

12.41 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION IN BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर शिक्षा समाज कल्याण और संस्कृति मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय, जो कि एक राष्ट्रीय सम्मान है, मैं व्याप्त वर्तमान स्थिति का समाचार जिस के कारण शैक्षिक बातावरण पूर्णतया अस्त व्यस्त हो गया है।”

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): According to the information received from the Banaras Hindu University.....

एक माननीय सदस्य : हिन्दी में जवाब दीजिये।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): What is all this?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER:..... a representation was made by some students of the Faculty of Science on February 17, 1978 demanding *inter alia* a weightage of 10 per cent in marks obtained by the bonafide students of the Banaras Hindu University appearing in the Pre-Medical Test, to be held in 1978 for entry to M.B.B.S. Course of the University Institute of Medical Sciences. Subsequently, there was also a demand for reservation of seats for the students of the University in the M.B.B.S. Course. As the matter was receiving consideration of the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Academic

Council of the University, the students were informed of the position by the Rector of the University personally and they were assured that the matter will be considered expeditiously.

Instead of waiting for a decision of the University authorities, the students started agitation. Around 8.30 p.m. on February 21, about 60-70 students came to the Rector's residence and shouted slogans. On being told that the representation was under consideration and they could meet the Rector in his office the next day, the students climbed over the gates and entered the residence of the Rector. In spite of persuasion by senior officers and teachers of the University, the students refused to leave. The Rector had, therefore, no option but to request the District Authorities to take necessary steps to restore peace in and around his residence. After trying to persuade the students for some time in vain, the Police Authorities removed 12 students to the Police Station in the early hours of February 22, 1978. Ten students were, however, released within an hour of their being taken to Police Station.

At about 7.00 a.m., a group of students numbering about 60-70 came to the Rector's residence shouting slogans, forced the gates open and entered the premises. The group overpowered the two Shanti Sainiks and started breaking flower pots, banging furniture, cutting water & telephone connections. They broke open and entered the drawing room in large numbers. They demanded (i) public apology by the Rector for the arrests made by the Police, (ii) immediate action on their demand concerning the Pre-Medical Test, and (iii) release of two students who were still in the Police Station and had been refused release on bail. The students forced the Rector to sit in a rickshaw and took him to the Police Station.

[Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder]
After about half-an-hour, it was possible for the Rector to get the two students released

On the morning of February 23, 1978, the students of the Faculty of Science tried to disrupt the classes in the Faculty of Science and made an effort to enter the Central Office of the University around 10 00 a.m. As the gates of the Central Office were closed, they started breaking flower pots, tube lights, window panes and thereafter they marched to the Rector's residence and tried to force their entry once again but were prevented from doing so by the police which was by now available in the Campus

On March 3, 1978, the University issued a notification informing the students that no correct academic decision can be taken either under pressure or in an atmosphere of tension and that indiscipline, provocative behaviour and violence had no place in an educational institution nor can be tolerated by the University administration. The Rector further warned the students who indulged in disruptive activities that they were liable to stern disciplinary action. Soon after the issue of the notification, a handful of students started frantic efforts to press for an immediate decision on the issue of reservation of seats for the students of the University in the Pre-Medical Test. They came to the residence of the Rector, raised abusive slogans and then proceeded to the Faculty of Medical Sciences, disrupting some of the classes going on there. Around mid-day, they gathered in front of the Faculty of Arts' Auditorium. They set fire to a truck of the University PWD and went over to the Health Centre where they broke window panes and set fire to the medicine disposal counter. They also set fire to a number of wooden cases lying outside the Centre. The Police arrived on the scene along with the Fire Brigade and brought the situation under

control. In order to ensure the security of the buildings and residences as well as safety of the residents in the Campus, the Rector decided upon certain precautionary measures, such as production of Identity Card by students entering the campus, prohibition of meetings or processions, etc. In the event of any student disobeying the orders, the District authorities were requested to take suitable action for enforcing law and order in the Campus.

The agitation continued and there was persistent demand by the Students Union for the resignation of Dr T R Anantharaman, Rector of the University.

On March 4, 1978, Dr T R Anantharaman submitted his resignation from the post of Rector to the President who is the Visitor of the University. In the letter of resignation, he specifically referred to the vociferous insistence of the students for his resignation in the presence of some Professors, officers of the University, District authorities and Police.

The Academic Council of the University held an emergent meeting at 4 00 p.m. on the same day and passed the following resolution—

"The Academic Council considered the grave situation arising out of deteriorating law and order in the Campus as a result of a series of acts of ghacrao, agitations, arson (including burning of the University Health Centre building and a University truck), violence and vandalism, on the part of a handful of agitators on one issue or the other and even unfortunately compelling the Rector to resign under duress.

"It unequivocally condemns such acts which have left no alternative with the administration but to seek assistance of the District Administration to maintain law and order in the Campus.

"It learns with regret that in course of discharge of their duties, the police personnel are reported to have entered some hostels without permission and even beaten up innocent students which may be enquired into by an appropriate committee.

"It feels aggrieved that the University administration has felt handicapped because of a long uncertainty prevailing ever since Dr. M. L. Dhar left. It appeals to the Visitor to request the Vice-Chancellor-designate to join immediately

"The Academic Council affirms the principle that no resignation under duress be ever accepted and, therefore, while expressing their solidarity, appeals to the Rector to withdraw his resignation and the Visitor and the Executive Council not to consider the resignation of the Rector under duress

"It also appeals to the President and other office-bearers of the Students' Union not to aggravate the situation further. It further requests the President of the Union and all other students on hunger-strike to break the same immediately and to restore peace in the campus

"It appeals to all the students of our University to co-operate with the academic community to bring about normalcy in the campus"

The Academic Council further decided that, in the interest of restoration of normalcy and the desire by majority of students not to close the University, teaching work in the University be suspended only on March 6, 1978 7th being a holiday.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY. Such a long statement may be placed on the Table of the House.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Between March 8-10, 1978, the agitation gained momentum. The students of the Institute of Technology also boycotted their classes and

started relay hunger strikes. Some students of other faculties were also seen with black armbands. A meeting was held on March 9 by the Rashtriya Chhatra Sangathan, at which a decision was taken not to allow the Rector to enter the Campus, if his resignation was not accepted by the Executive Council. Some students and junior doctors of the Medical College also started hunger strike on March 10.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Executive Council of the University was held at New Delhi on March 9, 1978. The Executive Council, *inter alia*, resolved not to accept the resignation of the Rector which was submitted under duress in extraordinary circumstances. The Executive Council also decided to request the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court to suggest the name of a sitting judge or a retired High Court judge to hold an enquiry into the recent happenings on the Campus. It also appealed to the Teachers' Association and the Students' Union, to help in the restoration of peaceful academic life in the Campus.

On 11th March, 1978, the Rector of the University returned to Varanasi after attending the meeting of the Executive Council at Delhi. He was prevented by a group of students from entering the Campus. As the persuasion by a number of senior teachers failed, the Rector was forced to turn back and stay in a hotel in the city. A delegation of teachers met the Rector in his hotel and apprised him of the situation in the Campus. The Rector, after careful consideration of the situation, decided that the University be closed *sine die*. A meeting of the Academic Council was also held at 4-00 p.m. on that day. The Council

[Dr. Pratap Chandra Chunder] noted the chain of events and endorsed the steps taken by the Rector. At 6-00 p.m., the Rector issued an office order closing the University sine die and advising the students to vacate their hostels and leave the Campus within the next 48 hours. The offices of the University were especially kept open on March 12, 1978 to facilitate the departure of students to their homes. The district authorities were simultaneously requested to take over charge of the law and order situation in the Campus.

The district authorities entered the University Campus at midnight of March 11, 1978 and Police were deployed at vulnerable points. Students also started leaving the hostel. No confrontation of the students with the police has been reported thereafter.

As the Vice-Chancellor (designate), namely, Dr. B K Anand in a letter dated 10th March 1978, addressed to me, has regretted his inability to join the University on health grounds, steps are being taken to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the Provisions of the University Act

Government are of the view that decisions in academic matters should be taken by the appropriate bodies of the Universities after full consideration on merit and not under threat of agitation or pressure from any quarter whatsoever. It is also the duty of the student community to abide by such decisions and not to indulge in agitational methods to achieve their demands. Grievances, if any, should be got resolved by mutual consultation and discussion. On behalf of the Government and the University, I appeal to all sections of this House to assist the University and the District authorities to restore normalcy in the Campus and help hasten the re-opening of the University.

जी हरिकेश महाधुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने माननीय मंत्री जी का बक्तव्य पढ़ा है। पूरे देश का शैक्षणिक वातावरण इस समय पूर्णतया दूषित हो गया है। केवल बनारस विश्व विद्यालय में ही नहीं, हमारे देश के अधिकांश विश्वविद्यालयों में, जिन के बारे में इस सदन में पहले चर्चा भी हो चुकी है, शैक्षणिक वातावरण पूरी तरह में नष्ट हो गया है। उदाहरण के लिये गोरखपुर, लखनऊ, इलाहाबाद, पटना, पटना और मध्य प्रदेश के नामा विश्वविद्यालय इस समय या तो बन्द हैं या वहाँ उपद्रव हो रहे हैं, पढ़ाई का बर्ता पर कोई वातावरण नहीं है।

मंत्री जी ने जो बयान दिया है, इस में लिखा है कि 17 फरवरी, 1978 को विद्यार्थियों ने, जो विज्ञान शाखा के छात्र थे एक अभ्यावेदन दिया था। यह बात ठीक नहीं है, उन्होंने 17 फरवरी का प्रदर्शन किया था, उन्होंने किसी तरह का कोई अभ्यावेदन नहीं दिया था। वे लोग 10 परसेन्ट वेटेज की मांग कर रहे थे। बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय में पहले भी जो लोग पी०यू०मी० पास करते थे उन को यह सुविधा दी जाती थी और इस तरह में 80 प्रतिशत छात्र इस्टीमेट प्राप्त मैट्रिकल मायस में भरती हो जाते करते थे। इन छात्रों ने यह मांग की थी कि बी० एम सी० के लड़कों की भी यह सुविधा दी जाय।

अध्यक्ष महाधय, यूनिवर्सिटी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने 10 परसेन्ट वेटेज को समाप्त कर दिया, बजाय इस के कि वे इस को कम्प्लीट करने, जो बात पहले से विश्वविद्यालय में चल रही थी, उस को भी समाप्त कर दिया। नतीजा यह हुआ कि तमाम छात्र इस सुविधा से वंचित हो गये। इस के बाद उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यदि आप 10 परसेन्ट का वेटेज समाप्त करने हैं, तो हम उस को भी मानने के लिये तैयार हैं, लेकिन विश्वविद्यालय के 50 प्रतिशत छात्रों को यह सुविधा दे दीजिये, लेकिन विश्वविद्यालय प्रशासन ने इस को भी

भागने से इन्कार कर दिया। नतीजा यह हुआ कि छात्रों ने चान्सलर किया और चान्सलर ने बाद विश्वविद्यालय में तो स्थिति पैदा हुई, उसे धर्म माननीय मंत्री जी से बतलाया है। सब से दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि बनारस विश्वविद्यालय के अन्दर पिछले कुछ महीनों में कोई भी उन्-कुलपति वहाँ नहीं है। और डाक्टर टी० आर० अनन्तरमन को रेक्टर बनाया गया। वे इसे चलाने की कोशिश करते हैं लेकिन बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय एक बहुत बड़ा विश्वविद्यालय है और इस के अन्दर किसी महान् प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति को वाइस चान्सलर बना कर भेजना चाहिए। वहाँ की ऐसी परम्परा रही है और वहाँ पर डा० सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन और आचार्य नरेन्द्र देव जैसे बड़े बड़े व्यक्तियों ने उपकुलपति के रूप में कार्य किया है और आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि भारत में बहुत ही योग्य तथा कुशल प्रशासक को बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय का वाइस चान्सलर बना कर भेजे। साधारण व्यक्ति से वह विश्वविद्यालय नहीं चल सकता और किसी भी वाइस चान्सलर की नियुक्ति के लिए यह बहुत जरूरी है—मैं अब बहुत ही जरूरी बात में सम्बन्ध में निवेदन करना चाहता—कि किसी भी सिविल सर्वेंट का खाम तार में किसी भी विश्वविद्यालय का वाइस चान्सलर बना कर न भेजा जाए। भारत की व्यारोकेसी के बारे में मेरी एक टेफीनट धारणा है कि वेल्स-कमिडंड प्रोपीनियन है कि हिन्दुस्तान की व्यारोकेसी एबमालरटली थोरोली करण्ट है, डिस्मानेस्ट है, इन एफी-गिवेन्ट है, एरोगेन्ट है और इर्रेस्पोसीबिल है जिस के अन्दर क्रिमिनल टेडेसी डेवलप हो रही है। अगर इस तरह के वाइस चान्सलर वहाँ पर भेजे गये, तो विश्वविद्यालय के अन्दर शैक्षणिक वातावरण पूर्णतया नष्ट कर दिया जाएगा।

पुलिस के कारनामों की ओर भी मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में भी इस के बारे में कहा है। वहाँ पर पुलिस ने इनोसेंट छात्रों को तरी तरह से पीटा है। अगर इनोसेंट छात्रों को इस देश की अष्ट पुलिस इस तरह से पीटती रहेगी, तो इस देश में क्या नक्का बनेगा। इस देश के नौजवानों को किस तरह से आप प्रोत्साहित करना चाहते हैं। मान्यवर पुलिस वाले विश्वविद्यालय के अन्दर घुस कर छात्रों को पीटने ही नहीं है बल्कि वहाँ जा कर चोरी करने हैं। होस्टलों में डकैती डालते हैं और विद्यार्थियों का सारा सामान उठा कर ले जाते हैं। यह घटना बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय में हुई है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहता कि वे विश्वविद्यालय को शीघ्र खोलने के लिए विश्वविद्यालय के प्रशासन को निर्देश दे और बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय के जो भूतपूर्व वाइस चान्सलर डा० कालू लाल श्रीमाली थे, उन के जमाने में जो अष्टाचार हुआ है जिस की वजह से पूरे का पूरा शैक्षिक समुदाय पूरी तरह में अस्त रहा है, क्या उन के बारे में जांच कराएँ और क्या इमजेंसी के दौरान जितने भी वाइस चान्सलर देश में काम कर रहे थे उन को उन के पद में हटाएँ। मान्यवर, मैं एक बात यह बता दूँ कि मद्रास विश्वविद्यालय में एक व्यक्ति को 27 वर्ष तक लगातार वहाँ का वाइस चान्सलर रहने दिया गया है। क्या इस तरह की परम्परा देश के अन्दर डेवलप करना उचित होगा क्योंकि बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय भी उनपरम्पराओं का एक अंग रहा है। मेरा कहना यह है कि आप बी० एच० यू० को अच्छी तरह से सभालें।

डा प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र हमारे स्थानीय मित्र ने 3 सवाल उठाए हैं। एक सवाल तो यह है कि विश्वविद्यालय को खोलने के लिए इन्तजाम करें। इस के लिए मैं ने यह प्रपोजीकी है कि वहाँ पर ऐसा वातावरण पैदा करें जिस से विश्वविद्यालय जल्दी से जल्दी खुल सके।

[डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र]

इसके अलावा हमारी ओर से कोई हुकम या हमारा कोई अंतर विषयविद्यालय पर नहीं चलेगा।

दूसरी बात उन्होंने जाच करवाने की कही है। हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि विश्व-विद्यालय में जब नये वाइस चान्सलर आएंगे तो वे कागजात देख कर सोचेंगे कि क्या किया जाय प्राइमाफेसी केस है तो अगर हमारे पास कागजात भेजेंगे तो जाच के लिए हम उन के पास भेज देंगे।

श्री सरव दादब (जबनपुर) : जुलाई में लडको ने आप को कागज दिये हैं ?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : पिछले जो वाइस चान्सलर थे उन के पास मैं ने वे सब कागजात भेज दिये थे लेकिन वाइस चान्सलर ने कहा कि कोई केस नहीं है, तो मैं क्या करूँ।

एक आमनीय सदस्य : किस के पाम कागजात भेजे थे ?

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : जो पहले वाइस चान्सलर थे। नये वाइस चान्सलर के साथ बात कर के अगर पता चलेगा कि कोई प्राइमाफेसी केस है, तो विजिटर के पास हम जरूर गुहारित करेंगे। तीसरी बात उन्होंने यह कही

श्री उपसेन (देवरिया) : हाई कोर्ट के जब से जाच करवा ले।

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : तीसरी बात उन्होंने वाइस चान्सलरों की नियुक्ति के बारे में कही। वाइस चान्सलर की नियुक्ति हो चुकी है और वे डा० भ्रानन्द हैं। ये सिविल सर्वेंट्‌स तौर से नहीं थे। इस्टीमेट आफ मेडिकल साइंसेज में डीन थे और शिक्षा के बारे में इन का बहुत असर है, प्रभाव है। इस के लिए एक कमेटी बनी थी। विजिटर ने उस

कमेटी को बनाया था और उस कमेटी ने जो सुझाव दिया, उस के अनुसार, विजिटर ने इन को चुन लिया।

12.58 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER The hon Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has some other work and so he wants to take up Item No 7 Let the House permit him to take up item No 7

SEVERAL HON MEMERS Yes, yes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 20th March, 1978, will consist of

1 Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper

2 Discussion and voting on —

(i) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1975-76

(ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1977-78

3 General discussion on the Mizoram Budget for 1978-79

4 Discussion and voting on —

(i) Demands for Grants on Account (Mizoram) for 1978-79

(ii) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Mizoram) for 1977-78

5 Consideration and passing of:

(i) The High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Bill, 1978.