

പതിനാലാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

നാലാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത

ചോദ്യം നം. 1306

02.03.2017 -ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

സർവ്വകലാശാലാ സിൻഡിക്കേറ്റ് ഉപസമിതിയുടെ കണ്ടെത്തലുകൾ

ചോദ്യം

ശ്രീ. കെ.എസ്. ശബരീനാഥൻ

മറുപടി

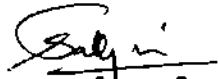
പ്രൊഫ.സി.രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ്
(വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)

(എ) കേരള ലോ അക്കാഡമി ലോ കോളേജിനെതിരെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ ഉന്നയിച്ച ആരോപണങ്ങൾ അന്വേഷിച്ച സർവ്വകലാശാലാ സിൻഡിക്കേറ്റ് ഉപസമിതിയുടെ കണ്ടെത്തലുകൾ എന്തൊക്കെയാണെന്നു;

(എ) കേരള ലോ അക്കാഡമി ലോ കോളേജിനെതിരെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ ഉന്നയിച്ച ആരോപണങ്ങൾ അന്വേഷിച്ച സർവ്വകലാശാലാ ഉപസമിതിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർക്കുന്നു.

(ബി) കോളേജ് നടത്തിപ്പിൽ ഗുരുതരമായ വീഴ്ചയുണ്ടെന്ന് ഉപസമിതിയുടെ കണ്ടെത്തലുകളിലുണ്ടോ; എങ്കിൽ ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി സമഗ്ര അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുവാനുള്ള നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുമോ?

(ബി) സിൻഡിക്കേറ്റ് ഉപസമിതിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്മേൽ നിയമാനുസൃതമായ നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ കേരള സർവ്വകലാശാലക്ക് സർക്കാർ നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.


സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SITTINGS HELD AT THE KERALA LAW ACADEMY LAW COLLEGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ON 23RD - 25TH JANUARY 2017

The meeting of the Syndicate of the University of Kerala that met on 21.01.2017 considered the representations alleging serious mismanagement in the Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram, from various student organisations of the College, individual students and their parents. Certain allegations raised were such as students are being harassed in the name of attendance and in awarding of internal marks. They have complained that cases are being framed against them and are being made 'year-out' through manipulation of attendance. They have further alleged that the authorities have installed CCTV cameras even in the Girl's hostel, mess hall and in the corridors thereby encroaching into the privacy of the students. The Syndicate also considered the representations received from the Law Academy students alleging serious mismanagement in the College.

The Syndicate had very serious discussions on these issues and resolved to constitute a Sub-Committee of the Syndicate with members of the Standing Committee of the Syndicate on Affiliation of Colleges and Dr. M. Jeevanlal, Member, Syndicate to enquire into the complaints against the College Principal raised by the students.

The Syndicate meeting further resolved that the Sub-Committee shall conduct the sitting in the Kerala Law Academy Law College, Thiruvananthapuram, on 23rd and 24th January 2017.

Accordingly the Sub-Committee comprising of Dr. P. Rajesh Kumar (Convenor, Standing Committee of the Syndicate on Affiliation of Colleges), Prof. R. Mohanakrishnan, Sri. M.K. Abdul Rahim, Adv. K.H. Babujan, Adv. Johnson Abraham, Adv. A.A. Rahim, Dr. R. Lathadevi, Dr. P.M. Radhamany, Dr. M. Jeevanlal (Members, Syndicate) had sitting in the College on 23rd and 24th January 2017 and also on the 25th of January 2017, since more students had to be heard and for verifying all the available documents in the College relating to the issues. This was done after getting the consent from the Vice-Chancellor, University of Kerala, subject to reporting to the Syndicate.

Girl students who are staying in the College hostel have reported that it was the regular habit of the Principal to summon them to her official residence in the campus during night time and insult them using abusive language.

Girl students have unanimously stated that they have no complaints against the installation of camera in the Hostel but the positioning of the 2 cameras to the corridors leading to the bathroom in the hostel is a purposeful trespass into their privacy, especially on their going to the bathrooms and coming out into the corridor.

Hostellers have another strong objection about the approach of the Principal towards sick students. One student named Geethu Krishna who was suffering from Asthma was thrown out from the hostel. Another girl student named Keerthi Sharma was threatened for being anaemic and her father Easwara Sharma was summoned to the office and the Principal told him most impolitely, that if she falls ill a second time, she will be ousted from the hostel.

Girl students are compulsorily removed from their hostel rooms during Moot Court. They also complained that girl students who acted as volunteers during these days were strictly directed to serve food for the male delegates in the hostel dining hall even after 10 pm. The Sub-Committee observed that this could have been avoided.

During the months of April/May when the examinations are in the full swing, Principal insists on the hostellers to vacate their rooms. The irony is that these students had already paid the hostel fee for these months also well in advance.

- 1. The Sub-Committee has observed that the positioning of the 2 cameras inside the Women's Hostel trespasses into the privacy of the girl students. Also the allegation that the sick students are thrown out, or being threatened that they will have to quit the Hostel is found to be true. The allegation that the students from the Hostel are summoned by the Principal at night cannot be substantiated by authentic evidence.**

The committee have heard 90 students, nearly 10 parents and leaders representing five student organisations, and they were all of opinion that the attitude, the body language and the words used by Dr. Lakshmi Nair are not befitting to a Principal. She uses abusive and vulgar languages, summoning students to her office. Some students like Kavya Ajith, Anjitha, Balasubramanian, Bivin V Vijayan etc, have alleged that on some occasions the Principal goes to the extent of discriminating students by specifying in a vulgar tone their caste, creed, colour, religion and appearance. The Committee has been convinced that this arrogant approach of the Principal towards the students and their parents have hurt their hearts deeply. Students are criticised by the Principal even for wearing the kind of

dresses commonly used by girls in our country. This kind of harassment has even lead students to the extent of attempting suicide.

A student named Xavier Thomas P.T who met with a bike accident and was hospitalised for some time, travelled all the way from Alappuzha to Thiruvananthapuram and came to the College for attending the examination, with the University Hall ticket, but was not permitted to appear for the examination, of S2 LLB Unitary Degree Course, January 2017 which is to be considered as a serious offence. But the Principal has denied it, and said that she hadn't done so.

The subcommittee also heard the teachers and Dr.Lekshmi Nair, the Principal of the College in detail.

2. **The audio clippings submitted by the students substantiate the allegation of the students about the language, tone and attitude towards the students and parents by the College Principal.**
(Audio clippings attached)

Dr. Laskhmi Nair owns a restaurant in the College campus itself with an entrance to the main road side for the general public. On the inaugural day of the restaurant, a student named Anuradha P Nair (Principal's future daughter in law) went to a classroom and asked 5 students (including Selvam who alleged that he along with another 4 students) to report at the restaurant for serving food as directed by the Principal. This was denied by the Principal later. Similar complaints have been raised by other students also.

The committee has very seriously observed that there is a clear cut violation of the Regulations relating to Five year degree as well as Three year degree LLB Courses/Examination, in the award of internal marks.

- The monthly attendance statement of the students are not prepared and exhibited on the College notice board.
- After conducting class test papers, the marks obtained by the students are not communicated to them nor the valued answer sheets returned promptly.
- On submission of assignments given, the marks awarded are not revealed to students.
- As part of the University curriculum, students are supposed to present papers in Seminars.
- It is quite ironical that the students are insisted on signing on the score sheet first and the marks are entered only later.
- The split up of marks awarded for the various components of the internal marks are neither recorded nor published.
- On verification of the available records regarding attendance, the Committee is convinced that there is an unholy interference of the College Principal in it.

- In awarding internal marks, the committee is fully convinced that the power is solely centred on the Principal who according to her whims and fancies awards marks freely to those whom she favours.
- The available documents regarding awarding of Internal Marks shows that University rules and regulations are flouted by the Principal.
- In the case of Sajala . S (13551049-S6, October 2016 B.Com LLB) the initial marks awarded for subjects 4 & 5 were zero each. However in the revised internal marks score sheets sent to the University, the marks awarded are found to be 10 each instead of the earlier zero. The exact reason for such a huge variation in granting internal marks to such a student could not be explained.
- In the case of Anuradha P. Nair (the future daughter-in-law of the Principal) 13551010, BA LLB S6, the attendance statement as provided by the College Office, shows that she is having less than 50% attendance. She has not even applied for condonation. The candidate was awarded 19 marks for each paper of the S6 BA LLB exam which is against the existing rules and regulations of the University.
- For papers like Drafting (S7), Ethics (S8), ADR (S9) and Paper IV (S10) the entire marks are awarded by the College.
- There is a serious allegation that the Principal is showing severe nepotism towards some students whom she favours and some others she dislikes. The marks awarded for each component are not being displayed in the college notice board and the students are compelled to sign on the mark sheet.
- It is alleged that a number of students having supplementary papers to be covered are scoring more than 90% for the said papers. Whereas students who have scored more than 75% marks till date, have got very low marks for the said papers. This looks quite extra ordinary.
- For five year LLB Course, out of aggregate 4500 marks, 1220 marks is set aside for internal assessment. The aggregate minimum required for a pass is 50% of aggregate (ie., 2250) whereas 1220 marks is given for internal assessment. This is a glaring technical anomaly where the Principal is taking undue advantage over the poor students.

3. It is quite unfortunate that the Committee observed that the unawareness on the part of the students about the University regulations, their rights and privileges with regard to the grievance redressal mechanism has led to this unrest.

- The Committee gave the Principal a comprehensive list of documents from the College Office for verification (list appended). As a matter of fact it is to be noticed that the office of the College Principal has failed in providing the majority of the documents, the committee had asked for.

Documents not submitted

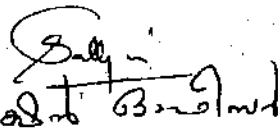
1. Attendance register for the last three years which is required to verify the discrepancies noted by the Committee.
2. The subsequent amendments if any regarding the Trust/ Society Bye-law. The particulars regarding DLMC and CLMC including constitution of the Committee and minutes of its meeting are not submitted which are gross irregularities on the administrative side of the college office.
3. List of teachers who have obtained approval from the University along with the relevant orders have not been submitted in full.

All the students and their parents who have appeared before the Committee for the formal hearing have unanimously reported that Ms. Anuradha P. Nair SB BA LLB Degree student, whose engagement to Vishnu Nair, Principal's son has been formerly solemnized, is executing undue freedom and exercising powers which the students find as intolerable and exceeding all the limits. This is one of the reasons for the student unrest in the college.

The Sub- Committee of the Syndicate that enquired into the complaints raised by the Law Academy students had a hectic schedule probing into the reasons for the unrest of the students and disruption of classes in the College. It is quite amazing that the Law Academy with a fifty years of glorious legacy has come to this kind of a pathetic situation. The Committee has unanimously come to the conclusion that it is solely because of the maladministration from the part of the present Principal Dr. Lakshmi Nair that has brought this kind of a pathetic situation to this great institution of professional education in Kerala. An institution that has produced eminent lawyers, great judges and hundreds of renowned politicians should never have this kind of a downfall.

This report is placed before the Syndicate for consideration and appropriate action.


CONVENOR


Principal