

12.47 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: GURU GOBIND
SINGH MEDICAL COLLEGE,
FARIDABAD

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): Sir, it is a rather longish statement.

MR. SPEAKER. Would you like to lay it on the Table?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Let him read it. 211 boys and girls have suffered.

MR. SPEAKER: All right; you may read it.

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: Sir, I rise to make a statement with reference to the mention made in this House on November, 23, 1972, of the situation that has occurred at Faridabad where a sub-standard medical college is alleged to have been opened last year by a private management and capitation fees were real-ised from prospective students.

I wish to assure the House that even before the matter was raised in Parliament, we had got in touch with the State Government of Haryana and requested them to take appropriate action in the matter.

I would like briefly to mention the facts relating to the private medical college at Faridabad as far as it has been possible for us to ascertain them from the State Government of Haryana. It appears that the Guru Govind Singh Vidya Sevak Society had sought the permission of the State Government of Haryana some time in 1971 for setting up a medical college at Karnal. The State Government had agreed to the opening of such a medical college provided the society obtained approval of the Medical Council of India under the relevant rules. Subsequently, it came to the notice of the State Government that the society had unilaterally decided to open a medical college at Faridabad

and had issued a prospectus inviting applications by November 10, 1971, and requiring the prospective candidates to pay Rs. 10,000 as donation for college building, Rs. 10,000 as total dues for the full term and Rs. 100 as registration fees. The State Government issued a press note on November 5, 1971, in which they declared that they had not approved of the setting up of a private medical college at Faridabad. It was clarified that candidates could deal with such an organisation at their own risk and that the Haryana Government were not a party to the plan to start a college without fulfilling necessary conditions

It is also learnt that the Guru Gobind Singh Vidya Sevak Society addressed the State Government again on February 2, 1972, requesting the State Government to agree to change the venue of the medical college from Karnal to Faridabad. In reply, the State Government informed the society that they had no objection to the proposed change but that necessary approval of the Medical Council of India would have to be obtained and affiliation with the University secured after fulfilling the prescribed requirements.

The Secretary, Medical Council of India, wrote to the Haryana Government in April, 1972, stating *inter alia* (i) that no new medical college should be opened until the staff and facilities in the existing colleges have been brought up to the standard prescribed by the Medical Council of India; and (ii) that the opening of private medical colleges charging capitation fees should be stopped.

It appears however that meanwhile the management had already received fees from several students. However, it appears from the statement made by the students that the management did not provide proper buildings, adequate equipment, or the necessary staff. For obvious reasons, it has not been possible for the management of the college so far to obtain affiliation to the Punjab University or to secure the approval of the Medical Council of India.

Since the second week of this month, some of the students admitted to this college have been sitting 'Dharna' outside my residence. On the 15th instant, these students presented a written memorandum listing their grievances and specifying their demands. They stated that although the management had realised Rs. 20,000 each from the students, no action had been taken to fulfil the assurance contained in the prospectus for the development of the minimum facilities required for a medical college. I am only paraphrasing the matter contained in the memorandum. Further, affiliation to the Punjab University had not been secured nor was recognition from the Government of Haryana obtained. They also referred to some inadequacies in respect of buildings, equipment and staff and stated that they went on hunger strike from October, 25, 1972 and that thereafter the management closed the college indefinitely. According to them the Government of Haryana had given permission to run dissection hall and had agreed to provide hospital facilities to this college. The demands made by the students were:—

- (i) that an inquiry should be instituted against the management of the college and appropriate action taken against the defaulters; and
- (ii) that their interest as medical students should be safeguarded and the college should be taken over by the Government and affiliation granted by the university.

Immediately after going through this memorandum I personally spoke with the Chief Minister of Haryana. On the basis of my talk I sent a reply to the students on November 16, 1972, advising them that they should address a suitable complaint to the State Government of Haryana with a view to enabling the appropriate legal process to be sent in motion so that the concerned defaulters could be brought to book. If such legal action was initiated it might induce the management either to return the money to the students or to take up the work of estab-

lishing the medical college in earnest. I had explained to them that the Chief Minister felt that since affiliation can be granted by the university only upon its being satisfied as to the fulfilment by the college of certain minimum conditions essential to the maintenance of prescribed academic and other standards it was within the exclusive competence of the concerned university, that is, the Punjab University, to decide the question of affiliation and that it would neither be practicable nor proper for the Chief Minister to direct the Punjab University to grant affiliation. I stated also that the Government of India could not intervene in this matter. Further, I intimated to them that the Chief Minister had even earlier assured the management permission for construction of building and use of the government hospital at Faridabad as clinical facility for training the medical students.

Simultaneously, I also wrote to the Chief Minister Haryana, enclosing copies of the memoranda received by me and the reply sent to the students. I have requested the Chief Minister to institute necessary inquiries with a view to meeting the situation in an appropriate manner.

The Chief Minister informed me in clear terms that the financial implications of taking over the college by the State Government were definitely beyond the available resources.

I have spoken to the Chief Minister again a few days ago. He told me that he has entrusted the matter to the vigilance authorities for a detailed inquiry.

Sir, it has been Government of India's consistent policy that the commercial type of private medical colleges which depend for their existence on capitation fees and which do not admit students exclusively on the basis of merit should be discouraged. We have communicated this policy stand to all the State Governments on several occasions in various forums and through official communications. However, the administration of under-graduate medical colleges is, as the Hon'ble Members are aware, within the legislative and adminis-

[*Sbri Uma Shankar Dikshit*]

trative competence of the States and our policy can be effectively implemented only if the State Governments concerned cooperate actively and exercise due vigilance.

Recently, the States have begun to react concretely to our policy discouraging private medical colleges based on capitation fees. The Government of Bihar have promulgated an Ordinance in May this year which provides for appropriate regulation of and control on the opening of medical education institutions in Bihar. I learnt that the Government of Uttar Pradesh have also recently resorted to similar legislation. This has been confirmed. They have issued an ordinance. We have already requested all the State Governments to give serious consideration to the need for taking similar action.

I have also directed the Health Ministry to have immediate consultations with the Medical Council of India with a view to examining if the existing provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act should not be amended so as to prevent such private medical colleges from coming into being.

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I seek one clarification. I had raised the issue.... (*Interruptions*).

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सवाल का जबाब नहीं मिला कि लड़को का क्या होगा ? सरकार की इस बारे में नीति तो बहुत झुंझी है लेकिन जो लड़के बर्बाद हो गये हैं और उन में विदेशी लड़के भी हैं उन का क्या बनेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : धीरों को मैं क्या कहूँ मुप्स से लीडर्स भी बर्बर बुनाये खड़े होकर बोलने लग जाते हैं और वह भी तब जबकि मैं खड़ा हुआ ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आप बैठ जाइये न ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह खूब रही कि स्पीकर बैठ जाय इसलिए कि माननीय सदस्य खड़े हो गये ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अच्छा तो मैं बैठ जाता ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य ने मझे कहना शुरू कर दिया कि मैं बैठ जाऊँ ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आप मुझे बोलने नहीं देना चाहते ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं अक्सर सोचता कि आगे आगे आखिर होगा क्या । जब आप लोग ही सा करेगे तो आगे होगा क्या यह आप को भी सोचना चाहिए । जहा हाउस का काम विधि से क्रायदे से चले उन के वास्ते कुछ रूस्त और प्रोत्साज्योर्स तो होने ही चाहिए ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : रुस्त पर इस समय न जाकर इन मैडिकल कालिज के ऊपर आइये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दरअसल यह एक बड़ा सीरियस मसला है और अगर मैम्बर साहबान चाहते हैं तो मैं इस के वास्ते डिबेट भी किन्स करने के लिए तैयार हूँ । इसलिए इस मौके पर अब क्वैरिफिकेशन वरीरह लेने का सवाल नहीं है । अफतीस यह है.....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: May I make a submission?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, you are not to be taken notice of when I am speaking. You know the rules. When the Speaker is speaking, no other Member will be taken notice of.

We can fix a short debate on it. I keep on receiving a number of letters. It is very unfortunate that Guru Gobind Singh's name is associated with it. Hundreds of letters come asking for messages for various functions, for inaugurations, tournaments, wedding and so on. We do send a message. In this case also, when they asked for a message, I also sent a message, "Wish you a very happy future." I was shocked to learn that they attached our messages and photographs along with the Prospectus. I came to know only very recently.

The boys are also very much aggrieved. We must find a way out as to how to accommodate them. The University did not recognise them. The Government is unable to run the College. They are aggrieved persons. Specially, we sympathise with the Minister. He has to face *dharna* every day. I see different types of *dharnas* before his house every day.

We must have a short discussion on it. Would he agree if we discuss it for about an hour some day?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: I don't mind.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We now adjourn for lunch to re-assemble at 2 O'clock.

13 hrs.

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

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

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair].

RE. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We resume the discussion on food situation...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I have a submission to make, Sir. In fact, I was going to make the request to Speaker when he suddenly adjourned the House for Lunch...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Suddenly?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Just a minute before 1,00 p.m.

If you see the Order paper, you will find that after the discussion of the Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, there is the All-India Services Regulations (Indemnity) Bill, then comes Prof. S. Nurul Hasan's motion about UGC's report...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is wrong?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There is nothing wrong. I have consulted the other hon. members also who are interested in the payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill. Instead of Prof. S. Nurul Hasan's motion on the report of the UGC, the payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill may be taken up first because we want this Bill to be passed this week. Unless it is passed it will not be implemented.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That will be conveyed to the Speaker.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Not to the Speaker, Sir. It is actually for the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. You can convey it to him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. The Rules is very clear;

"Provided that such order of business shall not be varied on the day that business is set down for disposal unless the Speaker is satisfied that there is sufficient ground for such variation."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. Raj Bahadur is here, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That can be conveyed to the Speaker, and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs himself has heard you.