

(2) Thirteenth Report on the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1992.

(3) Fourteenth Report on the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1994.

(ii) **EVIDENCE tendered before the Committee on the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1994.**

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Committee on Home Affairs on the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 1994.

14.29 14 hrs.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) **Establishment of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding establishment of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya at Wardha and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Hyderabad.

**Statement**

Sir, I rise to make a statement in the House regarding the establishment of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

The Government have decided to set up the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya at Wardha and the Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Hyderabad and to prepare and propose legislation for consideration of Parliament.

**Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya**

The establishment of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya has been under consideration ever since the first Vishwa Hindi Sammelan held at Nagpur in January, 1975 recommended it. This was reiterated in second Vishwa Hindi Sammelan in August 1976 in Mauritius. The late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, in 1983 on the occasion of the third Vishwa Hindi Sammelan supported the establishment of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya. A Committee under Dr. Shiv Mangal Singh 'Suman' was constituted in July, 1992 which submitted its report in May, 1993 recommending the form and requirements for the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya.

Hindi enjoys the status of official language and link language in the country and it has its own and large importance at International level. Hindi is taught and studied in almost all Indian Universities and at the International level, it is taught and studied in nearly 150 universities abroad. A large number of people of Indian origin are residing in Mauritius, Fiji, Surinam, Guyne, Trinidad, etc. who have tremendous interest in Hindi.

However, presently there is no existing Centre which can coordinate, develop and direct programmes to meet the demand for Hindi by an international clientele. Only an International Hindi University can appropriately fill up this void.

The objectives of the Vishwavidyalaya will be mainly to develop Hindi as an International language and to conduct courses by distance mode for teaching Hindi in India and abroad. It will be structured on the pattern of a central university with the focus of academic activity on research. It will not conduct routine courses in sciences and social sciences but will have the innovative feature of "writers in residence".

**Maulana Azad National Urdu University**

Since its inception India has been the cradle and custodian of Urdu. In the Programme of Action to implement National Policy on Education 1992 the Task Force for Minority education under Shri Aziz Qureshi, ex-M.P. recommended that an Urdu Open University may be established to cater to the needs of Urdu speaking people. A Committee under Shri Aziz Qureshi, Ex-M.P. was constituted in September, 1992 to work out in concrete terms, the design of the proposed Urdu University and inputs required for setting it up and the Committee submitted its report in June, 1993.

The objectives of the Urdu University are that it will be a central university with a single campus and will basically concentrate on propagation of Urdu and vocational courses so as to upgrade skills of Urdu speaking people particularly of women who are not able to participate in the normal institutions adequately due to social reasons. The University will provide vocational/language education in the main campus and will reach out to the rest of the country and if necessary, abroad through distance education. The material and audio-visual programmes and the facilities of IGNOU will be used as far as possible.

Sir, we do trust that these two universities would fulfil the acute need in these two important academic fields and form the foundation of further development in future. They will make enduring contributions for the cause of the development of the Hindi and the Urdu language and of the people who speak them.

(ii) **Agitation by Fishermen Protesting Against the Licenses given for Deep Sea Fishing to Trawlers of Multi-National Companies**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding Agitation by 75 lakh fishermen of all the coastal States protesting against the Licenses given for Deep Sea Fishing to Trawlers of Multi-national Companies.

**Statement**

Certain issues were raised by some Hon'ble Members of Parliament yesterday regarding the agitation by fishermen of all the coastal States, who were protesting against the licenses given for the deep sea fishing to trawlers of multinational companies. I would like to clarify at the outset

that my Ministry has not given any permissions to multinational companies for operating deep sea fishing vessels. Under the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy announced by my Ministry in 1991, we have encouraged the setting up of joint venture companies by Indian entrepreneurs for operation of deep sea fishing vessels in collaboration with foreign fishing companies. Under this policy, we have also encouraged leasing of fishing vessels as well as test fishing. This was done in order to encourage acquisition of vessels by Indian entrepreneurs which would result in transfer of technology on a permanent basis as against charter which used to be a short term contract. This policy was announced in order to gradually replace the charter policies of the Government. My Ministry has phased out the 1981 charter policy and has scrapped the 1989 charter policy. Only the 1986 charter policy is in operation now and this will also be phased out. The total number of foreign flag vessels actually in operation has consequently gone down from 75 in 1990 to only 16 in 1994. In addition, 14 Indian flag vessels are operating under joint venture. The apprehensions expressed by traditional fishermen about the operation of deep sea fishing vessels presumably stems from the report of a Study Group which had suggested the introduction of 2630 vessels in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone. I would like to clarify here that my Ministry has not accepted the suggestions made by this Group and I would like to take this opportunity to allay the fears of all sections on this account. My Ministry has no intention of introducing such a large number of vessels. In fact the target for the Eighth Plan in this respect is only 200 vessels.

The 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone of India has a fishery potential of about 3.9 million tonnes annually, out of which only 2.7 million tonnes is being exploited and a major portion of this is being exploited from the territorial waters which extend upto 12 nautical miles from the shore. The territorial waters are reserved exclusively for fishing by traditional fishermen, but in the recent past, they have been joined by mechanised trawlers of less than 20 metres length, which compete with them in exploiting the resources available in coastal waters. The number of mechanised trawlers has gone up from 24,272 in the Seventh Plan to 34,848 in 1992-93. The marine fish production has gone up from 18.17 lakh tonnes in 1988-89 to 27 lakh tonnes now. But of this the major chunk of about 65% is caught by mechanised trawlers, about 33% is caught by traditional fishermen and only about 2% by deep sea fishing vessels.

The area beyond territorial waters is termed the "Deep Sea" and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries licenses fishing trawlers with overall length of 20 metres and above for operating in this area. It is, therefore, not borne out by the facts that trawlers responsible for 2% of the catch would pose a threat to the coastal fishing effort accounting for 98% of the catch. But since traditional fishermen are getting only 33% of the catch, there is need to fix a ceiling on the number of mechanised trawlers which operate in the coastal areas without a licence. Because of the unhindered increase in the number of mechanised trawlers and consequently their catch, the

share of fish catch per capita in respect of traditional fishermen has gone down.

I would like to state that it is necessary to introduce modern technology in the field of deep sea fishing since the future growth of marine production depends on the exploitation of the available resource in the deep sea areas. India must have a deep sea fishing fleet also because the activity of deep sea fishing vessels deters smuggling activities and also discourages poachers from neighbouring countries.

However, in view of the large scale agitation by traditional fishermen against the deep sea fishing policy, my Ministry had constituted an Expert Group to review the whole matter and to make appropriate recommendations. This Group has submitted its report and my Ministry has accepted all the recommendations of this Group. In order to reduce the areas of conflict between deep sea fishing vessels and traditional fishermen, we have decided to have a three mile corridor beyond territorial waters, on the North-West coast, with the result that deep sea fishing vessels on the North-West coast will have to operate beyond 15 nautical miles instead of 12. Also, certain tracking equipment will be made compulsory for deep sea fishing vessels so that their location can be pin-pointed exactly in case of any intrusion into the territorial waters. This is being done because deep sea fishing vessels are prohibited from fishing in territorial waters whereas there is no bar on traditional fishermen and mechanised trawlers fishing in deeper waters. In order to encourage active participation of traditional fishermen in deep sea fishing activity, I propose to provide more incentives for giving encouragement to traditional fishermen for setting up of deep sea fishing projects. I have also requested the State Governments to fix a limit on the number of mechanised trawlers operating in their coastal waters in order to protect the interests of traditional fishermen. I have also decided that we will not process any more applications for deep sea fishing till the whole matter is reviewed.

In the end, I would like to reiterate that the Government is committed to protecting the interests of traditional fishermen and is open to holding a continuous dialogue with them on the subject of Government policy. The Government is seriously concerned about the welfare of traditional fishermen and is totally committed to protecting their interests and improving their economic condition by providing greater incentives to them.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet at 3.30 p.m.

14.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty three minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

(Shri Tara Singh in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)