

that even Block Committees were consulted. This year such a consultation has not taken place. The Draft Five-Year Plan was, perhaps, prepared in a hurry and was put before the National Development Council, and now it has been placed before this House for discussion. I would suggest one thing. The National Development Council is to meet in November. Meanwhile, it will be worthwhile consulting the State and at least District Committees about this plan. They have their own problems. They might suggest something and that should be taken into consideration...

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member will continue after lunch.

The House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.00 p.m.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re. assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair].

STATEMENT RE. AMENDMENT OF
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
ACT AND STATUTES

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): Ever since the Aligarh Muslim University Act was amended in 1965 and 1972, there has been a controversy amongst a large section of the Muslims about the changes brought about by the Amendment Acts. It has been alleged that the Amendment Acts affected the basic and historical character of the University and abridged its autonomy.

There has also been a persistent demand both in and outside the Parliament for restoration of the his-

torical character of the University and its democratic functioning. The Executive Council of the University itself appointed a Committee, on which various interests e.g. the Faculty and Students, Old Boys and the Non-teaching Staff etc. were represented, and asked them to make suggestions for amendment of the Aligarh Muslim University Act and Statutes. The Report of the Committee was submitted to the Government in April, 1977.

Government has considered the whole question in the light of the recommendations of the aforesaid Committee as well as the Beg Committee which was appointed before the amendment Act of 1972 was enacted. It has also taken into account the strong feelings that have been aroused on this matter among a large section of Muslims of India and the staff and students of the University, both past and present. Government has come to the view that by and large the position created by the amending Acts should be rectified and substantially the position which obtained in 1951 should be restored. Government also considers that certain modifications have become necessary on account of the passage of time and to re-establish the historic character of the University. The broad features of the Amendment Bill will be as follows:—

(1) Restoration of the supreme governing status of the Court with Statute making power.

(2) Restoration of the 1951 composition of the Court and the Executive Council and Finance Committee with minor modifications.

(3) Restoration of the Office of the Honorary Treasurer and the method of election by the Court of Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.

(4) Change in the procedure of appointment of Vice-Chancellor so that both the Court and the Executive Council participate in the real sense in the selection.

[Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder]

(5) Association of students with the academic bodies of the University.

(6) Incorporation of the provisions relating to Students' Union, Staff Association etc. in the Statutes.

In addition, the special feature of the University viz. to promote especially the educational and cultural advancement of the Muslims of India, is proposed to be brought out clearly in the Amending Bill. Further, the definition of the term "University" is proposed to be amended so as to bring out clearly the fact that the erstwhile MAO College, Aligarh, which was established by the Muslims of India, was incorporated as a University by an Act of Legislature in 1920. The words 'establish and' are proposed to be deleted from the Preamble. Government proposes to introduce the Bill during the current session of Parliament.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY

(Bombay North-East): Can I seek a clarification?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Bill will come. You can speak at that time.

MOTION RE. DRAFT FIVE YEAR
PLAN 1978-83—Contd.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: Before lunch break I was stressing the necessity and desirability of peoples participation in the framing of the Plan, otherwise it will be called a bureaucratic plan. We can have no differences in the principal objectives of the Plan as given in page 3, para 1.25.

"It is proposed, therefore, that the principal objectives of planning should now be defined as achieving within a period of ten years:

(i) the removal of unemployment and significant under-employment;

(ii) an appreciable rise in the standard of living of the poorest sections of the population;

(iii) provision by the State of some of the basic needs of the people in these income groups, like clean drinking water, adult literacy, elementary education, health care, rural roads, rural housing for the landless and minimum services for the urban slums. These primary objectives should be attained while;

(iv) achieving a higher rate of growth of the economy than in the past;

(v) moving towards a significant reduction in the present disparities of incomes and wealth;

(vi) ensuring the country's continued progress towards self-reliance."

Now let us see whether these objectives can be achieved by the Schemes set out in the Plan documents.

I will deal only with two or three subjects as there is paucity of time.

Although backwardness cannot be defined in a precise way, apart from hilly and tribal areas there are places, even large chunks, in some States which have remained backward even after five Plans. Four or five criteria should be taken into consideration in order to identify backward areas.

- (1) per capita income;
- (2) the level of infra-structure in the area;
- (3) Density of population;
- (4) Level of education and employment;

As set out on page 111, para 6.9;