

13.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Patil. He is not here.  
Mr. Chaturvedi.

(i) RESEARCH WORK UNDER UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH GHATURVEDI (Agra) : With your permission, under rule 377, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to the UGC.

The University Grants Commission was set up to maintain a high standard of education and research and not merely to distribute largest and patronage in the shape of grants to Universities. It is, allowing however, phoney research to flourish under its wing to the serious detriment of the student community and the cause of education as shown hereafter.

In October 1976, a retired Head of the Department of one of the premier post-graduate colleges in Agra brought to the notice of the Chairman of the Commission three cases of the Agra University in which basically wrong solutions to mathematical problems were not only given recognition and respectability by being published in research journals of the University but awarded a prize and even a Ph.D. Degree. In this last case, the mistake was so glaring that it would do discredit even to an under-graduate student. Even so, the thesis containing such absurdity was approved by the examiners for the award of a doctorate degree.

This was not all. The solution in this case was word for word copy of an earlier research paper of the supervisor of the thesis himself and yet it was certified to be an independent contribution of the research scholar.

Failing to get a reply from the Commission, not even an acknowledgement, the matter was brought to my notice and taken up by me in Parliament. But despite repeated questions, the UGC has evaded and avoided giving a straight answer to the question whether the solutions were wrong and fallacious or not as alleged.

The last answer given to Unstarred question No. 58 on 20-11-78 is a masterpiece of evasion; it has sought to cover up the UGC's inaction on the ground of interference which is wholly untenable and was intended only to confuse the issue. The reference to the University Grants Commission was justified because not

only does it finance research in the Universities in general but one of the authors of the research papers was the recipient of a fellowship from the UGC at the time he submitted his paper.

It was expected that the UGC would take the simple and obvious course of verifying the correctness or otherwise of the solutions in question and, if found wrong, refer the matter to the University for appropriate action as regards the award of the degree and the conduct of the supervisors and examiners of the thesis. Instead, it took the tortuous course of procrastinating for about a year and a half and eventually stalling the very first step of verifying the correctness of the solutions. This has created the impression that there was some sort of understanding among the higher-ups in education to suppress the truth and not say anything against each other.

The question is, if the UGC has any responsibility for maintaining a high standard of education and research, how does it seek to discharge it by sitting tight over a matter of this nature and virtually obstructing it. It would appear a clear dereliction of duty. There is also the question of accountability to Parliament through the Ministry.

I would, therefore, demand that the hon. Minister take urgent and effective action to stop this adulteration of knowledge and malpractices connected therewith, with all their evil consequences, and bring home to the UGC both its responsibility in the matter and its accountability to Parliament.

(ii) EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED, KERALA

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to raise, under rule 377, a matter of urgent public importance regarding diversification of FACT at Udyogmandal.

The FACT factory at Udhvogmandal, Kerala, one of the major public sector fertiliser factories employing nearly two thousand workers, is on the verge of closure because of the outdated production pattern and the enormous loss of crores of rupees.

After detailed study of its prospects for diversification, the setting up of a 'Caprolactum' project has been found to be a profitable solution for the future of the unit.

FACT, Udyogmandal, Division, has, therefore, submitted a project report to

[Shri K. A. Rajan]

Government of India for manufacturing 'Caprolactum' 50,000 tonnes at a cost of about Rs. 150 crores. The annual demand projection for 'Caprolactum' for nylon by 1983-84 made by the Ministry is at the rate of 50,000 to 90,000 tonnes per annum. Against this, our availability is only 18,000 to 20,000 tonnes per annum. The only producer in this field is the Gujarat Fertiliser Company. Expansion of the existing plant virtually means putting up another plant. This will not mean any economy.

It is learnt that the Petroleum Ministry has now appointed a study group on the matter of diversification of FACT, Kerala.

The Government of Kerala and the various trade unions have been demanding for the 'Caprolactum plant'.

I request the Central Government to sanction this project to help in the process of industrialisation of Kerala and creation of employment potential.

(iii) HUNGER-STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, PUSA, NEW DELHI.

श्री शिवनारायण सरसूनिया : (करोल बाग) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अर्धीन माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ :

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान पूसा में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों ने वहाँ पर भूख हड़ताल की हुई है। सात आदमियों ने आभरण अनशन किया। पाँच आदमी उन में से हास्पिटल भेजे गए और

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Member may read from the statement that he has given.

श्री शिवनारायण सरसूनिया : उनके साथ में पिछले काफी समय से अन्याय चल रहा है।

मैं यह पढ़े देता हूँ :

“भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान पूसा में 5-3-79 से बेतनमान के निर्धारण के

सम्बन्ध में सात व्यक्तियों ने आभरण अनशन कर रखा है। उनमें से पाँच व्यक्तियों की दशा बिगड़ने पर अस्पताल में भरती किया गया है। तीन बार कृषि भवन पर प्रदर्शन कर चुके हैं। उन की माँग हमारी सरकार की नीति के अनुसार कम आय वालों की आय में वृद्धि तथा उच्चतर वेतन-भोगियों के वेतन में स्थायित्व के अनुसार है परन्तु पिछले वर्षों में चतुर्थ श्रेणी को छोड़ कर अन्य श्रेणियों की वेतन-उन्नति एवं वृद्धि हो चुकी है। नीचे के लोगों का वेतन ठीक किया जाना चाहिए परन्तु चतुर्थ श्रेणी के 2600 कर्मचारियों का कोई अपग्रेडेशन न कर के या उन के वेतन को ठीक न कर के बाकी ऊपर की श्रेणी के जितने लोग हैं उनका अपग्रेडेशन किया गया है। जो सात सी रूप यपाता था उसको 1200 रुपये दे रहे हैं। नीचे के जो कर्मचारी हैं उनके लिए कुछ भी नहीं किया गया है। सन् 1970 से उनके वेतन में कोई भी वृद्धि नहीं हुई है। 11-7-78 को जब उन्होंने पहली हड़ताल की थी तब उन्हें आश्वासन देकर दोबारा काम पर बुला लिया गया था। पूरे 8 महीने पैमेंन्स के साथ वे सरकार की तरफ देखते रहे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this rate I will not allow you. You must read the statement that you have given.

श्री शिव नारायण सरसूनिया : अतः उपरोक्त स्थिति को देखते हुए, उनकी माँग का पूर्ण समर्थन करते हुए मैं चाहूँगा कि उन भूख-हड़तालों के जीवन के साथ अप्रिय घटना घटने से पूर्व उनके वेतन उन्नति कर हड़ताल को निरस्त कराने का प्रबंध करवाया जाए।

(iv) REPORTED EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN NAPHTHA PLANT OF THE FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED, KERALA

SHRI A. C. GEORGE (Mukundapuram) : May I bring to the notice of this House a very tragic and serious incident which took place down south ?

A very serious explosion and fire took place in the Naptha plant of FACT—Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore