

(v) NEED FOR DECLARING GAZETTED HOLIDAY ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 1981 IN ORDER TO COMMEMORATE GURU RAVIDASJI'S BIRTHDAY.

श्री सूरजभान (अम्बाला) : सभापति जो, अभी गुजरात में हरिजनों के ऊपर अत्याचार के बारे में बात हुई थी। लेकिन पूरे भारत में जो उन पर अत्याचार हो रहा है और इस हाउस में भी इसाफ नहीं मिला है उसको मैं चर्चा कर रहा हूँ।

There are more than 10 crore Harijans followers of Guru Ravidasji—more than the followers of any other religious Guru in India. Holidays are declared in commemoration of birthdays of all religious Gurus.

This year the birthday of Guru Ravidasji falls on 18th February. It is, therefore, requested that in true spirit of secularism the said day may be declared as a gazetted holiday in all Central Government offices and in the Lok Sabha to remove this glaring discrimination against the Harijans.

Further, the birthdays of Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Maharishi Balmikiji may also be declared as gazetted holidays.

In case, however, it is not possible to do so, I demand that there should be only two gazetted holidays viz. on 26th January and 15th August to bring an end to the step-motherly treatment being meted out to SC&ST in this secular country.

(vi) RE. ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pon-nani): It is shocking that the Aligarh Muslim University was closed down *sine die* on 31st January, 1981. In a pre-dawn swoop, that is, around 3.45 A.M. truck loads of police entered the University. 213 students were arrested and simultaneously a massive operation was launched to evacuate all the hostels. About twenty companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary and ten of the Central Reserve Police were posted inside the university campus. An unofficial 'curfew' was imposed in the University area.

The high-handed operation was sequel to the most peaceful agitation of the students demanding action against one of the teachers who, in an interview to a national daily published on January 13, had maligned the University and attempted to create disaffection against it. It is painful and regrettable that instead of justifiably proceeding against the concerned teacher, the entire University was closed down and students, who had been peaceful and had refrained from violence, were subjected to a repressive policy. It is noteworthy that after the closure of the University, it has now been found correct and appropriate to serve a charge-sheet against the teacher concerned and subject him to disciplinary action, as reported in the press.

Though it is appreciative that the students have now been released and cases instituted against them have been withdrawn, a great harm has been done. It is also absolutely necessary that the University be opened immediately to save the loss of the academic year.

I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and make a statement in the House.

(vii) INCIDENTS AT KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY, HARYANA.

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी (हिसार) : सभापति महोदय, कुरुक्षेत्र विश्वविद्यालय के सम्बन्धित अधिकारियों द्वारा ठीक इन्तज़ाम न करने की वजह से एक ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो गई, जिससे बचा जा सकता था। अधिकारियों में इतनी समझ नहीं थी कि वे इस बात का पहले से अन्दाज़ लगा लेते कि जिस हाल में महामहिम राष्ट्रपति जी को दीक्षान्त भाषण देना था, उसमें उतनी जगह है भी कि उसमें सभी छात्र आ सकें। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि लगभग डेढ़ हजार छात्रों को ही प्रवेशपत्र दिये गये, जबकि छात्रों की संख्या पाँच हजार थी। इससे छात्र उत्तेजित हो उठे और उन्होंने प्रदर्शन किये। पुलिस

अधिकारियों द्वारा छात्रों की गिरफ्तारी और उनके साथ किये गये दुर्व्यवहार के फलस्वरूप लगभग 300 छात्रों को गंभीर चोटें आईं और उनमें से 20 छात्रों की हालत नाजुक है। कुलपति, पुलिस और सिविल अधिकारियों की ज्यादातियों की जांच की जानी चाहिए, ताकि छात्रों की वाजिब शिकायतों को दूर किया जा सके।

चूँकि काफ़ी समय से यह विवाद चल रहा है, अतः केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में हस्तक्षेप करे, विद्यार्थियों को तुरन्त रिहा कराये और न्यायिक जांच हो।

16.30 hrs.

#### VICTORIA MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903, be taken into consideration."

The Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, an autonomous organisation, fully financed by the Department of Culture, was established in 1903 under a Central Act. The Act was passed for the purpose of making provisions for the erection, maintenance and management of the Memorial and for the appointment of a permanent body of trustees.

The Education Minister and the Education Secretary are *ex officio* members of the Board of Trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall. The Act of 1903 was amended in 1972 to provide for nomination of two persons by the Central Government, having expert knowledge of the exhibits or who are museologists, historians or art historians, as also nomination of other experts by the trustees, with the approval of the Central Government,

to represent the general body of subscribers. This clause which was considered as essential as the then Act, while providing for nomination by the trustees of persons to represent the general body of subscribers, did not lay down any qualification or criteria.

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Fifth Lok Sabha, had made certain recommendations about the position of tickets for admission to the Victoria Memorial Hall and for specific incorporation of the rules for creation of posts and regulating the service conditions of the employees of the Hall. The present amendment seeks to amend section 5 of the Act, on the lines of the Salarjung Museum Act, 1961, to empower the Government to make rules for the levy of fees. Opportunity is also being taken to incorporate a provision for laying the rules made by the Central Government before Parliament. It is also proposed to insert a new clause in the Act for empowering the trustees to make regulations for regulating the service conditions of the employees.

I may mention here that in pursuance of the assurance given in Parliament during the discussion on the Victoria Memorial Amendment Bill, a Committee of Experts under the chairmanship of Prof. Nihar Ranjan Ray was appointed in December 1972 to make recommendations for the re-orientation of collections. The Committee *inter alia* recommended that the Museum be converted into a museum covering the period 1750 to 1900. These recommendations were considered by the Trustees, who recommended the period covered should be 1700 to 1900. This was accepted.

I may add that the Victoria Memorial Hall, as a part of the re-orientation programme, proposes to provide a separate gallery, depicting the struggle of the Indigo Planters of the Santhal and other tribals. The Member-Secretary of the Victoria Memorial Hall is in touch with the Universities, scholars