LOK SABHA

Monday, December 2, 1974 Agrahayana 11, 1896 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad and sudden demise of Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani who passed away yesterday at New Delhi at the age of 66.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament during the years 1946—52, of the First Lok Sabha during 1952—56, of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957—61 and of the Fourth Lok Sabha during the years 1967—70.

A distinguished, great patriot and well-known parliamentarian and wife of our most revered leader Acharya Kripalani, she took an active part in the freedom movement at the young age and suffered imprisonment and many hardships. After independence she served the nation in various capacities. She was a Member of the U.P. Legislative Assembly during the years 1948-50 and the Minister Labour, Community Development and Industry in the U.P. Government during 1960-63 and later became Chief Minister of U.P. during 1963-67. As Chief Minister of U.P. she left great impact for her successors to improve the lot of the poor and down-trodden people. She was also General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee. She took keen interest in Foreign affairs and was a Member of Indian Delegation to the U.N. General Assembly in 1949 and 2760 LS-1

Indian Delegation to the U.N. Seminar on Civic Responsibility and increased participation of Asian Women in Public Life, Bangkok in 1956. She led the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Turkey in November, 1954 and Indian Delegation to the I.L.O. Conference in 1961. She was associated with a number of relief, educational and other institutions working for the welfare of the down-trodden. As a Member of this House she was a very fluent speaker and made constructive and useful contributions to the debates championing the causes for which she had devoted her life. The role played by her in the rehabilitation of the uprooted families at the time of partition is still remembered by many with gratitude.

In her sad demise, our sympathies go to her distinguished husband, Acharya J. B. Kripalani.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to Kripalaniji.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rejection of U.G.C. Pay Scales by University Teachers

*271. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of EDUCA-TION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University teachers have rejected the U.G.C. pay scales;
- (b) whether the Selection Grades for the University teachers have also been abolished; and
- (c) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) The University teachers have generally welcomed the new scales of pay.

(b) and (c). Under the scheme there is no provision for a 'Selection Grade' for teachers in Colleges of Delhi University or for the post of Senior Lecturers in Post-graduate Colleges in the States.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: is a happy coincidence that when I am asking this question the university and college teachers are demonstrating outside Parliament pressing for their demands. On their behalf, I would like to ask whether it is true that the Government of India have sent a circular to the State Governments permitting them to have their own grades and also assign these grades with retrospective effect from any date that they deem fit. in view of the pressing demands of the university teachers outside Parliament today, is Government willing to withdraw that order?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Although the question the hon member has asked does not strictly arise from this, in view of the interest there is in the general public about the question, if I have your permission, I would like to answer it.

The position is that immediately after I made an announcement in this House about the acceptance by the Government of India of their recommendations of the UGC regarding the pay scales of university and college teachers, I sent a letter to the State

Governments conveying our willingness and our offer to pay 80 per cent of the additional expenditure for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 1973 in respect of posts that were in existence at that time. The formal financial sanction conveyed to the State Governments early in November this year. In the sanction letter the offer is there that if they implement the same grades as the UGC has recommended, we would not only give 80 per cent of the additional expenditure for a period of five years as I had originally announced, but also because of the difficulties that had been mentioned by some of the State Governments, up to the end of the Fifth Plan period, i.e. upto 31 March, 1979. So if a State Government were to implement the new grades with effect from 1st January. 1973, than the Central assistance of 80 per cent of the additional expenditure would be provided upto the end of the Fifth Plan period. However, some of the State Governments had expressed a difficulty that they would not be able to do it before the beginning of the Fifth Plan period. So we said that the assistance would be available up to the end of the Fifth Plan period but the beginning may be modified by the State Government concerned. This offer is there, that if they do it on exactly the same pattern as the Central Universities, then the Central Government would pay 80 per cent of the additional expenditure. If, however, because of local conditions they wished to have any variations, they are modified requested to send the scheme to the Centre. As happened in the Fourth Plan, some States did make some modifications and the Centre still paid 80 per cent of the additional expenditure.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before I ask my second supplementary, one clarification about a very vital point. Does it mean that the Central Government gave them the latitude even to change the scales that had been suggested by the UGC?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: The question is not of the Central Government giving the State Governments any latitude. The decision is still that of the State Governments. The Central Government have made a recommendation to them and also an offer of assistance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: As he has rightly pointed out just now, 80 per cent of the expenditure to be incurred in giving the new UGC grades would be borne by the Centre and 20 per cent by the State. In the background of the information he has given, how many States have already decided to grant 20 per cent for the implementation of these grades, how many have gone ahead with the scheme and how many have refused to do so? Also how many States have told the representatives of the university associations that they have not yet received any communication from the Centre and that is one of the reasons why they have not implemented the new grades?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: No State has written to me formally saying that they have accepted the grades; no State has written to me formally to say that they have not accepted the grades.

As regards the information which the State Government may have given to associations, I am not in a position to answer that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: My last point is this. As far as the information from the States is concerned, I will give a specific instance. The Maharashtra State Government's spokesmen have told the Bombay University's spokesmen that "we are still awaiting the communication from the Centre and that is why the question of our implementing it does not arise." Let him clarify it, because this is made an excuse for non-implementation.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: As I submitted for your consideration just now, this communication,—with the

details of the sanction—this letter, has already been sent by the Central Government early in November.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Education Minister that many university teachers and others in the colleges do not get actually the amount for which they are made to give the receipt, with the result that the increase given by the Government goes to the private pockets of those who have started these commercial institutions like colleges and schools.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about payscales.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I would submit that it does not really arise.

MR. SPEAKER: The main question is about the UGC pay-scales.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: May I know whether it is a fact that the Calcutta University in the State of West Bengal, which is one of the oldest universities, is in a very difficult financial condition, and it has repeatedly requested the Central Government that it will not be possible for it to introduce the UGC payscales on the basis that has been suggested by the hon. Minister, that is, 80 per cent will be borne by the Centre and 20 per cent will be borne by the State Government?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I am afraid I could not understand the question. Is he speaking about the State of West Bengal or the Calcutta University?

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Calcutta University, especially.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: How can the Calcutta University pay? It does not have any taxation powers. Quite obviously, in terms of the offer that has been given by the Central Government the burden is not to be

passed on to any university or to any private management; it has to be borne by the State Government.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: May I know whether the State Government has also recommended for the financial sanction for these universities?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: It is a specific question; you will have to give separate notice.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: There is no question of notice. They are in very great difficulty.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: May I know whether some of the backward States like Bihar and Orissa have written to the Central Government that they are not in a position even to defray 20 per cent and that the Central Government should think of giving them cent per cent grant?

MR. SPEAKER: This question was put in the beginning.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: Their financial position is such that they are not able to defray the 20 per cent even. The question is whether they have written to the Minister or to the Central Government for giving cent per cent grant to them.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I do not remember exactly what each of the State Governments have written to me. I do not think that I have received such a communication from the Government of Bihar. But there has been some consultation with the Orissa Government. They have sought some clarification from the Central Government.

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: May I know whether the university teachers have sent any memorandum and, if so, what are their demands?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I keep on getting various memoranda from university teachers from all over the country. I do not know what the hon. Member means

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: What are the general demands? They are sitting outside, over there.

SHRI MOHANRAJ KALINGARA-YAR: There may be 101 demands, but let us know some of the vital demands which the teachers are said to have made.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI P. K. DEO: The teachers are sitting over there, and the Minister does not know what is happening today.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get impatient. I am trying to help you to make it relevant. The question is whether the university teachers have rejected the UGC pay scales. He has replied to it. The question now is whether after the rejection, they were satisfied or not.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: is no rejection. That is what I have tried to submit. I have gone through the papers again very carefully. If the hon, member is referring to the demands raised by the All India Federation of University and Colleges. Teachers' Association, they have made three main points. The first is that the Central Government has gone back on the statement made by me in this House and that I have given an option to the State Governments. I have already made my submission on that. Secondly, they have said that there should be statutory security of service for the teachers. The Constitution gives the legislative power in respect of universities to the State legislatures. I have already written to the State Governments urging them to take suitable steps to provide statutory guarantee of service to the university and college teachers. Thirdly, they want a greater share in the management of universities and colleges. This again is a matter for the State legislatures to decide.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The honminister has succeeded in creating

more complication and a situation of agitation and provocation among the teachers. Unless you are sure that you can implement the scheme that you have formulated, why did you announced it and raise this sky-high hope among teachers? Now after raising that hope, you are going to crush it. Demonstrations and agitations are going on. If you are not sure that all the States are not in a position to implement the scheme you have formulated why did you announce that the teachers belonging to Central universities will get the new pay scales whereas in respect of State universities, the State Governments would be given the option to implement them or not? You have created a higher caste teachers for Central Universities and a lower caste teachers for State universities. I want to know (a) whether you are going to convene a meeting of the Education Ministers of all States and withhold the implementation, partial or otherwise, of this scheme till you have a uniform policy for all university and college teachers, whether Central or State and (b) whether you are going to meet the representatives of university teachers today and bring about a settlement of their problems.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: regards a conference of State Education Ministers, I have been requested by the Central Advisory Board on Education to convene such a conference and I propose to do it. But I do not propose to withhold implementation of the recommendations of UGC regarding pay scales until this conference has met. The recommendation of UGC is both to the Central Government and to the State Governments regarding the same pay scales for all university and college teachers. This recommendation has been accepted by us. That is why we are offering the assistance to the State Governments to implement this particular scheme. About his second question, I am going to meet a deputation of the All India Federation of

University and College Teachers' Association this afternoon.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Why is it that the Central Government has agreed to pay 80 per cent of the additional expenditure only for a period of five years? After that, does the Centre expect that this burden should be borne by the students and their parents?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: The question of burden being borne by students and parents does not arise because in terms of the offer that we made to the State Governments, the additional expenditure is not to be passed on at all to the universities or to the managements of colleges, but is to be borne by the State Government. The House knows that at the end of the Fifth Plan, the Finance Commission will take into account all the schemes for which central assistance has been made available and on the basis of this, determine the share that is to be given to the State Governments. That is why, although originally I had announced that it would be for a period of five years, because it was pointed out to me that the Finance Commission would take into account the relevant distribution only with effect from the 1st April, 1979, the Central Government has extended the period of assistance.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: May know whether it has been brought to his notice by the General Secretary of the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Association that this option given to the State Governments has created the worst type of discrimination between teacher and teacher and whether in view of the agitation launched by the teachers' association not only in Delhi but in other places also, that directive will now be withdrawn and the implementation of the UGC pay scales will be mandatory and not recommendatory? The option given to the State Governments should be withdrawn because the State Governments are taking undue advantage of

it and depriving the teachers of the new scales.

PROF S. NURUL HASAN: hon. member has for greater experience of parliamentary life and of the Constitution than I have; I am supposed to function in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, under which I have no mandatory authority over the State Governments in this matter. I have a recommendatory authority and that recommendation I have already made. option is with the State Governments to accept or not to accept. Even during the fourth plan, the recommendations of the UGC were made to all the State Governments. Some of them modified them. Some of them did not accept at all. Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa and Tripura did not accept the recomenndations; Assam, Bihar, Kerala and West Bengal made variations. Other States accepted the recommendations. Even the date of implementation during the Fourth Plan period varied from State to State. We can only make a recommendation. I can assure the House that I will continue to make my recommendation, try and persuade the State Governments to accept. But I have no authority to force the State Governments. It seems, as if I am giving the option. The option is already there given by the Constitution to the State Governments to accept our recommendation or not.

Arrears of Payment for Imported Fertilisers supplied to State Governments

*272. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether over Rs. 140 crores is outstanding with the State Governments towards the payment of the imported fertilisers supplied to them from the Central Fertiliser Pool of the Ministry of Agriculture;

- (b) if so, the State-wise break-up of the above figure and the period since it is outstanding; and
- (c) whether supplies are made on the condition that payment will be made within 60 days of the receipt of the consignment and if so, how such a huge amount could accumulate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8617/74.]

SHRI N. K. SANGHI: The statement gives a very serious situation. Today, when we are fighting the economic crisis, when we are fighting inflation and when the Central Government is not giving any overdrafts to the State Governments, may I know what is the situation by keeping Rs. 112 crores of outstanding loans with the States for the supply of imported fertilisers from the Central Fertiliser Pool of the Ministry of Ag-Will the hon, Minister riculture? give some information as to what is the procedure he is adopting for recovering the money from them? Are the State Governments recovering the money or not? If they have recovered the money, why it has not been paid to the Central Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The statement giving all these details is placed on the Table of the House. Actually, most of these outstandings are from 1974 onwards. But some of them, particularly, in respect of Bihar, J & K and one more State. they pertain to 1972. These are the fertilisers supplied through the Food Corporation of India because that is the handling agency of the Government of India for supplying imported fertilisers to the State Governments. Some State Governments have not paid the money in time.