

13.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Paul. He is not here. Mr. Chaturvedi.

(i) RESEARCH WORK UNDER UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI (Agra) : With your permission, under rule 377, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance relating to the UGC.

The University Grants Commission was set up to maintain a high standard of education and research and not merely to distribute largess and patronage in the shape of grants to Universities. It is, allowing however, phoney research to flourish under its wing to the serious detriment of the student community and the cause of education as shown hereafter.

In October 1976, a retired Head of the Department of one of the premier post-graduate colleges in Agra brought to the notice of the Chairman of the Commission three cases of the Agra University in which basically wrong solutions to mathematical problems were not only given recognition and respectability by being published in research journals of the University but awarded a prize and even a Ph.D. Degree. In this last case, the mistake was so glaring that it would do discredit even to an under-graduate student. Even so, the thesis containing such absurdity was approved by the examiners for the award of a doctorate degree.

This was not all. The solution in this case was word for word copy of an earlier research paper of the supervisor of the thesis himself and yet it was certified to be an independent contribution of the research scholar.

Failing to get a reply from the Commission, not even an acknowledgement, the matter was brought to my notice and taken up by me in Parliament. But despite repeated questions, the UGC has evaded and avoided giving a straight answer to the question whether the solutions were wrong and fallacious or not as alleged.

The last answer given to Unstarred question No. 58 on 20-11-78 is a masterpiece of evasion; it has sought to cover up the UGC's inaction on the ground of interference which is wholly untenable and was intended only to confuse the issue. The reference to the University Grants Commission was justified because not

only does it finance research in the Universities in general but one of the authors of the research papers was the recipient of a fellowship from the UGC at the time he submitted his paper.

It was expected that the UGC would take the simple and obvious course of verifying the correctness or otherwise of the solutions in question and, if found wrong, refer the matter to the University for appropriate action as regards the award of the degree and the conduct of the supervisors and examiners of the thesis. Instead, it took the tortuous course of procrastinating for about a year and a half and eventually stalling the very first step of verifying the correctness of the solutions. This has created the impression that there was some sort of understanding among the higher-ups in education to suppress the truth and not say anything against each other.

The question is, if the UGC has any responsibility for maintaining a high standard of education and research, how does it seek to discharge it by sitting tight over a matter of this nature and virtually obstructing it. It would appear a clear dereliction of duty. There is also the question of accountability to Parliament through the Ministry.

I would, therefore, demand that the hon. Minister take urgent and effective action to stop this adulteration of knowledge and malpractices connected therewith, with all their evil consequences, and bring home to the UGC both its responsibility in the matter and its accountability to Parliament.

(ii) EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS TRAVANCORE LIMITED, KERALA

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to raise under rule 377, a matter of urgent public importance regarding diversification of FACT at Udyogmandal.

The FACT factory at Udhvogmandal, Kerala, one of the major public sector fertilizer factories employing nearly two thousand workers, is on the verge of closure because of the outdated production pattern and the enormous loss of crores of rupees.

After detailed study of its prospects for diversification, the setting up of a 'Caprolactum' project has been found to be a profitable solution for the future of the unit.

FACT, Udyogmandal, Division, has, therefore, submitted a project report to