

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to appoint an eminent person as a permanent Vice-Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, West Bengal.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Visva Bharti University was set up by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to bring the knowledge of the world to India. It became a Central University by an Act of Parliament, initiated by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, in 1951. It has been a premier institution of learning in the country, especially in Fine Arts, Music, Humanities etc. The University is in doldrums because of inaction by the H R D Ministry of Central Government. The last permanent Vice Chancellor Dr. Sushanto Dutta Gupta was removed about 2 years ago after certain irregularities were established against him after a probe headed by High Court Judge. Since then the then Pro-VC, Dr. Swapan Dutta was acting as Vice Chancellor of University. There have been numerous representations made to the Union HRD Minister to appoint a regular Vice Chancellor. He had always said that a Vice Chancellor is going to be appointed very soon. But nothing happened. The acting V C retired on 27.01.2018 and the university has no head till 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This led to chaos. There have been clashes between sections of the faculties and non-teaching employees with nobody to control them. It is learnt that the present indecision is due to the differences among the ruling party on VC selection. The Central Government has again appointed an acting V C only on 3rd February. Acting V C, Prof. Sabuj Koli Sen also retired recently, so that there was no acting V C in the University for 10 days, leading to chaos. If the government issues a fresh advertisement as it is planning, the process will take a year and a half by which time this great institution will suffer further damage. Now the government has extended Prof. Sen's tenure as acting V C, pointing to its laxity in managing affairs of the university.

I demand that an eminent person be appointed immediately as the permanent Vice Chancellor of the University without any further delay, so that Tagore's dream University could be saved.