

12.33 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

(Thirty-Fifth Report)

[English]

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI
(Dhar): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-Fifth report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.34 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Creation of Three Chairs in the
name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi
in Three Central Universities**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I rise to make a statement in the House regarding creation of University Chairs in the memory of our revered leader, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Government has decided to create the following chairs to support scholarship of excellence in areas which were of special concern to him:

- (1) 'Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Studies in Peace and Disarmament' at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- (2) 'Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Comparative Studies in Religion' at Banaras Hindu University.

- (3) 'Rajiv Gandhi Chair for studies in Protective Discrimination' at North-Eastern Hill University.

Each of the three Chairs will carry a salary of Rs. 8000 P.M. plus usual allowances. Thus, the incumbent of the Chair would be among the highest paid Professors in the country and would be at par with a National Professor.

The appointment to each of the chairs shall be for a period of three years which will be made under the relevant clauses of the Acts, Statutes and Ordinances of the University concerned.

The funds for the scheme will be made available by the Government to the University concerned through University Grants Commission in the form of special one-time endowment grant of Rs. 45 lakhs for each chair. From the interest on this amount, the university concerned would meet all the expenses of the Chair.

Monitoring Committee for the Chairs would be constituted with Chairman, University Grants Commission as its Chariman and Vice-Chancellor of host university, a representative of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and three eminent experts nominated by the Government from a panel of names put up by the Chairmen, UGC, as its members.

Sir, we do trust that institutions of these Chairs would provide fillip to academic work in the selected fields of study and form a basis for policy formulation in these important areas. That will be an enduring tribute befitting the memory of Shri Rajiv Gandhi who ceaselessly fought for these causes until his last moment.