system and do not believe in the kind of sub-regionalism that the present State Government seem to be espousing.

Now, the Bill introduced in this House seeks that the Central University would be established in the Cachar district of Barak Valley and it is hoped that all in the State who were opposed to it will drop their opposition and come forward to make the new Central University in the North-East a centre of culture, knowledge, integration and progress.

Lastly, I would like to request the hon. Education Minister to give one more University in Brahmaputra Valley.

With these words, I again lend my support to the Bill.

SHRIL.P. SHAHI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have been hearing the observations made by the hon. Members. I am sorry that when I was moving the Bill for consideration, some of the hon. Members chose to walk out. They could not, however, make up their cases as to why they were walking out.

The observations made by the hon. Members are with regard to the powers of visitors, students Council, permanent and temporary affiliations, and looking to the needs of the Bodo region of Kokrajhar or other areas.

So far as the powers of the Visitor are concerned, the Bill has been drafted on the same pattern as other Central Universities.

So far as the Students Council is concerned, the same provisions exist in the Vishwa Bharati University as well as the Pondicherry University. This is being done, so that when the Bill takes the form of an Act,

the University can start functioning and it should have some visitor. As the hon. Members might be knowing, the Universities can whenever they like on the basis of their experience, bring forward amendments in the Statute. If the University authorities later on consider that the Students Council should be elected, it is up to them to recommend to the visitor.

So far as the powers of the visitor are concerned, nothing new in the Bill has added. It is on the same pattern as other Central Universities are. In normal practice also, we find that whenever we enter into an agreement with some party, or some contract, there is a provision that such and such man will be the arbitrator if there is a dispute. This had to be provided in the Bill, otherwise how it will work. Some power had to be given to the visitor. He does not interfere daily. If the University works smoothly, there is no occasion for the visitor to interfere and he does not interfere by himself. If there is a difference of opinion, only then he interferes. That is the practical proposition.

So, taking into consideration the needs of Central Assam, Guwahati University came into existence in 1948. Then Dibrugarh University came into existence in 1965. Then an Agricultural University came into existence at Zorhat in 1969. Side by side with this we are providing a Central Indian Institute of Technology at Assam and Government of Assam has suggested its location at Nagaon. IIT is more than a university. There are only five IITs in the country and the sixth is going to be located in the Brahmaputra Valley in Nagaon. It was up to the State Government to suggest for the location. We did not come in the way. We consulted them. They have provided some land at Nagaon. We have provided money for this in this year's Budget and in the next Year's Budget also we are providing money for acquiring more land and bringing up all the infrastructure. A society has been registered and Mr. R. C. Mehrotra is the Secretary and the governor of Assam is the Chairman. that society has started functioning for the setting up of an IIT in the Brahmaputra valley.

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

There is no question of neglecting any part of the country. In fact this university question was there since 1972. IN 1972 Assam Government wrote that they wanted to have a university in Barak valley. Thereafter the matter was left as it is. In 1982-83 again there was a demand for setting up a university in Barak Valley. Then, in 1985 the Assam Government wrote to us that they had decided to set up a university but since they could not set it up for one or the other reason, the Central Government has come up with a proposal to set up a university in the Cachar district. We do not have any objection. Cachar district is also a part of Assam. According to the Bill only four districts are attached to this university. If other colleges located in other parts of the Assam wants to get affiliated with the Central University and if the concerned university has no objection then I think it can go beyond this also. These four districts are Cachar, North Cachar, Karbi Anglong and Kannar. I see that there is no substantial objection against the location of the university either.

17.43 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

It is our policy to implement new education policy and according to that flexible courses have to be created. We have to promote inter-departmental research and studies, use of modern equipment and communication technology, use of computers and we have to furnish a good library and information system to the University. If and when this university comes into existence and starts its full-fledged working other universities will also benefit by its existence.

Other colleges can also get affiliated with this university. So, I think there is nothing substantial to reply beyond this.

One suggestion was made by a Member representing Dibrugarh constituency. It was about the raising of a statue of some eminent person. There is a scheme with the

Culture Department in which we support any such demand of raising a statue of either a national leader, a freedom fighter or a great leader. We would support such a demand if a proposal comes and local people are ready to mobilise resources. But that is not a part of the University Act.

So far as permanent and temporary affiliation is concerned, some State Government commit this mistake of granting temporary affiliation to a college. What does the temporary affiliation means? It means that in the eyes of the State Governments, that particular institution is not fully viable and therefore they are granting temporary affiliations. When the State itself grants the temporary affiliation, how can the UGC grant money for its development? So, precautionary step has to be taken by the State itself. The States should not grant temporary affiliation. If they feel satisfied, they should grant affiliation. Then they can very well come up before the UGC for having development grant or grants under different heads as the University Grants Commission's rules permit.

So, it is essentially a matter to be solved at the State level and not with the UGC.

With these few words, I commend this Bill for acceptance of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Assam and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The Motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dinesh
Goswami - Absent.

Shri Dinesh Goswami - Absent.

Shri Muhiram Saikia - Absent.

Prof. Parag Chaliha - Absent.

Shri Saifuddin Ahmed - Absent.

The question is:

"That Clauses 3 to 5 stand part of the
Bill."

The Motion was adopted

Clauses 3 to 5 were added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER: Now clause 6.

Shri Dinesh Goswami - Absent

Shri Bhadreswar Tanti - Absent

Shri Muhiram Saikia - Absent

Prof. Parag Chaliha - Absent.

Shri Saifuddin Ahmed - Absent.

There are no amendments to Clauses 7
to 45.

The question is:

"That Clauses 6 to 45 stand part of the
Bill."

The Motion was adopted

Clauses 6 to 45 were added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Schedule was added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and
the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

*Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Longs
Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI L.P. SAHI: I bet to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

17.48 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER :
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN, RE.
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I
wish to make some observations. I am sorry
for their inordinate length.

The question of appointment of the
Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, was
raised by some hon'ble Members on the 9th
May, 1989, after announcement was made
in the Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 8th
May, 1989, that Shri P. Kolandaivelu had
been appointed as Chairman of the Public
Accounts Committee 1989-90. The matter
was followed up by Shri Dandavate in a
written communication on the same day (9th
May) wherein he drew my attention to the
convention of appointing a member of the
opposition as the Chairman of the PAC on
the basis of the strength of opposition parties
or groups in the House. According to him, the
obvious choice should have been Shri Jaipal
Reddy of the Janata Dal.