

7. The Chairman of the U.G.C.
8. Shri B. D. Jatti.
- 9 Shri Rajeshwar Prasad.
10. Shri Achyut Patwardhan.
11. Shri Y. B. Chavan.
12. Shri Chandra Sekhar.
13. Shri Madhu Dandavate.
14. Shri Naval Tata.
15. Dr. Shantilal Mehta.

14.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) NEED TO SET UP A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY IN BIHAR.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

The professed objective of the Government is to remove regional imbalance through different developmental programmes in various regions. The over-riding consideration should be to extend educational facilities at all levels to fight disparities and wide-spread illiteracy which are responsible for keeping these areas backward. Developed areas are, however, getting more facilities and the under-developed ones continue to be deprived of their share in the national cake. Bihar is one such case. It is the second most populous State with the largest reserves of mineral wealth in the country. It also contributes a hefty chunk of the national revenue in form of different taxes.

Keeping in view its size, potentialities and backwardness, Bihar should have a central university which can act as a model institution for the universities and institutions of higher learning and research in the State, especially in view of the fact that neighbouring states like U.P. and West Bengal have already got central universities. But it is unfortunate that the repeated demand of Bihar Government, intellectuals,

teachers and students for conversion of Patna University into a Central University has not received any serious attention of the Central Government. I may point out that Patna University is one of the oldest universities in the country and has the distinction of having an impressive band of highly trained teachers, rich libraries and sophisticated laboratories. I may also point out that the teachers, students and the intellectuals of Patna have formed a joint council of action and have been agitating for getting this long-standing demand accepted by the Central Government.

Bihar, which has been the seat of such legendary universities as Nalanda and Bikramshila in ancient times which had drawn seekers of truth and higher learning not only from the different parts of our country but from distant lands of the world, should not be discriminated against and denied a Central University. I urge upon the Minister of Education to immediately accept this long-standing demand of the people of Bihar.

(ii) CRISIS IN HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN TAMIL NADU DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF REBATE

SHRI M. S. K. SATHIYENDRAN (Ramanathapuram): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

At present the Handloom Industry in Tamil Nadu is passing through an unprecedented crisis due to accumulation of stock in the cooperative sector. Now the rebate is allowed on sale of Handloom cloth on condition that the sale should be restricted to Rs. 500/- per transaction for silk and cotton at one time. Due to this restriction consumers who want to buy more than Rs. 500/- are not in a position to avail the 20 per cent rebate. This affects the middle class income group such as N. G. Gos. and agriculturist who like to celebrate the marriages and festivals by purchasing large quantity of Handloom clothes especially silk.