

LITE to create discurbance in the South has not only been recognised by a wide variety of people in South India, but also on this one issue, the United States Government also is on the same side as We are. They have fritten to Pakistan saying that wo have intelligence tr.lorma-Lion that the ISI and LTIE are going to create disorder in South India. Now I would like to know what the response of the Government is. I regret to say that, so far, the Government's response is very confused. In the Hazatbal incident, the people who were military men from Pakistan, who were caught by our people have been allowed to go back. This softness on the part of the Government in dealing with Pakistan is responsible for 'he growth of ISI and we, the country, should be told the whole truth. If we have to prepare for a war against Pakistan, let us do it, but we cannot allow this country to be penalised by ISI going to all nooks and corners of the country to create problems.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government should react.

Need to take steps for promoting and protecting women's rights and freedoms

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Madam, toady, the world observes "Inertnational Woven's Day". A woman is at once a mother, a nurse, a teacher, a friend and guide. She is at the core of a family. She thus Occu. pies a pivotal position in the society. But it is regrettable that in reality, she still remains dominated by the male counterpart. She is a constant victim Of acute discrimination and gross deprivation. In the Preamble of the Unfited Nations Charter, the people of the United Nations proclaim fheir determina:tion to reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of human person, &n the equal rights of men and women and of nations, large and small". The United Nations is committed to

me principle of equality of men and women, meaning equahty in their digrtity and worth as human beings as well as equality in their rights, opportunities and responsibilities. There are about thirteen U.N. international instruments, apart from the instruments of ILO and UNESCO, for the protection and promotion of the rights of women. The equality between men and women has to be universal and non-negotiable. And yet, this equality has constantly eluded our societies in diverse part of the world, and the equality of opportunity for women continues to be a distant goal. Discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity. It obstructs the welfare of the family and society. It prevents the participation of women on equal terms with men in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries and is an obstacle too in the full development of the potentialities of women. No wonder that even today an Equal Rights Amendment has not been passed in one of 'he most leading nations.

In our country, our Constitution forbids gender discrimination and recognises the equality between men and women. But the ground reality is just the opposite. Women continue to be oppressed. Our society continues to be male-dominated with the son-preference reigning supreme. The averag elife-span of a woman is longer than that of a man and the female population in most countries is larger than that of male population. In our country from 972 females to 1000 males in 1901, the figure has come down to 927 in the 1991 Census. A girl child is deprived of nutrition, education and even health care.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is gt a Zero Hour mention or a Special Mention?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: I am concluding. The female foeticide is still on the increase.

India every year, as many as 3.0 lakhs do not live to celebrate their 15th birthday. At least one out of six female deaths is caused by discrimination against the girl child.

An overwhelming percentage of our labour is in the unorganised sector. Half of them are women. They are not only discriminated in matters of pay and other conditions of service but are also subjected to sexual harassment and physical violence. Madam, the recent instance is of Nirmala which was quoted by Shrimati Jayan-lhi Natarajan. It appeared on the front page of every newspaper. We also suffer from the evils of child marriages, dowry deaths and rapes. There is a rape every 56 minutes in the country. All this is shocking.

Every field of female neglect needs urgent attention and its eradication. All this would need change of social attitudes and elimination of evil practices against women.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Can you be a little brief?

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: Madam, I will take only one minute.

We have taken a big leap by amending the Constitution to provide one-third reservation for women in all local self-governing bodies as also one-third chairpersons in these bodies. The process must go on.

Let us today rededicate ourselves to make women truly equal and independent.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, I have to make a Special Mention on the same (issue which is pending for the last three days).

Today, on the International Women's Day, I rise to make a brief survey of the status of women in

India. In India, while we continue to talk about the Fundamental Rights to equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, yet the fact remains that it is a male-dominated society and equality of status of women with men is nowhere to be seen, except in very limited areas of our social life.

Constitutionally women have equal political right to vote in elections and to contest elections to the Parliament, State Legislatures and other representative bodies. Yet, in practice, the representation of women in Parliament has never been more than just eight per cent or so. It was the highest during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime.

उपसभापति : वीणा जी, छोटा सा बोल लीजिए। आपका एसोसिएशन बहुत जल्दी है। बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट है, जितना थोड़ा आप बोलें।

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Madam, today is the International Women's Day. Please allow me to speak.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, I should be permitted to associate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you should be permitted, if everybody should be permitted, I have no problem. I have the constraint of time. If you want to speak a little longer, why don't you speak after the Prime Minister's reply?

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Madam, when men have been allowed to speak on Women's Day, kindly permit me also.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Socially speaking, women can hardly think of equality of status. Despite equality of status guaranteed by the Constitution, women continue to be an exploited lot. Stripping of a Dra-

padi in ancient days caused the Mahabharata but now stripping of women day in and day out hardly stirs the soul of the nation. Such strippings of women in public, in broad day light, only remains a talking point, with expression of anguish and sorrow but there is no penance for it. The nation often finds itself helpless even to punish the culprits.

Not a day passes without any report in newspapers about rapes, gang rapes, custodial rapes and child rapes, and rapes combined with murders of the victims. Cases of gide burning and other heinous crimes against women are rampant.

Many of the crimes against women go unnoticed and what comes to light is hardly the tip of the iceberg. (... Time bell rings...) Please give me one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have got many names. I have got 13 Special Mentions. I want to finish the by one o'clock. You should have some consideration for your colleagues, not for me. Whether you speak or somebody else speaks, I have no problem.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA; Status in the present-day materialistic world is invariably linked with economic status and security; and so is the status of women determinable with reference to their economic position, economic security and freedom from exploitation; which itself comes from their educational training; employment and their property rights. In regard to education and training, women are nowhere equal to their male counterparts, and in employment: women remain way behind. In this context, I have been consistently pressing for reservation for females in educational institutions, professional colleges and in training institutes and also for employment purposes. The Government too is persistent in assuring us that the matter is coexisting under its consi-

deration. In regard to property rights, women, particularly married women, find no place specifically amongst the Hindu married women. She has no right over the property or her husband while her moveable or immovable, during his lifetime. Unless she is widowed or deserted or divorced, she acquires no rights in the household of her husband. This is the main reason behind the numerous bride-burnings cases which have assumed alarming proportions.

SHRI IQUBAL SINGH (Punjab): I associate myself with this special Mention.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of us associate ourselves on this issue.

सब लोग इस ईशु पर एसोसिएट करते हैं। आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस है... (व्यवधान)...

एक माननीय सदस्य : मैडम, सत्या बहिन को जरूर मौका दीजिए।

उपसभापति : सत्या बहिन बोल चुकी हैं।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : मैं सिर्फ एक चीज और रिटार्ड कराना चाहती हूँ कि बढ़ता हुआ वॉल्यूम टी०वी० पर दिखाया जाता है, टी०वी० नेटवर्क और पिकचर्स में जो आक्सिडिटी, वल्लेगिटी, बढ़ रही है, इसको फौरन रोका जाना चाहिए। यह आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर कहना चाहती हूँ।

उपसभापति : आप पहले बोल देती।

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : एक और चीज मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि आज तक हमने सब क्षेत्रों में, हर विभाग में किसी न किसी नाम से सबकी उसके अच्छे काम के लिए पुरस्कृत किया है—टीचर हों, साइंटिस्ट हों, कलाकार हों, नाटककार हों, सबको पुरस्कृत किया है लेकिन हमें माँ की महत्व को कम करके नहीं देखना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं आज इस अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर यह भाग

कहेंगी कि आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर "राष्ट्रीय माँ" एक पुरस्कार वांछित किया जाना चाहिए। जब कोई भी मूव्वा फर्स्ट आता है तो उस पर उसकी माँ की मेहनत है, उस स्तर पर, हम उस आई-टेरिया पर एक माँ को भी पुरस्कृत कर सकते हैं, यह बात मैं इस सदन के सामने प्रस्तुत करना चाहती हूँ।

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY
(Uttar Pradesh): What about this—when acid is thrown to disfigure other women as was done by Ms. Jayalalitha in Tamil Nadu?

उपसभापति : प्लीज, सत्या बहिन, बस एसोसिएट कर दीजिए, भाषण मत दीजिएगा।... (व्यवधान)...

श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान (बिहार) :
उपसभापति जी, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ और कहना चाहता हूँ कि :—

नारियों पे जुल्म अब वाग्वाराना होगा,
कह दो जनाने से कि कल हमारा होगा।

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति जी, आज अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस है, इस संबंध में मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि यहाँ सदन में काफी लोगों ने इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं। मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध करना चाहती हूँ कि आज महिला दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में हम लोगों ने जो अखबार देखा है और उन्हें जो शर्मनाक बात देखने को मिली है एक 13 वर्षीय बालिका के साथ, इसमें एक संदेश जाना चाहिए, कल ही यह मिलना चाहिए कि जो लोग इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं और जिन्होंने उसकी रिपोर्ट नहीं लिखी, उनको सस्पेंड करना चाहिए और मुझे इस बात का संदेश माना चाहिए कि हमारा सदन और हमारी सरकार इसमें अत्यंत गंभीर है।

दूसरी बात, महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस में हम सबको सोचना पड़ेगा कि जिस तरह से महिलाओं को एक भोग की वस्तु माना जाता है और जिस तरह से उनका अपमान

किया जाता है कदम-कदम पर, मैं समझती हूँ कि इसमें ज्यादा सननाक बात और कोई नहीं हो सकती। मैं मान करती हूँ कि भारतीय दंड संहिता में संशोधन कर विशेष प्रावधान करना चाहिए कि महिलाओं पर होने वाले अपराधों के खिलाफ कठोर तरह को दिखाई और कारागारों नहीं बरती जाएगी।

इसके साथ ही एक और बात कहना चाहती हूँ कि मीडिया के माध्यम से जो गान और अश्लील प्रदर्शन होता है और विज्ञापन, चाहे किसी चीज का विज्ञापन हो, महिलाओं का उससे कोई संबंध न हो, तब भी महिलाओं का उसमें दर्जा जाता है। मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि सक्षम कला, इस कृत्य का आध्यात्मिक कृत्य समझकर सरकार कारवाई करे। इससे महिलाओं का मान और सम्मान बरकरार रहेगा।

उपसभापति : बस हो गया, आगे बात चुकी है।

Don't raise your hands for every Special Mention just because you are a women, This House does not discriminate between men and women.

Publication of a map showing Kashmir as a separate country

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh):
Madam when Pakistan is trying to grab Kashmir by various means and the whole nation is very much concerned on this issue, we find that there are some people who want to give it away to Pakistan or take it away from India. I have with me a map published in recent publication in Kerala. It is a publication by name Islamic Encyclopaedia which was recently published in Calicut. In this publication they have published map. In this map, we will find that Kashmir has not been shown as a part of India but it has been shown as a separate country just like Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc. This has been published by a Private publisher in Calicut. Though it is by private