

been saved and the disaster might have been mitigated. Crores of rupees spent on research bodies have not helped in saving innocent lives only due to negligence on the part of the Government.

I therefore urge upon the Government to look into the matter why this report from the CWPRS was not taken seriously at the higher level. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA:** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the very serious problem that the Indian Historical Congress one of the most prestigious professional bodies in the country has been facing this year. Usually for its annual conference the hosting University and the State Government combined together are to support this Conference and to defray the expenses. This year, this conference was scheduled to be held at Ujjain and has received a grant, only a measly sum of Rs. 35,000 from the Madhya Pradesh Government. It is not only that but at the same time, a very large substantial grant has been made to certain bodies under the name of Wakanekar Foundation and other bodies like Indian History and Culture Society, *Itihas Sansodhan Mandal* which are very clearly associated with the Hindu fundamentalist group. These have been given a large grant of Rs. 9 lakhs. It has been suggested that the conference of Indian Historical Congress should be tagged up with the conference to be held in Ujjain by these groups. We feel that this is a kind of pressure on what has always been a platform for many different kinds of academic and scholarly opinion to translate itself into ideological platform for Hindu fundamentalism.

I think, this is very dangerous and it will also encourage other kinds of fundamentalism and undermine the very basis of genuine research and academic integrity. I think this is a matter for grave concern. The Govern-

ment calling itself secular should have commitment to this body so that the space for this kind of ideological interference is reduced.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (SHRIARJUN SINGH):** About what the hon. Member has just said, I would crave your indulgence that we have noted with great regret the situation which has led to the cancellation of the Indian Historical Congress Session at Ujjain. I am in agreement with the hon. Member to this extent that such meetings should not be interfered in a manner which makes them difficult to hold their conventions.

I have nothing to say about what the State Government wants to do with other organisations. It is entirely their outlook and they are free to do what they want. But this Conference is a historical conference which has been held for many decades. I am very sad at the situation that has come about. We have decided in the Ministry of Human Resource Development to give them a special grant of Rs. 3 lakhs and would request them to hold their Conference wherever they choose in India.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There are 17 other names who are found in the List. I do not think all those people will get a chance. This is number one. Number two, repeatedly I have been saying that, the earlier speakers who have got a chance should also look to the subsequent speakers. That much is needed. Now Prof. K.V. Thomas will be the last speaker.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam):** At present, the power production in Kerala is based upon only hydraulic project. Whenever there is monsoon failure, Kerala has to face acute power shortage. It is in this context, Kayankulam thermal power project assumes importance. Such kind of power projects have to get the environment clear-