

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Although Minister of State for Home Affairs has issued a detailed statement but I would like to know through you whether any negotiations are going on between you and Farooq Abdullah, since there is no mention of this matter in the statement. I would like to know whether Government is trying to bring back pre 1953 situation in Kashmir. The hon. Minister should clarify the situation in this regard? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**(vi) Alleged Leakage of Question Papers of Annual Examinations of Delhi University.**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): I rise to respond to the wishes of the members of the house to have a statement from the Government on recent newspaper reports about the alleged leakage of question papers of the annual examinations of Delhi University.

The examinations in Delhi University started in April and since then a number of reports have appeared in the local press of either leakage of question or of distribution of wrong question paper among students on of mistakes in question papers. We have been very much concerned about these reports. The Govt. has ascertained from the University the factual position in this regard. I have been informed that on 8th May at around 2.35 P.M. the Vice-Chancellor of the University received a telephonic message from a Press reporter stating that the contents of B.Com (Pass) 1st year paper on Financial Accounting scheduled to be held in the afternoon at 3.00 P.M. had been leaked out. He also received a copy of the text of the question paper on the FAX machine installed on his office. The Vice-Chancellor after cross-checking with the Controller of Examinations was convinced about the availability of the question paper outside the examination hall before the time of commencement of examination and

consequently decided to cancel the examination at all the centres.

On 11th May representatives of Delhi University Teachers Association reported in the Office of the Controller of Examinations at around 2.35 p.m. that they had received a phone-call alleging that the caller had a photocopy of B.Com (Pass) 1st year paper on economic System and Micro-economic Theory Scheduled to be held at 3.00 p.m. and that the caller had also read out some question from the said question paper. On comparison it was noticed that two question, text of which was given by the representatives of DUTA, were the same as in the original question paper, Serial No. 503. The University decided to cancel the said question paper and despatched another set of question paper Serial No. 1040 to all the colleges. At around 3.00 p.m. a Press correspondent informed the Vice-Chancellor that this alternative question paper had also leaked. The Vice-Chancellor felt that it was inconceivable that this paper would have been accessible to anyone since it was solely in the sealed custody of the Controller of Examinations and was to be used only in case of contingency. Therefore, in the absence of any concrete evidence of the alleged leakage and in view of the high level secrecy with which this paper was guarded the University decided not to cancel this paper.

In order to ensure sanctity of examinations the Delhi University has taken some corrective actions. On 9th May and 11th May the University has lodged reports with the SHO, Maurice Nagar and the Additional Commissioner, Crime respectively, to get the cases investigated. The University has also modified the procedure of distribution of question papers. After the incident of 8th and 11th May, the University is arranging question papers to be delivered at the examination centres approximately 20-30 minutes before the commencement of examination. Earlier, question papers were sent to the examination centres about 24 hours in advance. Further the University is now sending teachers as observers to the examination centres to keep a close watch

on the conduct of examinations.

University has assured the examinees through a press release that all representations received from them will be promptly attended to.

The Delhi University is also looking into all aspects of the matter through its internal mechanism. In order to assure objectivity in investigation so that weak links in the arrangements and exact manner in which such undesirable things have happened, are properly identified, the Govt. is advising the Vice-Chancellor to institute an enquiry under an eminent outside person in addition to the internal enquiry the University is pursuing. The Govt. is keeping a close watch on the situation.

20.13 hrs.

BEEDI AND CIGAR WORKERS  
(CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT)  
AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.  
SANGMA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted to provide for the welfare of the workers in beedi and cigar establishments and to regulate the conditions of their work and matters connected therewith.

Beedi and Cigar Industry, essentially an agro-based industry is mainly concentrated in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. It provides employment to about 44.72 lakh workers most

of whom belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The industry is, by and large, unorganised as only a small percentage of productions undertaken in regular establishments.

The Act is enforced by the State Governments. They were experiencing certain difficulties in effective implementation of the Act. In order to overcome such difficulties and to enlarge the scope of coverage of beedi workers, a Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 30th December, 1987 and was passed by the House on 14th March, 1989. While it was pending in Lok Sabha, the 8th Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill lapsed. The same Bill had been re-introduced in Rajya Sabha on 30th May, 1990. The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 27.4.93. The Bill seeks to make amendments which would not only make provisions regarding conditions of work more favourable for the workers but also facilitate enforcement of the existing provisions.

Some of the proposed amendments are:-

- (i) To extend the coverage of the Act to employees working in godowns and warehouses and also those who are working with the permission of or under agreement with both the employer and contractor;
- (ii) To make the provision regarding calculation of overtime wages to the workers employed on piece-rate basis more clear and unambiguous;
- (iii) To confer on the appellate authority the powers of civil court for the purpose of compelling attendance of witnesses and compulsory production of records;
- (iv) To reduce the number of female employees from 50 to 30 for providing a suitable creche facilities inside the industrial premises by the employer for the children under the age of six years of such female employees.