

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill be passed.”

Shri Ranga.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Tenali) : I have a word to say. This is only to remind the hon. Minister about the urgent national need to develop the railway connections in the North-Eastern region. We have nine States, and only three of them are connected by rail and some of their State headquarters are tens of miles away from the nearest possible railway station anywhere and it is high time that the Government not only in the Railways, but also in the Finance and any in every other side of the Government should pay special attention to the development of the railways in that region and ensure that all those States and their headquarters somehow or other come to be connected with rail.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

15.29 hrs.

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

[English]

As passed by Rajya Sabha

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We now take up Item No. 16 of the Agenda, University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Before the House takes up a general discussion on the Bill I would like to share with the Hon. Members the reasons for bringing forward this amendment. According to Section 6 of the University Grants Commission Act, a person appointed as Chairman, unless he becomes disqualified for continuing as Chairman under the Rules shall hold office for a term of five years, and a person appointed as Vice-Chairman or other member, shall hold office for a term of three years. This Section further provides that the office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be whole-time and salaried, and that the terms and conditions of their services shall be prescribed by the Rules. Rules have been notified under these provisions specifying the disqualifications and also the terms and conditions of service. As part of the terms and conditions of service of the Chairman, the Rules provide that unless there is a contract to the contrary, the Chairman shall retire on attaining the age of 65 years. However, in the case of Vice-Chairman, there is no provision in the Rules which prescribes an age of retirement.

Doubts have been expressed that the provision in the Rules relating to the age of retirement goes beyond the scope of the provision in the Act. Since the Act mentions a five-year tenure for the Chairman, a view has been expressed that this tenure cannot be curtailed by the Rules framed under the Act.

In order that the matter is placed beyond all doubts, we propose to make a provision in the Act itself that the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the UGC shall hold their respective offices for the prescribed terms or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Bill before the House seeks to incorporate this provision in the UGC Act,

The composition of the UGC provides for the appointment of two members to represent the Central Government from among its officers. The Act also provides that a person who has held office for two terms in any capacity shall not be eligible for any further appointment. In practice, however, it may happen that the officers of the Central Government who are presently appointed by virtue of the offices they hold, may serve the Commission for short spells and become eligible for reappointment. The restriction of two terms may place a limitation of these appointments. We thought it desirable to remove this limitation, which, in any case, does not seem necessary, because appointment of these two Members is made by virtue of their offices. The amendment, therefore, makes a provision to remove this restriction in the case of the representatives of the Central Government on the Commission.

Sir, the amendments are simple and non-controversial. We have ensured that the amended provisions will operate only in the case of those persons appointed after the amendment has come into effect. I am sure this Bill will receive the support from all the sections of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill further to amend the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Mr. K. Ramachandra Reddy may speak on Monday.

15.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI R. P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on

Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th December, 1985.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th December, 1985.”

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOP-
MENT OF HILL AREAS—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat on 2nd August, 1985.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last time I was speaking on the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat regarding development of hill areas. In this context, I had expressed my views about industrialisation of hill areas. I saw a watch manufacturing factory in Gangtok. This factory has provided employment to thousands of youngmen of the state. Cottage industries should be encouraged in these hill areas. If you conduct a survey in a city like Delhi, you will find that there is hardly a house which does not have a cottage industry in one or the other room. If this work is banned in all these areas of the National Capital Region, it would prove beneficial to Delhi people and cottage industries can be encouraged in hill areas. The problem of air pollution in Delhi can be solved by imposing such a ban.

It has also been seen that tax is evaded and unaccounted dealings take place in the Delhi houses where cottage industries are operating. If cottage industries are