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Title: Demand to take measures to maintain the autonomous character of the University and decorum of the education sector.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days before, the hon. Governor of Kerala, who is also the Chancellor of the universities in the State, wrote a letter to the Chief Minister of Kerala to relinquish all his authority as the Chancellor of the universities because of the total politicisation of the universities and the academic sector. This is an unfortunate historic incident which contaminated the higher education sector in Kerala. Kerala has a great tradition of the enhancement of quality higher education in the time of great renaissance leaders like Sreenarayanaguru, Saint Chavara, Chattambi Swamikal etc.

The ...* in connivance with the ...* and the bureaucracy snatched the powers entrusted with the Chancellor of the universities of Kerala to enhance the academic and administrative autonomy of the universities with the malicious intention to politicize the higher education sector. The Governor, as the Chancellor of the universities, is not bound to obey the advice of the State Government. The primary commitment of the Chancellor is to protect the autonomy of the universities in tune with the Act of the State.

Sir, the Advocate General, according to Article 165 of the Constitution of India, is expected to provide advice only if he was asked to provide legal opinion by the Governor. The Governor has made it clear that he did not ask the AG to give any legal opinion. It is learnt that the Higher Education Secretary asked the AG to provide legal opinion

for the Chancellor without his knowledge or information. This amounts to a conspiracy hatched against the Chancellor.

According to UGC norms, a Search Committee is to be constituted by the Chancellor consisting of a representative of the University, a representative of the UGC and a representative of the Head of the State from a panel submitted by the respective agencies. But the power of the Chancellor has been snatched by the Secretary, Higher Education Department, and he constituted a Search Committee illegally to appoint a person of their choice.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government to give proper direction in order to maintain the autonomous character of the University and decorum of our education sector. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्यगण, सदन में जो लगातार बैठते हैं, उन माननीय सदस्यों को प्राथमिकता मिलेगी। आज तो मैं माननीय सदस्यों को शून्य काल में मौका दे रहा हूं, लेकिन अगर माननीय सदस्य सदन में नहीं बैठेंगे, उन्हें शून्य काल में अगली बार से मौका नहीं दिया जाएगा।

... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: क्या सदन इस बात से सहमत है?

... (व्यवधान)

अनेक माननीय सदस्य: जी, हां।... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: प्रसून बनर्जी।

... (व्यवधान)