

[Shri John F. Fernandes]

discriminate against any community, against any religion. But it is a good law to protect the social fabric and the family unit of our country.

I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister and request him earnestly to include the salaried people also. They are the lowest income bracket people. They are mostly employees of the Government and other industrial units. I think it will be unjust on the part of the Finance Minister to exclude them. When the Finance Minister brings an amendment to the Income-Tax Act this year, I would request him to see that section 5A, sub-section 2 is excluded so that there is no disparity under this law. Thank you, Madam.

Reported speech of Railway Minister at the inauguration of Shatabdi Express in Mysore

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Vice-Chairperson, my special mention is in respect of the unwarranted uncalled for, unnecessary and out of place speech made by the Union Railway Minister, Mr. C. K. Jaffer Sharief on the 9th of this month in Mysore when he inaugurated the Shatabdi Express. Madams, it is very unfortunate that unnecessarily, at the fag-end of his speech, he made a remark which hurts the feelings and sentiments of the people of the entire Tamil Nadu. He has stated:

"Madras wants Cauvery to flow towards it. So, I have made Madras come to Cauvery and drink Cauvery water to its heart's content and return."

This is the remark made by him at the inauguration of the Shatabdi Express between Madras and Mysore. It is unwarranted unnecessary and out of place. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): It is very unfortunate.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: The problem of Cauvery is a problem of life and death for the people of Tamil Nadu; not just the people of two districts, Thanjavur and Trichy, but of the entire Tamil Nadu.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): It is denied by the Minister.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: He may say that he has stated it in a lighter vein or in humour. At the cost of the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Minister has no business to comment like this, even in a lighter vein. (Interruptions).

Yesterday, when I tried to raise this matter in the Zero Hour, our hon. Deputy Chairman did not permit me. She said that she would call for the Minister and he would come and give some explanation. He came yesterday to the House. But before the Zero Hour, he went away. However, he has given a reply to the hon. Chairman in writing. I quote the reply:

"During the function of inaugurating the Shatabdi from Mysore to Madras via Bangalore, I said that Tamil Nadu is keen on Cauvery water. Sometimes Madras goes without drinking water. We, the Railways, carry drinking water. Now With this Shatabdi, people who come from Madras to Mysore as tourists can drink plenty of Cauvery water to quench their thirst. Nothing more than this. This was in humour."

Madam, he should not have said this even in humour. While inaugurating the Shatabdi Express, he had no business to make humour at the cost of the people of Tamil Nadu. It is highly unwarranted. How is the Prime Minister having such a Minister in his Cabinet? The Minister comes from Mysore. He should have minded his language and should not have ventured to have humour by hurting the feelings of the people of the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu. Ma-

dam, is this a matter for humour? He should come to the House and apologise for this. Or, he should resign.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I want to associate myself with what Mr. Ganesan said. The hon. Union Minister's remarks in this regard are extremely unfortunate and are in very bad taste. Cauvery is a problem of life and death for Tamil Nadu. If the Members of the Union Cabinet are going to treat it as a joke, I am sorry, the people of the State of Tamil Nadu are feeling badly hurt. Cauvery is no joke for us. It is a matter of life and death for the people of Tamil Nadu. I condemn the remarks of the hon. Minister.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: He is always making critical remarks. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Madam,....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I am not going to allow a discussion on this. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Madam, it is high time the Centre respected the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu and came forward to have the interim orders of the Cauvery Water Tribunal implemented. Otherwise....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Madam, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*). I am on a point of order. It takes precedence.

Madam, there are rules and provisions. If any Member wants to make any allegation against any Minister or any other Member, he should give a notice in advance. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Yes, he has given.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu): He gave notice. And the Railway Minister has also given a reply.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Madam, I do not know how the point of order is answered by these Members. The point is between the Chair and the Member. If there is no point of order, the Chair is free to rule it out.

My objection is, if any Member wants to make any allegation against any Minister or any Member, he has to give a notice in advance. I only request you to find out if there was a notice in advance. If there was no notice, all that was spoken should be expunged. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, there was a notice. And, the Special Mention has been allowed by the hon. Deputy Chairman. Nothing can be expunged.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: The Special Mention itself is the reported speech of the Railway Minister on the occasion of...(*Interruptions*). Tamil Nadu is also a part of India. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shrimati Mira Das.

Central Assistance to Orissa for Development of Infrastructure in the promotion of Tourism

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS (Orissa): Madam Vice-Chairman, I express my thanks to you for giving me this opportunity to raise my demand before the Minister of Tourism to provide necessary infrastructural facilities, financial assistance and speedy clearance of the projects by the Government.

Madam, tourism is one of the foremost economic activities of the world. I want the Government to realise that