

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Sir, I wish to put forth my problem before you. My problem is that we have to arrange the hon. Members who have to speak on this subject. We have to go through what is to be spoken. We just cannot get up here and start speaking extempore on this subject. Therefore, we must have some time for that ...(*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has explained in detail what had been discussed in the meeting of the leaders which had been convened by the hon. Speaker. There was a clear understanding that after we receive the consent from the President, we would take up the Resolution today. This was the general understanding amongst the leaders of all the political parties, who had attended that meeting. And only based on that decision, as all the other necessary formalities have to be completed, it has been proposed we take up the discussion today itself. The time suggested was that we could start this discussion at 4 o'clock today and dispose of this subject today itself...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Sir, I would like to state that no leader from our side had been consulted. Our party people have not agreed to this and I do not know how the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has made this statement. We have not agreed to this. This matter was not discussed with us. Therefore, kindly do not tell us that this thing was included for the discussion. With which leader, have you discussed this? Please name the leader...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, this was discussed in the meeting of the leaders convened by the hon. Speaker and. I think, it will not be appropriate to get into all the details as to what had been discussed in the meeting. Therefore, Sir, I will do one thing. Separately we can discuss this matter and then I will come back...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Sir, I had checked up from my leader and he was not aware of this. Therefore, it is not proper...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now proceed with the regular business of the House.

14.52 hours

ASSAM UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

(As passed by Rajya Sabha)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Bills for consideration and passing. Kumari Selja to move the Assam University (Amendment) Bill.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Assam University Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, kindly tell some salient features of the Bill.

KUMARI SELJA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Assam University (Amendment) Bill seeks to restrict the jurisdiction of the Assam University to the following five districts in Assam : Cachar, Hailakandi, Karbi Anglong, Karimganj and North Cachar Hills.

The objective of this Assam University (Amendment) Bill is to ensure that the viability of the other Universities set up by the State Government prior to the establishment of the Assam University is not impaired in any way. This has been supported by the State Government and by the Members of Parliament of all the parties in the meeting, which was convened by the Human Resource Development Minister. Hence, I have brought forward this Amendment Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Assam University Act, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted to this Bill is one hour. Of course, each political party has been allotted the time. Let the slips come from the Whips of the political parties. Sending slips independently declaring themselves as sovereign works out very hard on the Chair. Time-limit is also very important.

(...*Interruptions*).

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Bypassing the Whips the Members are coming to the Chair because they want to liberate themselves from the Whips...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri Purkayastha to speak.

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Amendment to the Assam University Act, 1989 has been brought as a Bill. I want to say something regarding this Bill.

Sir, after the enactment of this Assam University Act in 1989, some controversy arose regarding the jurisdiction of the University. The then Human Resource Development Minister convened a meeting of the Government of Assam and also the Members of Parliament from the State of Assam. We all sat together in the discussion and ultimately came to the conclusion that this change should be adopted. Hence the Bill has been brought and therefore, there is no question of opposing this. This has been brought with the consensus of the Government of Assam and the Members of Parliament from Assam.

But in this regard I want to say some more things particularly regarding the Assam University. The Assam

University is fortunately situated in my constituency. Last January, the University started some classes. In the meantime one year has passed. But the classes were started in the building of the Regional Engineering College and not in the building of the University. So you can very easily imagine that an institution without having its own building can definitely find much difficulty to continue its activity. Sometimes back, while the matter was being discussed in the House, the hon. Deputy Minister for Human Resource Development, declared in the House that Rs. 70 crore has been sanctioned for the Assam University. But at this point of time, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has already been spent for this purpose and how much progress has been made as regards the University.

Again, as per my information, as regards the construction of the University building, nothing has yet been done. It is very essential that from the side of the Central Government, all necessary measures should be taken for the construction of the University building at the earliest. So long as it is not done, it is definite that all the activities of the university cannot be started or cannot be continued in a proper manner.

As to my knowledge, till now only six subjects have been started in the University and some more—I have heard—will be started soon. But you know, in an University, there are so many subjects and it is desirable that all the necessary subjects are started and teaching of the subjects should also be done in the University. As regards the subjects, I want to know whether the Central Government is aware as to how many subjects are going to be started in the university and for how many subjects, the Government have already accorded sanction.

As regards the teaching staff of the university, as per my information, actually only a few teachers are there. Shortage of teachers is there. In that respect also I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures have been adopted so that as per the requisition the teachers are appointed and the subjects required by the University are started.

15.00 hrs.

So far as I know, there is no proper monitoring system for the University. If the monitoring of the activities of the University is not properly done by the Central Government, there will be no proper development of the University. Therefore, I would like to know what sort of monitoring system is adopted by the Government for this University.

In the case of appointments also, it is known to me that there are some shortcomings. Some important posts which were to be filled up earlier, such as the posts of the Finance Officer, the Project Engineer, the Director of the College Development Council and the Controller of Examinations, have not yet been filled up. As you know, Sir, this University

has already started functioning and it has already managed to hold examinations. But there is no Controller of Examinations in the University. How the University has been able to conduct examinations without a Controller of Examinations, is a matter of astonishment.

This University, from its very inception, has got some lacunae. As per some prominent educationists, the preparation of the curricula and the system of setting of questions are defective. I want to know what corrective steps have been taken by the Government in this regard and also whether the Government is aware that there is some resentment among the guardians and the students regarding the curricula that had been prepared and the questions that had been set in the last examination.

As regards the appointment of teachers, the Government should definitely prescribe some norms. When the Central Government have set up a University, they should also see to it that the teachers of repute* are appointed. If, at the very first stage itself, prominent persons are not appointed, then the health of the University will definitely be very poor. So, I request the hon. Minister to take this into consideration.

With regard to the appointment of other staff also, it should be seen that justice is done and suitable persons are appointed. There should be no partisan attitude in the matter of appointments, particularly in an educational institution. So, this should also be taken care of.

I have nothing more to say in this regard. I hope the hon. Deputy Minister of Education, during the course of her reply, will clarify the points raised by me. Thank you, Sir.

15.04 hours

(SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*)

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Assam University (Amendment) Bill, 1995. The Bill is just a formality. This Bill has been brought for redefinition of the jurisdiction of a Central University, namely, the Assam University. Now the jurisdiction of this University is compact. This point is emphasised keeping in view the communication difficulties of this zone. This compactness will make the University administration better directed and better planned. But too much emphasis on this point will be merely a 'matter of fact' approach to the immense possibilities and potentials that this University has.

We shall have to bear in mind that this University caters to the needs of a backward region particularly the hill districts of North Cachar and Karbi Anglong. Accordingly the academic pursuit needs to be tailored to the special needs of these two districts. If we do not want the University to be just like any other University, it is imperative that a suitable strategy has to be evolved to harness the development of the national resources of this hilly region.

There is need for courses on cement, rubber, coal and viable possibilities of food processing particularly in respect of fruit. Till a few years ago a corporation owned by the Government of Assam which is based at a place in North Cachar Hills did export preserved pineapples and other fruits to the then Soviet Union. Therefore, the attention of this University needs to be directed towards the research and development where such natural resources are there. Theory should be backed by training and a sort of hands-on machines experience and that should form part of the programme. Along with imparting technical expertise, commercial aspects like marketing, exports etc. need to be emphasised. Such subject, whether under degree course or diploma course, will attract local young people because they are income-generating courses particularly cement and rubber technology should be the special features of this University.

Unless the University is determined to be off the beaten track and evolve suitable strategy and programmes to develop local resources and explore local talent, I am afraid, it will cut itself off from the ground realities. This is one definite way to give a sense of purpose and a direction to the energy capabilities and talent of the local young people so that they can find a place under the sun an assured place.

At the moment, frustration is writ large on the mind of the young people now. Frustration leads to alienation and alienation to conflict. This is a great challenge to this University and I do hope the University will rise to the occasion and will usher in a new meaning to such a state of mind.

With these observations, I support the Bill. Many difficulties have been narrated by my friend hon. Shri Kabindra Purkayastha. But these difficulties are not so important. The University has just started. Since it gets going all these difficulties will be sorted out. Just now I have said that if we do not want it to be just like any other University, our attention should be focussed on other aspects. It should introduce new subjects and not just the subjects which are taught in any other University. It should teach some special subjects which are need-based and particularly keeping in mind the backwardness of the region where the University is located.

I once again support this Amendment Bill. I do hope the University will rise to the occasion and accept the challenge.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Assam University (Amendment) Bill, 1995. It has already been stated here that it is a mere formality because the representatives of the Central Government, State Government of Assam, MPs of Assam and some academics met earlier in a meeting called by the then Minister of Human Resource Development to solve the grievances of the people of the State regarding the jurisdiction of the University.

There is a lot of discontentment in the Guwahati University and also in Assam valley regarding the jurisdiction of the Assam University, that is, the Central University situated at Silchar. A consensus was there that the jurisdiction of the University should be confined to certain areas only and not throughout the State of Assam, as there are a number of Universities in Assam, like Dibrugarh University and Guwahati University. There is a Central University at Tezpur. There was a meeting held in Delhi of all the concerned people about the jurisdiction of the University and all have agreed that the jurisdiction of the University should be confined to Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong districts only. So, we support this Amendment Bill.

At the same time, I would like to say that this University was planned under certain circumstances in the then prevailing situation in Assam, because there was a big agitation in Assam at that time and minority students were being harassed. So, to protect the interests of the students' community and for imparting higher education, this University was set up. I would like to emphasize that the people of that backward area want that this University should be one of the model universities in that area, catering not only to the present needs, but also to the future needs.

Sir, the Central Government should take note of the feelings of the people of that area and also the feelings of the younger generation in that area. So, to make it a model University, it requires proper planning by the Central Government right at the initial stage itself. I hope the Central Government will take care of all these aspects and help to build up the University in a proper way. As it has already been stated in this House, there is no building and technically there is no University campus till today. There is confusion regarding the syllabus and also regarding the appointments. All these things have to be settled now in an appropriate fashion.

Then, the different languages spoken in that area should also be cultivated in that University. I hope that the Central Government would look into this matter. The Central Government should take care not only to improve this University, but it should also take care of the Central University which is set up at Tezpur so that it is equally developed. All the problems faced by that University, like the teaching and other problems should be taken care of by the Government. Though the allotment of funds is there from the Centre, it is not sufficient for the development of the University. In the State of Assam, the Universities are facing a lot of financial crisis. There is another Central University at Tezpur there is Guwahati University and there is Dibrugarh University. These Universities are catering to the intellectual needs of that area. But Dibrugarh University and Guwahati University are facing a lot of financial crisis and they are not in a position to even pay regularly the salaries of the lecturers and staff there. They are in a very bad financial situation.

So, I hope that not only the funding position of the Central University should be improved but also the

Government should give special treatment to the Guwahati and Dibrugarh Universities as the Guwahati University is the premier University in the State of Assam.

Apart from that, different subjects should be included in the University curricula so that the younger generation of that area can have a wider scope of going in for research and other disciplines. The people of this entire area still feel that they are discriminated against in many respects which has resulted in frustration among the people. This frustration has created a volcanic situation there. The Central Government should take proper measures to solve this problem. I would also request that this House as well as the Central Government to take proper care for the cultural economic and intellectual development of this area.

With these words, I support the Amendment Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharajganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir Assam has for a long period been a victim of social, linguistic and economic exploitation and during this period Central Government has resorted to penal actions instead of maintaining law and order situation and taking the local people into confidence and taking some concrete steps to improve the future of the youth there. If at all any good work has been done there, it is the establishment of Assam University in Silchar, which is not a State University, but a Central University. I accord my heart felt support to this Bill which envisages some changes in the Act and demarcates the jurisdiction of this University.

Mr. Chairman, Sir before setting up this University, there were linguistic disputes in Assam and due to cultural diversity a situation like civil war was going to be created in Assam. The setting up of the University is a concrete step taken in this direction. If we take the case of other universities, then there are three Universities in Delhi and see that the amount being spent thereon, number of students studying there, their demarcation of jurisdiction and compare the same with the number of students coming for study in Assam University, number of those willing to study there and demarcation of its jurisdiction, we will find that very little has been provided to Assam University.

Demands for opening colleges at various places are made. We have set up Central University. But till now its building could not be constructed. The purpose of opening Central University is to provide national level education to the students. But how it will be able to take them upto national level. Out of a big list of faculties needed, there are only six subjects for which arrangements have been made in the University. It is highly ridiculous. I feel that among the Universities, those Universities are in good condition, which are not Central Universities. Even for the existing only six subjects of study provided in Assam University, the student teacher ratio is not in accordance with the prescribed ratio, number of teachers is much less than the need and requirement and students number. This condition is nothing else but a cruel joke and injustice with the people of that area.

Sir, I thank that Shri Arjun Singhji is not sitting as a Minister here. I pleaded to him many a time that whether he will set up Central University only when the standard in education goes down and a explosive situation arises, as has been happening in Assam for a long time. I repeatedly demanded that all old Universities functioning in India should be upgraded as Central Universities. I also urged him that if as per his own version if State Government is unable to look after the subject of education then it should be taken over by the Central Government and if the syllabus of Central Universities cannot be prepared in Delhi, then four, five or six zones may be formed in the country. So that we may have better control over the syllabus and a proper utilisation of the funds provided for that purpose. It will strengthen national integration. But all these factors were not taken into account, and the University of Assam was set up in haste. We had been feeling its necessity and demanding setting up of a Central University here since 1971. But no heed was then paid to it. Only when an explosive situation developed there and the things became out of control, a Central University was set up there in a great hurry and in a rented building which a mockery in itself.

Through you, I urge upon the Central Government to provide a building for Assam Central University at the earliest. Besides it a meeting should be convened and it should be discussed and decided in it that as to how many subjects should be taught in the University, what syllabuses should be prepared, what should be the criteria for appointment of teachers etc. Casteism, parochialism should be tried to be avoided so as these should not dominate this University of Assam. The situation of disintegration and discontentment prevailing after setting up of Central University these can only be put to an end by protecting the culture and identity of Assam and the people there. We should protect culture and tradition of Assam and develop it and also provide it all sort of encouragement, apart from bringing about improvement in it.

English should not be the only language as medium of education in any Central University. You may adopt three language formula, but at least two languages along with Hindi, English should invariably be included. This is my demand. In the end supporting the Bill, I express my gratitude to you for giving me a chance to speak on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Assam University (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

There is hardly anything specific to say in this regard because this Bill has a very limited purpose of identifying the specific jurisdiction in which the affiliated colleges of that particular University—Central University—will operate.

This has come about because there was an apprehension in the minds of the students and the people at large that the Central University at Silchar which is situated in the Barakh Valley and which has certain amount of linguistic differences with the Brahmaputra Valley might

encroach into the colleges and universities in the Brahmaputra Valley, namely, the Guwahati University and Dibrugarh University. This apprehension has been removed by this amendment. As the Minister has rightly pointed out, numerous discussions have taken place in this regard with the Chief Minister, wide ranging discussions took place among all the political parties including the MPs and Ministers and because of a consensus reached that this Bill has come about. I take this opportunity to congratulate our young Minister for getting rid of this apprehension.

What appears here is a very small and insignificant amendment. But at one point of time, it has given rise to a lot of political controversies which have ethnic and linguistic dimensions. The question of medium of instruction was there. The differentiation between regions within a State is also there. All these could be solved. It is indeed a matter of deep satisfaction that especially our hon. Minister is very young. While speaking about the background, various speakers have pointed to the background of the formation of Assam University in Silchar and have also referred to the Tezpur Central University. It is a fact that Central University in Assam has come about mainly because of the goodwill exercised by our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who responded to the then demands of the student leaders who were agitating about the backwardness of the region. In fact, our hon. Prime Minister was the HRD Minister then and since the first Central University in Barak Valley was established, a new controversy started, and as the Prime Minister rightly says, the people of Assam have, instead of one Central University, got two Central Universities in response to the demands of the people of Assam. Though Shrimati Girija Devi made no mention of it, the fact is Assam today has the unique distinction of having two Central Universities in the same State. We have one University in Silchar and another University in Tezpur. I do not think many States have this distinction. I must congratulate the Central Government for what they have done to the people of Assam.

University is the highest abode of imparting education to the younger generation. The Ministry is nowadays called Human Resource Development and not the Ministry of Education. It is the question of human resource development and Universities are supposed to be very decisive models in manpower planning.

It is in this context, I have to join my very esteemed colleagues like Shri Kabindra Purkayastha, Shri Uddhab Barman and also Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique and I would like to emphasise on the manpower planning aspect of this University. References have been made about the subjects. I do not mind if subjects are chosen with a lot of caution. Let the selection process be even slow. I do not mind. But let the subject be such which can really benefit the people of those regions. Mushroom growth of colleges and universities which is of common nature does not really enhance our education system. As a very young teacher in a college for quite a number of years, getting frustrated and resigned the professor's job because I found education to be a boring affair of teaching over the years. I think Central

Universities, specially in this region, can play a very important role in giving a new dimension in imparting education to the people of those areas specially because, as has been pointed out by one of my colleagues, there are substantial number of tribal students belonging to his district. There are a number of students belonging to Bengali speaking areas and tribals in Cachar and since these Universities will have a special backing of the Central Government, it is desirable that the subjects selected, do cater to the needs of the area and do serve as some kind of breeding ground for future job opportunities, for future employment opportunities and, for creation of future potentialities.

One of my colleagues has pointed out to the development of cement units and rubber plantations, I would also say that research centre can also be established for the development of various kinds of herbs, plantations of rare plants in those areas and various unknown mining materials. All these potentialities are there.

I would urge upon the Minister to see that these potentialities are exploited. In fact, we have been urging upon the Government to do this. I remember that the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was also telling us that these Central Universities at Assam will have a distinct character. Our present Prime Minister who was the then HRD Minister was also very particular about it at that time. He said that these two Central Universities would definitely have a distinct character and they would not be normal Universities in the sense that merely some colleges would be affiliated, some degrees would be produced and they would not be a production centre of unemployed youths, rather they would have a distinct character and would serve the needs of my area.

The problems that have been mentioned are about the criteria for selection of teachers. I am very sure that the Central University will have to follow the Central norms and I do not see any reason to doubt about that.

[Translation]

It does not happen so. I do not think that there is any discrimination in job selection. The norms are being followed. But I support the idea and through the House, I would like to suggest the renowned teachers, educationists of India to visit the backward regions like ours and if they are absorbed in the universities, it would be an exemplary effort. It will be an encouraging deed for us.

[English]

So far, the activity of the University has been carried on temporarily. It has not become a full-fledged University though serving for years. The University has to go a long way. We wish the University all success. We hope that under our young Minister and with the cooperation from one and all, this University will be a pathfinder and will try to give certain answers in imparting the right kind of education to the youths of my area.

With these few words I support the Bill. I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I heartily welcome Assam University Amendment Bill, 1995.

The very name of the University is indicative of the fact that the Central Government set up this Central University there to represent the culture of the region which is comprised of 5-6 districts of Kadchhar, Karimganj, North Kachhar, hill area Karbi Aunglong and Helakandi and it reflects their jurisdiction authority and culture in the perspective of a national feeling and with a view to bring the youth of the area in main stream.

Through you I want to tell this Government the importance of the ideals behind setting up of this University in an area where seven rivers flow and which is far far flung from the nation's capital, which borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh and where infiltrators from Bangladesh enter giving way to confrontations between the Assamese and the minorities. There people live in hills, plains and jungles and tribles also live in adequate number. It has a distinct geographic location and environment. Various languages and dialects are spoken here. People profess various religions. Many people including youth in large number are unemployed. The University aims at overall development of the area and enlightenment of people and bringing them in the main stream. All these aims must be fulfilled and suitable steps be taken in this direction.

[English]

According to one definition of education "Education is an all-round well balanced, integrated development of the personality of a child".

[Translation]

University should make arrangements for over all and all round improvement of youth.

There is indifference apparent on the part of the Government. Though the Bill was passed in 1989 but, University was set up only in 1994, thereafter an amendment is now brought in 1995. Why so many years have been wasted. Was this time taken in preparing action plan, or place or funds were not available. What caused so much delay in setting up the University; so much so that it could be established in 1994, My friend mentioned that 70 crore rupees have been provided for it. Then why building cannot be constructed ? Whether site has been identified and construction work started. The University should create an educational environment and atmosphere for study, academic administration of its affiliated colleges in 5-6 districts will be under this University. It will impart guidance

to them and ensure proper education and an academic atmosphere there. It should conduct their examination, exercise supervision over them and prescribe their syllabus. The University should ensure provision of a rich library, play ground, sports complex, auditorium, classrooms, committee room, teacher's room, accommodation for Chancellor, vice Chancellor, Registrar and his office, Head of departments; for various committees, for meetings in which various subjects are decided and for refresher courses; students conference rooms and various buildings for other purposes. The students studying there will be preparing for Ph. D., M. Phil, Post-Graduation Courses. Examination will be conducted by the University. Besides these, there are various other courses including teaching of Bangla and Assamese languages, culture, history of the State/region and various other subjects; research centre and a rich library should be there to study the special features of the areas within its ambit to enlighten people of our nation about rich culture and history of the State and its people. The Minister in his reply should tell as how many colleges are there under this University; whether standard of education is maintained, whether students resort to copying in examination, whether question papers are leaked out. Their are many Universities in the country, such as in Delhi, The Delhi University and J.N.U. are there and one more Central University is being set up. Other places also have universities, such as Aligarh, Benaras, Allahabad, Tejpur, Lucknow etc. The same condition prevails in all of them strikes and agitations are order of the day there and resentment is breeding among the youth because academic environment is not well and capable teachers are not appointed. Nepotism and favouritism as well as corruption are eating into the vitals of Universities. Unless there is proper atmosphere for physical development academic and co-curricular activities, students unrest can not be removed. We should improve overall functioning of the university and its affiliated colleges. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that it required Government's attention. Vacant posts should be filled up there.

One point more I would like to mention here. In the Central Universities, under the language policy of the Government, Hindi should also be used side by side English in application forms, admission forms and other stationery items. Vernacular languages should also be given due place of honour. The University should conduct studies in those hilly dialects which are without a script and collect material of archaeological importance and those things which are indicative of their special characteristics and peculiarities of this area.

The Government should make special and sincere efforts to bring those people, particularly youth of that region in the main stream and to wipe out unrest and secessionist tendency from their minds which are being created by

U.L.F.A. etc. in Assam, though of course they have made such efforts by carving out separate States of Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura etc. Silchar falls between Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura. Being the Central place Silchar, where this University has been set up, can become an important centre of education, can impart good education to students and make them good students and servers of the country. This university can create a feeling of nationality and regard of national prestige among the tribal people. Job oriented courses should be started in this university for imparting them necessary training to enable them get employment. Bamboo is available in plenty in forests there with which items of utility are made. Therefore, bamboo based jobs may be created by imparting them proper training. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : I heartily support Assam University Amendment Bill. Its jurisdiction consists of hilly area having 6 districts. The university will help development of those districts, and natural resources available there will be put to their proper use. It should enable them to stand on their own legs so that the youth frustration could be removed and they are brought in the main stream of the nation. Job oriented education should be imparted to enable youth of the region to take up jobs. This can remove unemployment and ensure all round development of the area and its people. Fall in the standard of education has very adverse and far-reaching affects. We shall have to remain watchful about it.

Education has a paramount importance and many countries spend maximum amount on it. We also need more money for it. By educating people we can develop them and bring them in the main stream of the nation and their culture can also be protected thereby and thus country's setup can be set right. From this point of view education is important.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, while doing all this it must be kept in mind that it is a hill university. The Congress Government has done many such things there which have created unrest and frustration among the people there and they are getting away from the national steam. Today such a situation of secession has developed in Manipur, Assam and other North-Eastern States and the consequences thereof are being faced by the Government.

15.44 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The main reason behind the public resentment is that tribals and depressed classes have been badly ignored by Government with a view to maintain its hold on power which has results in the present situation. Setting up of a university there is certainly important and it can help in removing frustration from the minds of youth and in bringing them in the main stream of the nation. Sincere efforts should be

made in this direction by all concerned so that the objectives of developing those people and wiping out unrest among the youth can be achieved and national unity strengthened.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I support this Bill from my side and on behalf of my party. Assam University Act, 1989 is proposed to be amended by it whereby the jurisdiction of the university has been extended keeping in view the needs of the people of that region. Hence there is not much need of comments thereon. Our country has to set up so many universities. Where no university has been set up by the State Government a Central University is to set up. We passed a Bill last year to set up an Agricultural University in North-Eastern region. A Central University will be set up and named after Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. If we go on setting up university one after another without caring for the quality of education imparted there, the very purpose of setting up university will be defeated. It is good that you started a tradition of naming the university after persons. Earlier Kashi Hindu Vishwavidhalya, Aligarh Muslim Vishwavidhalya, Allahabad Universities were named after places where these were set up. First of all an university was named after Jawaharlal Nehru. Thereafter university in Rewa was set up and named after Avadhesh Narayan Singh. I feel thereby we try to limit the sentiments behind setting up a university. The Govt. should pay attention to this aspect. New universities should be opened but at the same time they should pay attention to improve the quality of education and research work. What steps are being taken by Government in this direction? The atmosphere there should be study oriented and teaching-oriented. One demand is being made in the universities that local universities be recognised as Central Universities.

Allahabad University is 110 years old and it gave two Prime Ministers to India. It also demands status of, or recognition as a Central University, I support this demand. Saroj Dube brought forward a Bill in the House. I urge upon the Government that besides setting up new universities full attention should be devoted to improving the standard of education and to create an atmosphere of study and teaching in the universities. The Government should address its attention in this direction. If they do so, only then the universities will serve their purpose.

[English]

KUMARI SELJA : First of all, I would like to thank all the hon. Members for welcoming and supporting this Amendment Bill. Shri Purkayastha, Shri Handique, Shri Barman, Shrimati Girija Devi, Shri Kirp Chaliha, Prof. Rawat, Shri Mohan Singh have all supported this Bill.

As I said in the beginning, it is a very small Bill just to make a small amendment in the Original Assam University Act, that is to restrict its jurisdiction to five districts of Assam. This was in keeping with the wishes of the people, cutting across party lines, when this was brought to the notice of

the Central Government by the State Government and all the MPs from all the parties from the State of Assam.

Some points have come to light during the course of this discussion here. The main concern of the hon. Members that I have been able to gather is firstly about the buildings and secondly about the courses. As far as the building is concerned, it is true that we have not been able to construct anything at all now. But somehow there was delay in identifying a proper site, proper piece of land. Now this land has been identified by the State Government of Assam and about 600 acres of land have been given to this university. Two of the Members—Shri Purkayastha and Prof. Rawat—mentioned about Rs. 70 crore. That was the project cost estimated at that time by the officials. Since then a lot of changes have taken place and the time has also elapsed. I am sure, this will have to be revised somewhat. The University has put forward a proposal to the UGC and the UGC is examining this. I hope by next year all this will be worked out and the building construction should start.

It is true that some of the courses are being run separately. They have been run in the Regional Engineering College at Silchar and the University is offering PG courses in English, Bengali, History, Economics, Commerce and Mathematics and it proposes to establish a School of Humanities in the ensuing academic year.

About the other courses, all the Members did say that these courses should be designed keeping in view the local needs and the local aspirations and preparing the local manpower. I would like, with your permission, to quote from the Objects of the Bill. Section 4 says :—

"The objects of the University shall be to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit and by the example of its campus life to make provisions for integrated courses on Humanity, Natural and Physical Science and Social Science and the educational programmes of the university, to take appropriate measures for promoting interdisciplinary studies and research in the university, to educate and train manpower for development of the State of Assam and to pay special attention to the improvement of social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of that State, the intellectual, academic and cultural development."

15.53 hrs.

(SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*)

These are the objects of the University and due care will be taken of this by the Academic Council, by the Planning Board which will design the courses for the University.

One other point that was raised was about the colleges affiliated. About 20 colleges have been affiliated to this University. As regards some of the offices, the Offices of the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, the Finance Officer, have

been filled up and the rest of the faculty will be taken care of by the University itself. They will take care of these things.

Some general points came to light about the Central Universities. Mohan Singhji and Girija Deviji spoke about them. We are in agreement about the Central Universities.

Now, the policy is that we should not really expand the Central Universities but we should take care of the existing universities. We have to take care of the quality of these existing universities. I agree with Shri Mohan Singh that we have to take care of this, and we are trying for that. These central universities were established in response to certain aspirations of the people of Assam, part of the Assam Accord, part of the discussion that took place with the student leaders at that time. Hence, these universities came up.

We are also trying to improve the quality of other existing Universities as well.

Sir, I think I have covered more or less all the points that were raised by the hon. Members and I thank all the hon. Members once again for having contributed in this discussion. We hope that soon this university will be placed properly and work will start in the right earnest.

Thank You.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : I want to mention one point. Now-a-days, most of the educational institutions like universities are suffering due to paucity of funds. Funds are being provided in the Central universities as well as the State universities. So, without funds, no university can be run properly. I would like from the hon. Minister to know what is the grant-in-aid for getting the proper education.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has already mentioned about it.

DR. ASIM BALA : No, Sir, she has not mentioned about it.

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, with your permission, I would make a mention about this University. Last year we gave about Rs. 2.3 crore as a grant and this year in 1995-96 we have estimated about Rs. 5 crore to be given to the University.

DR. ASIM BALA : That is all right. But that sum is not sufficient. They require more money, excess money to be given by the Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Assam University Act, 1989, as passed by Rājya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall 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. CHAIRMAN : The question is

"That clause 1, the enacting formula, and the long title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

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

KUMARI SELJA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.59 hrs.

DELHI RENT BILL

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up item no. 14 of the agenda.

I would request Shrimati Sheila Kaul to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : Sir, I beg to move :"

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of rents, repairs and maintenance and evictions relating to premises and of rates of hotels and lodging houses in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, and distinguished Members, the Delhi Rent Bill was adopted by the Rajya Sabha on 29.5.1995. Earlier, the Bill had been introduced in that House on 26.8.1994. The Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development to whom this Bill was referred, submitted its report to the Parliament on 15th March, 1995. I am sure that the hon. Members have taken note of the report.

There have been numerous representations from groups of tenants and landlords and others for further amendments to the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 which was extensively revised in 1988.

16.00 hrs.

This demand received fresh impetus with the tabling of the National Housing Policy in both Houses of Parliament in July, 1992. The Policy has since been adopted by Parliament. One of its major concerns is to remove legal impediments to the growth of housing in general and rental housing in particular.

The Supreme Court of India has also suggested changes in rent control laws by making it rational, humane, certain and capable of being quickly implemented. In this context, a Model Rent Control Legislation was formulated by the Central Government and sent to the States to enable

them to carry out necessary amendments to the prevailing rent control laws. The Model Rent by the Central Government and sent to the States to enable them to carry out necessary amendments to the prevailing rent control laws. The Model Rent Control Legislation has taken into consideration the recommendations of the Economic Administration Reforms Commission and the National Commission on Urbanisation.

The present Bill seeks to provide mainly for the following :—

- Exemption of certain categories of premises and tenancies from the purview of the proposed legislation;
- creation of tenancy by agreement and its compulsory registration;
- limited inheritability of residential tenancy by the successors in the event of the death of a tenant;
- rent to be increased in a specified manner;
- where there is no agreed rent, standard rent to be fixed based on the cost of construction and market price of land;
- tenant to pay proportionate amount as maintenance charges or property tax, in addition to the standard rent;
- revision of standard rent for improvements carried out on the premises;
- landlord to serve notice for increasing rent;
- rent authority to fix the standard rent;
- landlords and tenants to keep the premises in good habitable conditions;
- both landlord and tenant will not to cut off or withhold essential supply or service without just and sufficient cause;
- Rent Authority may make order for recovery of possession of the premises on grounds such as non-payment of rent/arrears of rent, subletting part/whole of the tenanted property without the consent of the landlord etc.;
- re-entry of a tenant and payment of compensation to him in case landlord fails to abide by the conditions under which recovery of possession of premises was granted to him;
- recovery of possession for repairs and/or rebuilding and re-entry of the tenant;
- right to recover immediate possession of premises by a landlord who is in occupation of an accommodation allotted to him by the Government or any local authority and he is to vacate it in pursuance of any general or special order of Government/local authority.