

regional problem. The point has been made. Let the Prime Minister say something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am coming from that region. We know that there is security threat in that region. We know that. I will not take more than half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): No. Then there are so many Members from Tamil Nadu. I have not given them a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, kindly bear with me. Since she is not Chief Minister of the State now.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): He will not go on record.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: \*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA: Sir, I would like to clarify the position. This decision was taken by the Home Ministry. It seems they made a periodical review.

So far as continuing the security arrangement for several political leaders is concerned, now the matter has been raised here. It is a question of providing security not only to the former Chief Minister, Dr. Jayalalitha, in Tamil Nadu but to several other former Chief Ministers, former Ministers and MPs. It seems that they have taken the decision to withdraw the security arrangement that was provided previously. That is what I have read in the newspapers today. Let me be plain on this issue. This matter has been raised now in this House by Shri Kumar and other Members. I will reexamine it, and I will see that necessary protection is given.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Withdrawal of security led to Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Don't forget it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): It is all right. Now we have a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

•Not recorded.

Mrs. Margaret Alva, you will find it a very important issue.

SHRI HD. DEVE GOWDA: One more point you have raised is about Dr. Subrainanian Swamy. I do not know whether it is being continued or not. We have not given it. That was given during your regime.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Security to Smt. Jayalalita was also given in our regime. So, if you are withdrawing it, why are you not withdrawing it in the case of the other? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): You are a senior Member. You had been a Minister also.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: So what?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): When the Prime Minister is speaking, you should not interrupt, *(Interruptions)* Now the matter is over. Please sit down. Now, Shrimati Kamla Sinha. There is an important issue now. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Muthu Mani, please sit down. *(Interruptions)* The matter is over. Please sit down. Now we have the important issue of 33 per cent reservation to women. Shrimati Kamla Sinha.

**RE. SEEKING REDEMPTION OF THE UNITED FRONTS PLEDGE CONTAINED IN THE COMMON MINIMUM PROGRAMME TO GIVE 33 PER CENT REPRESENTATION TO WOMEN IN UNION AND STATE LEGISLATURES.**

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important issue. The women of India have been agitating and demanding reservation of 33 per cent seats in State legislatures and in both Houses of Parliament for the last few decades; in fact, since independence.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): There should also be reservation of women in the Government, not only in the House.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Let women be nominated to all the vacancies in the Rajya Sabha. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): She is talking about women, .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: This is not a laughing matter, let me tell you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: We are supporting you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri Md. Salim): Yes, it is a serious matter.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: The constitution of India guarantees equal rights and status to women, but the sociopolitical system of the country up till now has frustrated it. The number of female voters is a little less than the number of male voters in the country. During the last election, it was almost equal, about 5 per cent less than the male voters. The number of elected representatives has gone down over the years. In the 10th Lok Sabha, we had 44 women and now it is 39. During the last Lok Sabha elections, almost all political parties in their election manifestos had mentioned that they would give 33 per cent reservation to women in the State Legislatures and in both the Houses of Parliament, if they were voted to power. Fortunately for us, the United Front Government came into power. Our prime Minister, Mr. Deve Gowda, when he took oath, on the very first day announced that he was going to bring about this legislation and also the necessary Constitutional amendments related to it in this very first session i.e. the current session. Sir, through you, I want to implore upon the Prime Minister that the Bill is already ready. We have been told by the Law Minister and the H.R.D. Minister that the Bill has already been drafted. The Bill must be presented in this House and all the necessary Constitutional amendments should be brought about and the Bill must be passed before

the House closes for intersession on the 3rd of August. Thank you.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: All the vacancies in the Rajya Sabha may be filled up by ladhesr. We have no objection.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, I support this submission put up by Shrimati Kamla Sinha. We all know that in the male-dominated society, the women enjoy only the secondary position. She has to face discrimination in all walks of life. With the advent of freedom and the new Constitution, women were given equal right in political field — right to vote, right to fight elections and right to hold positions.

But in practice only a few women enjoyed the real political freedom and equality; and only a few women became MLAs, MPs, Ministers and enjoyed other posts. They proved no less than men and rendered remarkable service to the nation, holding important positions. We all know that the percentage of women in State Legislatures and Parliament is decreasing day by day. Those who are taken are taken as a token and mostly considered as show-pieces.

Now, women have become conscious about their rights and participation in public life. She wants her legitimate share as a responsible citizen in the judgement-making process, in the nation's administering and nation building process. That is why as a legitimate claim, women demand 33 per cent reservation in both the Houses of Parliament, State Legislatures and at all levels of the Government service. The demand is not to have reservation as a mercy or as a grace to women but as an equal partner to man in society.

There is a general consensus among all political parties and general masses for acceptance of women's political rights.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mrs. Patel, we have a long list on this subject. So, please try to be brief.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL: I will take only one minute.

On the other hand, women have successfully worked as parliamentarians and held responsible positions at the highest level as Ministers, as Prime Minister and as Governors. Nobody can deny the ability of a woman to participate in judgement-making process efficiently and independently during the 48 years of history of free India. She has proved to be a good parliamentarian.

Therefore, we request the Government to bring forward a Bill to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women in State Legislatures and in both the Houses of Parliament and in other Government organisations in this session itself.

It is a fact that in a male-dominated society it is difficult to contest elections against them. Looking to the social structure and man-mindedness, women candidates would be cornered and defeated. The blame would be put on the women for their inability to contest elections and as a result they would not be offered tickets.

In view of the situation prevailing in Our society, it is high time that women were allowed 33 per cent reservation in Parliament, State Legislatures and in the Government service.

The Congress Government has already implemented reservation for women at the Panchayat level; and our party is committed to extend the same to the State Legislatures, Parliament and in the Government service.

I am happy to say that the present United Front Government has already accepted reservation for women in their Common Minimum Programme. The BJP and other parties are also of the same opinion.

Looking to the general consensus in its favour, we recommend to the new Government and the Prime Minister to bring the Bill in this Budget Session itself and

get the Bill passed and provide women with an equal opportunity in the political life of the country. I thank you for having given me an opportunity to raise this subject.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to associate myself with the proposal. Since many points have been made by two previous hon. Members, I would not like to repeat them, but I have only two simple points to mention. Firstly, women, whichever class or caste or community they may belong to, have always been devalued in India and have been socialised into an inferiority complex. This is true of other countries as well, but that is not our concern. In Bengal there is an age-old proverb which encapsulates this devaluation. There must be similar proverbs in other languages as well. That is to say, a woman is a clot of clay, a lump of clay.

I will not enter either into the reasons for this-devaluation or the effects or the implications of this. I only argue that it is high time that this wrong is remedied and the abilities of the women are recognised. Secondly, Sir, women, in India particularly, have always exercised some influence in their families, particularly as mothers. But they have been denied political power. Political empowerment will ensure economic empowerment, promote educational opportunities inspire self-confidence and generate social awareness. Sir, I am happy to say that in West Bengal, more than 34 per cent women have been elected to the Panchayats. That is to say, the political participation and empowerment of women.... *(Interruptions)*....at the grass-root level has already begun. It is to be extended to the State and the national levels. We do not argue that reservation is a permanent policy. It can never be in any form. But we think that reservation is a necessary temporary measure to combat the existing disparities.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shrimati Chandra Kala Pandey. Please be brief. Other Members also want to associate.

**श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय (पश्चिमी बंगाल):** धन्यवाद। महोदय मैं स्वयं को वरिष्ठ संसद श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा द्वारा राष्ट्रहित के लिए उठाये गये इस महत्वपूर्ण सवाल से संबद्ध करती हूँ और उनकी भांग का पुर्ण समर्थन करते हुए संयुक्त मोर्चा सरकार से यह भी अनुरोध करती हूँ कि उन्होंने अपने संयुक्त संझ कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं को शीघ्र विधान सभाओं और संसद के दोनों सदनों में 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण देने का जो वादा किया है, वह इसी मॉनसून सत्र में पूरा करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम आजादी की स्वर्ण जयन्ती मनाने जा रहे हैं। पर अब तक केवल कागज़ पर समान अधिकार का कर न जाने कैसे संतुष्ट बैठे हैं। बहुत कम राज्यों में महिलाओं के लिए 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण की व्यवस्था है जैसे कि मेरे पूर्व कक्षाओं ने कहा। मुझे खुशी है मैं एक ऐसे प्रदेश से आती हूँ जहाँ पंचायतों से लेकर विधान सभाओं में यह किया जा चुका है और मैं केवल एक ही सूत्र यहाँ रखना चाहूँगी। राजनीतिक पदों पर महिलाओं के आरक्षण का अत्यधिक लाभ हमारी योजना निर्माण की प्रक्रिया पर पड़ेगा। समाज की इस शोषित, अव्यमानित इकाई के लिए उनकी विधि निर्माण में सहभागिता निस्सन्देह समाज की बहुमुखी प्रगति के लिए सहायक होगी। मैं अपने पुरुष संसद भाइयों और मित्रों से अनुरोध करना चाहूँगी कि वे इस पहल का स्वागत करें। वैसे तो हमें आधा आकाश मिलना चाहिये था...

**श्री सिकन्दर बख्त:** पूरा।

**श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडेय:** लेकिन एक तिहाई का भी स्वागत करेंगे। अंत में मैं यही कहूँगी—

रात रात फूल खिलेंगे

कांटे नया रुख लेंगे

आधा आकाश नारी को दो

रात रात ज्योतिष्क जलेंगे।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम):** वैसे तो पुरुष सदस्य भी हाथ उठा रहे हैं। मसला बहुत गम्भीर है, जरूरत भी है लेकिन आप लोगों ने पहले नोटिस नहीं दिया, महिलाओं ने पहले नोटिस दिया। इसलिए मेरे पास जो लिस्ट है पहले मैं उसे खत्म करूँगा, उसके बाद दूसरे सदस्य समर्थन करेंगे। (व्यवधान) वे हिस्सा मांग रही हैं, आप हिस्सा देने के लिए तैयार हैं।

**SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW DHURY (Andhra Pradesh):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir .....(Interruptions). If the gentlemen cannot speak, at least support us.

Sir, I do not want this issue to be trivialised into something that we are just seeking as power-mongers. I also do not want this issue to be reduced to that that we are having to ask, beg, plead with all of you to get what is our just due. I also want the sense of this House to remain sensitised to the factor that we are simply 50 per cent of this population. And the tragedy lies in that electoral manifestos make a cognizant effort to get votes of various sections of the society, but that women's vote is reduced to the last relevance. We talk about India taking a stand of nuclear autonomy, we talk about open economic reforms, we talk about level playing fields. That is all that we are asking for, a level playing field. We, who are 50 per cent of this population, are reduced to tokenism. We are displayed by every party manifesto as a finesse to show us, "We have given you, women", but not in the true sense of the word.

The Constitution says that it protects us from denigration as women. But there is no legislation which translates this protection into a reality and which enables us to know as to what our status in society is. That is why we have come to the tragedy of reservation so that we can protect this segment of society till we are given a level playing field, which is our just due. So, Sir, through you. I request the hon. Prime Minister, who is here, to take cognizance of what I say. Sir, the Telugu Desam Party was one of the pioneer parties in taking cognizance of the status of women by bringing about political reservation well before the concept of the United Front Government came forward. In order to enhance the status of women, we brought about amendment to the Hindu Succession Act which gave us coparcenary rights which enhanced our status in respect of our right to inherit our father's inherited

property and not just the earned property. That is a small step towards solving a big problem like this. If we have to tackle crimes against women, if we have to take cognizance of women as a rightful half of the society, if we have to empower women for decision-making about what is right for their lives and for themselves which is a fundamental principle of our democracy, which means Government of the people, by the people and for the people, then, Sir, we must be empowered in the Legislative Assemblies, we must represent women in the Parliament, where we will do what the people want us to do because we are the rightful half of this nation and we are as much as or as little the builder of this nation as the men of this nation are. It is sad that today we have to make a special effort to plead with all of you for our due. I crave your indulgence and I request the Prime Minister who, I know, is committed to this because it has been taken up in the Common Minimum Programme. I also take the opportunity at this juncture to say that we should make education free and compulsory for the girl-child which will bring women forward to be qualified to occupy posts at the highest level. Thank you.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA (ANDHRA PRADESH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is my good fortune to rise today to deliver my maiden speech in this august House. I have particularly two reasons to feel elated on this happy occasion. Firstly, I have the honour to participate in this democratic process of serving the people. Secondly, I represent the women of the country in Parliament which is the largest democracy of the world. Sir, though I have moved in different surroundings, my film profession has introduced me to almost all the sections in this great society. I feel one not really with the urban women, but in fact, with the rural counterpart. Sir, the several roles that I have done in my film career have really helped me to understand the trials and tribulations of women, their utter poverty and illiteracy and above all,

their suffering. But, what I find is that not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas, the man dominates in this society.

Sir, in India, women were confined only to the household affairs and their main function was to deliver children and look after their welfare and the welfare of the male members of the family. They had no role to play in managing the affairs of the country. Thus the role of woman was confined to household affairs. From time to time, some women came forward to start their career in almost all the fields. Women took up their role in army, air force, police and in administration as well. They have proved to be more capable than their male counterparts. For example, Shrimati Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kripalani, Vijay Laxmi Pandit, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and so on. They have shown that women could be the best bet not only in the household affairs but also in the international affairs.

The atrocities on women are still continuing in rural and backward areas. There is nobody to carry forward their fight in Parliament, legislatures, Panchayats and local bodies. All parties are only talking about women, but for the last 20 to 30 years only a few ladies have been able to become MPs and MLAs whereas the women population in India at present is more than 50 per cent. Therefore, it is high time that the Government invited all the national and regional parties to discuss the legislation providing reservation to women to the extent of 33 per cent in Parliament, Legislatures, Panchayats and all local bodies. This is the need of the hour.

Sir, I am, therefore, appealing, through you, to the Prime Minister that he should bring forward in the present Session itself the legislation providing 33 per cent reservation to women in all local bodies in the country. Thank you, Sir.

श्री (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): श्रीमती । करीब-करीब सब प्वाइंट कोल दिए गए हैं, आप केवल ऐसोसिएट कर दीजिए।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं ऐसोसिएट कर रही हूँ। आज जो कमला सिन्हा जी ज़ीरो आँवर के माध्यम से यह लाई है कि महिलाओं की राजनीति में 33 प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन दिया जाना चाहिए, मैं उसका स्वागत करती हूँ और होल हाऊस से अपील करती हूँ कि आज का दिन एक ऐतिहासिक दिन है जब महिलाएँ राजनीति के द्वारा राष्ट्र के निर्माण में अपने अधिकार चाह रही हैं। मैं एक छोटी सी बात कहूँगी, एक ही सेंसर में, इस संबंध में कि हमारे ऑनरेबल प्राइम मिनिस्टर जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, उन्होंने एक और घोषणा की थी कि वे महिलाओं को नौकरियों में भी 30 प्रतिशत रिजर्वेशन देंगे। तो मैं आज इस सदन के द्वारा यह भी अपील करना चाहूँगी कि वे भी महिलाओं को 30 परसेंट जॉब रिजर्वेशन दें सरकारी नौकरियों में। मैं सदन की यह भावना भी आज प्रधान मंत्री तक पहुंचाना चाहूँगी और कहना चाहूँगी कि इस पर भी विचार किया जाए।

श्रीमती मालती शर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज बड़े सौभाग्य का दिन है, प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां उपस्थित हैं और मेरी बहनों ने जिस प्रकार से महिला समाज के लिए यह मांग उठाई है, मैं यह समझती हूँ कि इसमें हमें कोई ऐतराज होना भी नहीं चाहिए। क्यों नहीं होना चाहिए वह मैं जानकारी देना चाहती हूँ। थोड़े से हमारे भाई इसलिए डरते हैं कि अगर महिलाएँ राजनीति में आ गई तो हमारा क्या होगा? लेकिन मैं एक स्पष्ट बात कह देना चाहती हूँ कि जितनी भी बहनें आज नौकरियां कर रही हैं, भारतीय नारी तो अपने में अपना एक विचित्र हृदय रखती है, वह दफ्तर के साथ-साथ अपने घर के काम-काज की जिम्मेदारी भी पूरी तरह से निभाती है। आपकी इस सभा के अंदर ही दफ्तरों में बैठी हुई जितनी भी बहनें काम करती हैं, उन सब बहनों की जिन्दगी के बारे में अगर हम जानकारी करें तो स्पष्ट हो जाएगा कि वे अपनी घरेलू जिम्मेदारियां निभाते हुए किस प्रकार से अपने दफ्तरों की जिम्मेदारियां भी निभाती हैं और मैं भाइयों से यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि जब तक आप पूरे समाज को जागृत करके छड़ा नहीं करेंगे तब तक भारतीय राजनीति में जिस प्रकार का शोषण समाज का हो रहा है, वह बंद नहीं होगा। आप हमें पूरी तरह से जागरूक करें। महिला और पुरुष कोई अलग चीज नहीं है, हम एक दूसरे के पूरक हैं, यह पूरा समाज एक दूसरे का पूरक है। जहां स्त्री

और पुरुष एक दूसरे के पूरक हैं, वहां यह पूरा समाज भी एक दूसरे का पूरक है। जब तक सम्पूर्ण समाज में हम जागृति नहीं लाएंगे, तब तक देश की राजनीति भी ठीक नहीं चलेगी। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगी कि इन सभाओं में जब आप महिलाओं को लाएंगे तो निश्चित रूप से आज जो यह तरह-तरह के किस्से महिलाओं के ऊपर अत्याचार के सुनाई देते हैं, वे बंद हो जाएंगे। अभी-अभी आपने देख लिया, आपने थोड़ी सी मेहरबानी हम पर की, आपने कई जो संस्थाएं हैं उनमें कुछ हिस्सा हमें दिया, महिलाएं बाहर निकलकर आई हैं, कितनी जागरूक हैं, कितना काम कर रही है और ईमानदारी से एक बात और कह देना चाहती हूँ कि यदि आप महिलाओं को बाहर ले आएं तो यह जो भ्रष्टाचार का मुद्दा है, यह स्वतः ही समाप्त होता चला जाएगा क्योंकि मेरी बहनें भ्रष्टाचार नहीं करतीं, भ्रष्टाचार की आदत भरे भाइयों को ज्यादा है।

इसलिए मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करती हूँ और प्रधान मंत्री जी से निवेदन करती हूँ कि वे इसी सत्र में इस बारे में एक बिल लाएं। धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (KARNATAKA): Sir, everything has been said by the other colleagues of mine. So, I do not want to say too much. The experiment of Panchayati raj which has brought out ten lakhs of women into elected positions in the local bodies is an example.....

...that given an opportunity women can contribute as well, if not better than men, in the political decision-making process. All that we are asking for is that now we should be given our place in the Assemblies and in the Parliament.

Sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister that he has made this as a common programme in the CMP which has been announced. I join the other Members in requesting him to see that this amendment, as he has promised us both inside the House and outside repeatedly, is brought in this session of Parliament as a tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of India's independence next month. We played an equal role in the freedom struggle and I think the greatest tribute that you could pay to the women of India is to see that this amendment is brought

in. All the parties are supporting this measure cutting across political lines. I think this should come in this session of Parliament so that you could say that you have done it as the first measure of the new Government with the support of all the parties in this House.

Sir, I would also like to add that, perhaps, while we are talking about increasing the representation of women, we would appeal to the Prime Minister to increase the representation of women in his own Government. There are very outstanding women, Sir. (Interruptions)... We are rather disappointed, Sir, that while you are talking about giving 33% representation to women in the Houses of Parliament, in your Government you have given a place only to one woman. I am sure, you can increase that because you have very capable women in your own party and in the supporting parties in both the Houses, who would do justice to the position.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, one minute. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): This is a very important issue. The whole House is one on this issue. (Interruptions)...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, a wrong impression should not go to the nation that it is only women who are supporting it. We all male Members also support it. That is all. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The whole House is supporting it. (Interruptions)... No, please. In the background of the question of discrimination raised by lady Members, I don't want to discriminate male Members. (Interruptions)... All male Members associate themselves with it. (Interruptions)... I would like to call the Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister, as the Government has made a commitment on this issue and as the CMP is there, I think you have to reply. (Interruptions)... The whole House is one

on this issue. (Interruptions)... The House is one.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA Let the Prime Minister respond. (Interruptions)...

मौलाना अबेदुल्ला खान आज़मी: सर, बहनों ने हर मसले पर भाईयों का साथ दिया है। भाईयों को भी कुछ बात कहने दीजिए बहनों के मसले पर।

†[مولانا عبید اللہ خان اعظمی: سر۔  
بہنوں نے ہر مسئلے پر بھائیوں کا ساتھ دیا  
ہے۔ بھائیوں کو بھی کچھ بات کہنے دیجئے  
بہنوں کے مسئلے پر۔]

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): पूरे हाऊस का सपोर्ट है। आप सबने सहयोग दिया है।

....(व्यवधान).....

SHRI M.A. BABAY (Kerala): Sir, I think it would be in the fitness of things, if a baby speaks representing all male Members. (Interruptions)...

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Babies are always counted with women. Woman and child go together.

SHRI M.A. BABAY: Sir, first of all, I want to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Margaret Alvaji. When we discuss the necessity of increasing the representation of women in the Assemblies and in the Parliament, I would also like to request the Prime Minister to make a beginning by inducting more lady Members in the Cabinet. I have a very practical suggestion. My party was repeatedly being requested to join the Government. But we have decided not to join. All those seats which are reserved for us by the Prime Minister may be considered for the induction of lady Members from those parties who are willing to participate in the Government.

Sir, secondly, when we discuss the issue, first of all, we should disabuse the mind of those who think that this is an issue concerning women only. This is an issue concerning the whole society. We

† Translation in Arabic Script

trying to correct a wrong which been perpetuated on women for dries together. I have heard in some discussion that this is a concession given to women. It is not. It is an inadequate compensation that the society is giving to women for the discrimination shown to them for centuries. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Mr. Baby, are you interested in giving their due share to women or consuming their time?

SHRI M.A. BABY: Sir, I am also happy to note that those who have been professing the philosophy "*na-sthri-swatantramarhati*" are also now coming forward to demand that women should be given their due share. Here I would like to mention one more point that some people think 3.3% reservation means only 33% reservation for them. Thirty-three per cent is the minimum.

As and when they are eligible and they are capable of being given more, it should be given. Sir, I mention this because in the State of Haryana a suggestion was made, I think a Government Order has come that it has fo be only 33 per cent in Panchayats and Zila Parishads. It has happened. Such atrocious things can happen in our society. So we have to be very careful about it. Shrimati Margaret Alva has mentioned that this should go as a tribute to the Indian women, their glorious role in the freedom struggle and their sufferings. Even when others struggled in the forefront, they had been carrying on a major struggle. So a timetable has to be worked out. At least, the Bill should be introduced before the Independence Day, I think there is general unanimity in the House among political parties. If it can be passed before the Independence Day. I will be the most happy person.

So far as Rajya Sabha is concerned, because there will be a practical question, I want to cite an example of the first Rajya Sabha. As per the Constitution,

one-third of the Members retire every two years. When the first Rajya Sabha was constituted, in order to effect this particular constitutional provision, lots were taken and one-third of the Members retired on the basis of lots. I suggest that the same practice can be followed if we want to evolve a better practice. With these observations, I thank you for having permitted me to speak.

SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Sir.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Everything has been covered.

SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): Sir, I will take only one minute. Sir, this 33 per cent or 30 per cent is also a discrimination on the part of men against women. When the population of women is 50 per cent, then why should it be 30 per cent or 33 per cent? There is no reason or ground for making it 33 per cent. Therefore, it should be made 50 per cent. Secondly, Why should it be done only in politics? I think they should be given equal rights in property also which will be really effective. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, let us not dilute what we are asking for.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): While associating myself with this issue I would like to remind the House that this is a tribute we are paying to late Rajiv Gandhi. It is he who introduced this mechanism in Parliament by bringing forth the Panchayati Raj Bill and the Nagar Palika Bill. We have made an international commitment. The former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, made a commitment at the Copenhagen Social Summit. During the last General Assembly of the UN—I also addressed the General Assembly—we made this commitment and it was well appreciated. So I fully support what my colleague has mentioned in this House and I request the Government to do it immediately. Thank you.

मौलाना अबुदुल्ला खान आज़मी (उत्तर प्रदेश):  
 सर, श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा जी अपने बयान के जरिए





**डा० बाई० लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: (आंध्र प्रदेश):** महोदय, मैं सदन का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ। संसद में महिलाओं को उचित प्रतिनिधित्व देने का जो सवाल उठाया गया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ। मैथिलीशरण गुप्त की यशोधरा में नारी का जो चित्रण है—

“अबला जीवन हाय, तुम्हारी यही कहानी,  
आंचल में है दूध और आंखों में पानी”

या फिर जयशंकर प्रसाद की कामायनी में जो चित्रण किया गया है—

“नारी तुम केवल श्रद्धा हो,  
विश्वास रजत पग नभ तल में,  
पीयूष स्रोत सी बह करो,  
जीवन के सुंदर समतल में”

इससे आगे बढ़कर महिलाओं को राजनीति में उचित प्रतिनिधित्व दिलाने का जो निर्णय किया गया है, इसके लिए मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी को और इस सदन को हार्दिक धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMADI): Sir, I rise to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Members of this House. I would like to mention that in Karnataka, in 1985, for the first time, we gave 25 per cent reservation for women in the Panchayats, municipalities and the corporations. Perhaps, India is the only country where reservation for women is thought of. I am not aware of any other country giving reservation for women. So far as this Government is concerned, our Prime Minister has already stated that he is committed to it. Our common Minimum Programme is also committed to it. I would like to inform the house that the Women and Child Department under me is already drafting the Bill and we are seeking the opinion of the National Women's Commission on this issue. The draft Bill would be sent to the Prime Minister's office and then to the Cabinet and action on this Bill is contemplated as early as possible.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI HD. DEVE GOWDA): Mr. Chairman, sir, very forceful and powerful arguments

were advanced unanimously by all sections of the House. I do not think there is any problem. The necessary amendment can be made in the current session itself after getting clearance" from both the Houses. I would like to say that all the political parties, if I am correct, have included in their manifestoes their commitment to provide reservation for women in the Assemblies and the Parliament. I have gone through the manifestoes of all the political parties. I mention this because there will be no hindrance so far as bringing about this amendment is concerned. That is why I made this clear. I would like to go one Step further. What have we done in Karnataka? We have given reservation for women even in the Government jobs. Even if we have 150 or 175 women Members in this House, it will not solve the problem. Let me be very clear on this issue. Don't be selfish. In Karnataka, we have taken a decision that 50 per cent of the teaching cadre will be reserved for women. The appointments have already been made. Twenty-three thousand teachers have been appointed out of which 11,500 posts have been earmarked for the ladies.

1.00 P.M.

The appointments have been made and they are now discharging their duties as teachers. In all other direct recruitments at the State level, in all the departments including the Police Department, I made a change in the recruitment rule for giving 30 percent reservation for ladies. So, I would like to assure this House that an amendment will be made not only in respect of Parliament and State Legislatures but also in respect of reservation in Government jobs, firstly, in the Central Government Jobs. Then, I will write to all the chief Ministers and if they are generous, let them also adopt the Karnataka method. This much of assurance I would like to give. I would also assure that in this Session itself, I will introduce a Bill and with your co-operation, also see to it that it is passed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD SALIM): It is a very welcome decision.

Now I adjourn the House for lunch till 2 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at one minute past one of the clock.

2.00 P.M.

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock.

[The Vice-Chairman (Miss Saroj Khaparde) in the Chair]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There are still two Zero Hour submissions. Shrimati Veena Verma.

**RE. DISCONTENT AMONG PEOPLE DUE TO NON-INCLUSION OF BILASPUR AS ONE OF THE SIX NEW RAILWAY ZONES PROPOSED IN THE RAILWAY BUDGET**

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया। मैं आपके द्वारा इस सदन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगी और रेल मंत्री जी की भी तबज़ह चाहूंगी कि हाज़ मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ इलाके में बिलासपुर में बहुत तनावपूर्ण स्थिति है क्योंकि अभी 16 तरीख को रेल मंत्री जी ने अपने बजट में भारतवर्ष में छह नए ज़ोन देने की घोषणा की और मध्य प्रदेश में जबलपुर के लिए एक नए रेलवे ज़ोन की घोषणा की जबकि बिलासपुर में रेलवे ज़ोन देने की एक बहुत पुरानी मांग थी और तब यह किया गया था कि जब कभी भी नया रेलवे ज़ोन दिया जाएगा तो बिलासपुर में दिया जाएगा। इसके बावजूद बजट घोषणा में रेलवे ज़ोन की प्रतिक्रियास्वरूप बिलासपुर पूरा बंद है।

शिक्षण संस्थाएं बंद हैं और उसके प्रतिक्रियास्वरूप 6 मंत्रियों ने इस्तीफा दिया हुआ है। पहले जब 15 जनवरी को घोषणा हुई थी कि बिलासपुर डिवीजन को तोड़कर मुख्यालय रायपुर ले जाया जाएगा, ऐसा आदेश दिया गया था तो उसकी प्रतिक्रिया में 15 और 16 जनवरी को करोड़ों रुपये की सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ था। स्टेशन जलाए गये थे, वैगन जलाए गए थे, रेलवे इंजन भी जलाए गये थे, करोड़ों रुपये की सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ था। बिलासपुर बहुत महत्वपूर्ण रेलवे स्टेशन है। यह हमारे देश का ओलडैस्ट डिविजनल

हेडक्वार्टर है तथा सउथ ईस्टर्न रेलवे का बहुत बड़ा हेडक्वार्टर है। बिलासपुर की जनसंख्या 38 लाख है और 76 सत्रह इसमें डिवीजन है। यहां खनिज पदार्थों का प्रचुर भंडार है। यहां से कोल, बाक्साइट, डोलोमाइट-बहुत से खनिज पदार्थ निकलते हैं। यहां पर कोरबा फ़ैक्टरी है और कोयले का प्रचुर भंडार यहां है। बिलासपुर डिवीजन सबसे ज्यादा रेलवे देने वाला डिवीजन है। एक दिन में यहां पर 8 हजार वैगन लोड होते हैं और 18 हजार वैगन लोड करने का यहां का रिकार्ड है। ऐसे पुराने ओलडैस्ट टिक्जोन को या हेडक्वार्टर को, जो कि पुरानी मांग है कि यहां पर रेलवे ज़ोन दिया जाए, उसको न मानकर जबलपुर के लिए घोषणा हुई है और हमारे पूर्व जो रेलवे मंत्री थे, सिंधिया जी थे, जाफर शरीफ जी थे, सबका आश्वासन था। बिलासपुर से बहुत से लोगों ने आकर यहां ऐंजोटेसन भी किया था, ज़ापन भी दिया था। मैं आज फिर इस सदन के द्वारा चाहूंगी कि एक आश्वासन मिले कि बिलासपुर को रेलवे ज़ोन दिया जाएगा। हमारे उस समय के प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरसिंहराव जी ने भी जब जनवरी में ऐंजोटेसन हुआ था, जब करोड़ों रुपये की सम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ था जो कि सौ करोड़ के करीब आंकी गयी थी, तब उन्होंने बीना स्टेशन पर एक फंक्शन में आश्वासन दिया था कि अगली बार बिलासपुर की जायज मांग को मान लिया जाएगा। मैं चाहती हूँ कि सदन के द्वारा मंत्री जी तक इस बात को पहुंचाया जाए और वाज़िब मांग को पूरा किया जाए। एक और मांग थी जो अभी तक पूरी नहीं की गयी है। सउथ ईस्टर्न रेलवे का ऑफिस जो कलकत्ता में है, उसको भी लाने की मांग बिलासपुर में थी, वह भी आज तक पूरी नहीं की गयी। रेलवे ज़ोन न देकर जो बिलासपुर पर अत्याचार किया गया है, उसके लिए मैं चाहूंगी कि सदन से इसकी स्वीकृति मिले और आदेश जारी है। मैं चाहूंगी कि मंत्री जी अपने बजट में इसकी घोषणा करें।

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: महोदया, मैं....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खपारडे): आप भी क्या अपने आपको संबद्ध करना चाहेंगे।

श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, अभी श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा जी ने बिलासपुर में रेलवे ज़ोन खोलने के बारे में जो वक्तव्य दिया है, मैं हमने आपको उससे संबद्ध करता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिलासपुर में रेलवे ज़ोन की मांग सबसे पुरानी है। यहां जन-आक्रोश फैले, इससे पहले ही सरकार सचेत हो जाए और नयी रेलवे ज़ोन की घोषणा करे। इसके लिए श्री भी अनिवार्य तथ्य है, वह सबे बिलासपुर में है