

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The Sugar-Cane Amendment Bill, 1994—Dr. Naunihal Singh—not present.

The Farm Produce Price Fixation Authority Bill, 1994—Dr. Naunihal Singh—not present.

The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill,
1994—

Dr. Naunihal Singh—not present.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1994 (to amend article 324)—Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya—not present.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1994 (to amend the Eighth Schedule)—Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya—not present.

THE FOREIGN AIDS FUND OF INDIA BILL, 1994

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE (Maharashtra): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to monitor the foreign aids and matter connected therewith.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1994 (to amend article 348)—Shri Satish Pradhan—not present.

THE PREVENTION OF INFLUX OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE COUNTRY BILL, 1991—*Contd.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We now take up the further consideration of the Prevention of Influx of Foreign Nationals in the Country Bill, 1991. Unfortunately, the mover of the Bill, Shri Krishan Lai Sharma, is not here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) Madam. I can reply now

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: I would like to know from hon. Members whether anybody would like to speak on this Bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let the Minister reply.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, the mover of the Bill is absent. The Bill would lapse.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): On 13th May, 1994, when the Bill was last discussed, Shri Md. Salim was on his legs; he had not concluded his speech. But he is not here. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: On a point of order, Madam. The mover of the Bill is not present. What is the point in debating this Bill? The mover of the Bill has to move the Bill for passing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I would like to request the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI JAGESH DF.SAI (Maharashtra): No. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam Vice Chairman, Shri Krishan Lai Sharma moved this Bill on 29th April, 1994. While moving the Bill, he mentioned about the problem of influx of foreign nationals into the country. Madam, from the Government side, we have been answering questions on this subject. We have been saying that Government is fully aware of the problem, that we are aware of the complexities and dimensions of the problem and that we have taken all possible steps to check the influx of foreign nationals into the country, particularly, Bangladeshi nationals.

There are two ways in which we can check such influx. One is having the physical barrier to stop the influx of foreign nationals. Then, gearing up the administrative machinery to such a degree that you are able to prevent the entry of these persons, *i.e.* the infiltrators.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the steps, the Government has taken.

We have intensified patrolling by the Border Security Force, apart from the strengthening of its Water Wing. Then, we have taken up the accelerated construction of the border roads as well as fencing, at an estimated cost of Rs. 831 crores. The scheme is for constructing 2,784 kms. of border roads and 896 kms. of fencing by March, 1996. This is a major task we have taken up and I am very happy to inform the House that the progress is quite satisfactory. Wherever there is any delay in any particular portion, we are monitoring it and putting pressure so that the work is expedited. Therefore, this is a major task we have taken up—erecting fencing and constructing border roads—so that patrolling could be much more effective.

We have also strengthened the measures to prevent infiltration by foreign nationals. We have also a Mobile Task Force scheme. Madam, I would like to point out that effective steps have been taken to monitor the situation and to prevent the influx of foreign nationals.

Then, Madam another scheme is the issue of identity cards to the people residing in the border areas. This scheme has helped us a lot and we have been able to detect many people in this way. It has been a successful operation.

Similarly, we are also strengthening the visa issue system so that we know about it, so that we are aware of the position. We would be able to check the influx of persons who come into our country with the help of fake visas.

With these steps, there is control and as I said earlier...

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): What is the extent of fencing?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The fencing target is about 896 kms. The target date for completing this work is March, 1996. We are monitoring it, in consultation with all the concerned States. My colleague, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev, who comes from one of these border States has always been saying that things are now moving in a proper manner. I hope...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): It is not moving. (*Interruptions*)

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Have you identified the reasons for this sort of influx from across the border?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, a Bill incorporating a scheme for issue of identity cards in the border States was introduced in Parliament in the last Winter Session. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Home. The Standing Committee had made certain recommendations which are now under the consideration of the Government I am sure, with these effective steps the Government has taken, the problem would be tackled. We have also the diplomatic channel where by taking it up with the neighboring country, this problem could be sorted out. Recently there have been meetings between the Home Secretaries and at the Foreign Secretaries' level also. I am very sure that with cooperation at the diplomatic level and very effective measures, the ground situation will improve. As I have said, we are concerned about it and we are working in the direction where this influx would be stopped so that the economic conditions of our brothers and sisters living in those far-flung areas are not disturbed and hampered by this influx.

With these words, Madam, I feel that this Bill should be withdrawn because the Government is already taking the necessary steps. There are no points, which have been mentioned by the hon. Member, which have not been covered by the Government. If he feels that there is any point which is not in line, we would certainly cooperate with him. Therefore, Madam, I appeal to the House that the BUI may be withdrawn.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, the hon. Minister has mentioned about identity cards for the border areas. Are these cards going to be similar to the election identity cards which Mr. Seshan is planning to print?.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As I have said, the intention behind the identity cards for border areas is different from the intention behind the identity cards in other parts of the country for election purposes.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I had participated in the discussion on the Bill, and I would like the hon. Minister to clarify two points. The Minister has briefly intervened, not replied to the Bin. Firstly, from Myanmar and Bangladesh, there is large-scale infiltration

of foreigners into our territory, into Tripura, Assam and other border States. From Pakistan also intrusion is taking place and a lot of Pakistanis are entering Jammu and Kashmir. I know that the Government of India is taking all possible steps. Now there, is also distorted information—I don't know how far it is correct. The information is that in the border areas of Kashmir, Pakistani currency is in circulation and it is being accepted by the people. About infiltration of people, the Government of India took up the matter with the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, and they agreed to take the people back. Though it is more than two to three years, nothing has been moving in that direction. Those people have not gone back to their own territories. They have been saying that they fear for their lives, that if they go back, they will be killed. That is their apprehension. The hon. Minister is now suggesting identity cards, fencing, intensive patrolling and all such things. Now, there is an escalation in the entry of foreigners into Tripura. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what concrete steps he is going to take, because it is a burden on the people living there. In fact, I also told the hon. Minister that how such a situation has developed there that people living in Bangladesh on the border come to Tripura, work there and go back in the evening. It has become an unmanned border there, I myself saw it. Marriages are taking place in the adjoining villages of Bangladesh and India. Relatives are living there on both sides of the border. This is what is happening there. So, how are you going to stop it? Let the hon. Minister give a concrete proposal of what he is going to do.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, it is a fact, which you will know if you see the geographical conditions there. My colleague, the hon. Member from Pondicherry, has gone there. Take, for example, Tripura or Meghalaya. It is a fact that the customs and other things are so common there that geographically it is very difficult to man the whole border. There are hills and terrain is very difficult. I totally agree with you that sometimes the agricultural land is so situated that on the same land, on one side the Bangladesh farmer is working and, on the other, the Indian farmer is working.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Bangladesh labourers come and work in India and go back in the evening.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree with you, I am not denying that fact. Sometimes the farmers go from one side to the other and they exchange seeds also. I do not deny that. We know those problems. The maximum we could do is fencing, so that, gradually it is stopped. The other point which he has mentioned and which is causing more worry to the nation is that through these tracts insurgency has been increasing. Of course, influx of foreigners is one problem but, in addition, insurgency is getting so much of boost through these routes, which we have tried to check. We have formed task forces, and they will stop the influx of foreigners and also work against insurgency.

That is why, as I have said earlier in my speech, recently we have started a coordination centre at Shillong where movements on the border will be monitored by the cohesive body which will be in touch with all the Chief Ministers and the Directors-General of Police. What was happening there? Today there is a problem in Meghalaya. By the time the problem reaches Manipur, Manipur is not aware of it. Now we have taken a decision that any happening on the border should be known to all the seven States so that all the States can coordinate and stop this menace in the near future. So, efforts are on. It is a very complex problem. I totally share the concern of the hon. Member, but it is very difficult to say today itself that this will be stopped by such and such year because somehow or other the culture and the local traditions have been such. I have gone to Meghalaya for delivering an election speech. After my speech, some people walked out from the meeting. I asked where they were going. I was informed that they were going to Bangladesh. It has happened. I do not deny this fact. It has happened. The border is so porous. But, if I am not mistaken, I am talking of 1986 or 1987.

After that, a lot of steps have been taken now. Things have become more tight. Fencing has come up there. Checking and everything else has been started. Initially, there was some lacuna in the border system, which we have

been able to correct now. Earlier the Border Security Force was given an area which was vague, but now we have given them sectors, and they are guarding them properly.

I have noted the concern of the hon. Member. We will further see what possibly can be done, and we will see that this problem is eliminated from that area.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Madam, I am satisfied with what the Minister has said about the steps taken by the Government to stop the influx, but I am on a different point.

Madam, the world today does not have super-power politics. It is moving towards a unipolar system. The Berlin Wall was demolished. The whole Europe is thinking of becoming one. Having that end in view, in our foreign policy we have reached a stage when we are having more understanding with the neighbouring countries through Organisation like SAARC. Under these circumstances, the problem is not one of influx from one country to the other. From that angle, what I want to say is that it is a problem of regularisation. I want to know whether this influx can be regulated and whether we have the machinery to regularise and to regulate the movement. If it is a fact that they are coming and going that in the morning people from Bangladesh come to the bazaar on the border of Indian territory and go back, in the evening—Narayan Das has mentioned about marriages and all that—what we need is to regulate this movement. Is the Government of India thinking of regulating the movement of foreigners inside the border? I want to know this from the Hon'ble Minister.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, as I have said, we are trying on many fronts. I have mentioned about the diplomatic channels. There is movement of people from our country to Bangladesh. People go and come. There is a way of coming, and there is a way of going. There is a legal way of going. The intention was brought out in this Bill. There is the influx of foreigners coming to our side. It is a fact that the economic conditions on our side of the border are much better than those on the other side. It is a fact that there is attraction. My hon. colleague said that the people might be coming to the bazaar. As I have said, there is a way of handling it.

I am sure that at the border post there is some system. It is not that we are totally inimical to each other. We are a very peace-loving country. Our democratic principles have been such that we help each other. Ours is an affectionate country to our neighbours. There is a way of going and coming. There is the police outpost, through which people can come and go. When we detect some people, we hand them over to the police at the outpost in the border, and they go away to their places. That system is available.

I think, what the hon. Member is trying to say is that it should be regulated in a more proper manner. I will certainly keep this point in mind to regulate the system. If there is any weakness in the regulation of the system, we shall improve that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think, two or three more hon. Members will make their observations, and the Minister may reply to all the three Members together.

SHRI B.B. DUTTA: In order to solve any problem, the cause must create problems have to be identified first and then they have to be attacked: I find there is extreme reluctance on the part of the Government of India to go to the root of the problem. Why is there a steady migration from Bangladesh? You have to see things in a historical perspective. The minorities are very much unsafe there. Twice I have spoken in this House saying that the minorities in Bangladesh today find that their property is not safe, their women are not safe and they do not have any economic opportunities there. From the North-East Congress Coordination Committee we in our reports have given a graphic picture of the whole situation. Do you expect that the minorities will not come gradually when they know their daughters and their wives are not safe? What has the Government of India been doing? Why this reluctance to talk to Bangladesh about this problem? We have a right to talk.

Secondly, Muslims are also migrating into India. It is because Bangladesh is becoming poorer and poorer. Whatever the Bangladesh official statistics say, it is one of the poorest countries of the world. There is a tremendous

explosion of population there. From a relatively poorer country people will migrate to a relatively richer country. North-East may be poorer compared to the rest of India, but it is still richer than Bangladesh. That is why the people have been migrating. To say that you will fence the entire 2,000 kilometre Bangladesh and Burma border is nothing but a wild talk. You cannot do that. There has been opposition from the North Eastern States and small States. We do not want friendship. I remember some of the Opposition leaders and tribal leaders have come out through various platforms because they want border trade with Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a huge market. In Bangladesh also they want trade with us. Clandestine trade and smuggling is going on. Will you be able to stop the natural flow of forces? You cannot. So, the Government of India should not talk about this.

The other day I pointed out in the House why there is a Vested Property Act in operation in Bangladesh. After Bangladesh became free, why in their property rights they have been changing the tides. The vested Property Act is in operation there. A lot of Muslim intellectuals, including a former Chief Justice of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, have written about the plight of the minorities there, about how their properties are being snatched away. Today, Bangladesh is in the process of surveying the property. They are now going to allot these properties to the Muslims after taking them away from the minorities. This is going on and the Government of India is keeping silence! What is the External Affairs Ministry doing? If you continue like this, I am telling you, Mr. Home Minister, there will be insurgency in the North-East on a wider scale.

SHRI JOHN F. FERN ANDES: Madam, I feel there is a flow of nationals from Bangladesh into India and vice-versa because of the economic activities. I think India stands to gain by this because labour is cheaper in Bangladesh. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to react whether they have some work permits, whether genuine people who are going to earn their daily bread by working in India should be permitted into India or not. It is a human problem. You cannot totally stop them. The Government should provide them some work

permit. There should be a fool-proof system to see that insurgents do not take advantage of that channel. I would only request the hon. Minister to react to that because this type of system is prevalent even in the Middle East. We have seen this with Israel and Palestine. Though they have a boundary problem, this system is continuing because this is a human problem.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह विधेयक लाने के पीछे मंशा तो कुछ और थी क्योंकि यह राजनीतिक रंग में लाना चाहते थे। पर अब जब यह चर्चा हो रही है और मंत्री महोदय ने कुछ सवाल के जवाब दिए हैं, मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि बाईर एरिया में एक एग्रीमेंट होता है कि पांच किलोमीटर इधर और पांच किलोमीटर उधर हैड लोड सामान ले जाकर बेचा जा सकता है। फिर पर जितना सामान उठाकर एक क्रिस्तन लेकर भारत की टैरिफ्री में आकर बेच सकता है पांच किलोमीटर अंदर तक बाजार में वह बेचकर आप को लौट जाता है, उसी तरह हमारे आदमी पांच किलोमीटर अंदर तक बर्मा के और बंगला देश के अंदर तक जाते हैं हैड लोड बेजिटेबल, फिश्, मीट और एगज़ यह सब ले जाकर उधर भी बेचते हैं यह परमीशन है, पर उसी परमीशन के तहत और भी बहुत से काम होते हैं। महोदय, इस आने-जाने के नाम पर आपको मैं एक खबर देना चाहता हूँ कि बांग्लादेश की बाईर के थू लाखों की तदाद में हिंदुस्तान की गाय और भैंस सप्लाई हो रही हैं। महोदय, वहां हैदराबाद में जब मीट प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट बंद करने की कोशिश की गयी या अल-कबीर नामक एक नया प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट बंद किया गया और वहां के स्लाटर हाउसेस बंद किए गए तो मीट और बोफ की ग्लफ कंट्रीज की रिक्वायरमेंट को पूरा करने के लिए बांग्लादेश में फैक्ट्री लग गयी। किंतु उसका रा-मटेरियल साठ-कम-साठ वहां से जाता रहा। सुबह भैंस चराने और गाय चराने के नाम पर बाईर के उस तरफ 5 किलोमीटर ले जाते हैं, पर वे गाय-भैंसे वापिस नहीं आती और कभी जी.टी. रोड पर या जो रास्ते बांग्लादेश की बाईर की तरफ जाते हैं वहां पर कभी चैकिंग की जाये या बिहार के रास्ते जो बांग्लादेश के बाईर पर जाते हैं, वहां चैकिंग की जाये तो कई हजार गाड़ियां सिर्फ मनेक्सी लादकर रोज-व-रोज ले जायी जाती हैं। महोदय, यह वहां हो रहा है। दूसरे वहां पर ईलिसा मछली या हिल्सा मछली जिसके बंगाल और बिहार के लोग खाते हैं, वहां की पद्मा नदी की हिल्सा मछली बहुत फेमस मछली है, उस मछली के लिए इधर वह नमक और प्याज खरीदने के लिए आते हैं और वह इंदौरियर से लेकर, बिहार के कैंपिटल और कलकत्ता

तक उपलब्ध है। तो यह सब होता है, यह ट्रेड चलता है, किंतु इस ट्रेड के नाम पर क्लेडेस्टइन वे में जो और गतिविधियां चलती हैं, उस पर रोक लगाने के लिए गृह मंत्रालय क्या कर रहा है?

महोदया, जैसाकि डा. दुता ने कहा बांग्लादेश एक गरीब देश है और वहां गरीबी के कारण लड़कियां यहां पंजाब, हरियाणा और राजस्थान में बेची जाती हैं जहांकि लड़कियों का अभाव है। वहां के लोग सादी करके उन्हें घर में रखे हुए हैं। वह यहां से आग बिक्री हैं जोकि बांग्लादेश से लायी जाती हैं। वहां से लड़कियां हमारे यहां इन तीन राज्यों और पश्चिमी उत्तरप्रदेश में लायी जाती हैं। तो इस बारे में क्या किया जा रहा है? महोदया, वह विशेषक तो इसलिए लाया गया था कि वहां से आनेवालों को कैसे रोकना जाये क्योंकि ये लोग अब आते हैं तो यहीं अन्नकर बस आते हैं, उनको रोकने के लिए आप कैसे रास्ता निकालेंगे, यह बचाने की कृपा करें?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam Vice Chairman, as I said earlier, it is a very complex problem. I do share the feeling of the hon. Member, Dr. Dutta. He said that we are not reaching the root cause of the problem. We know the root cause of the problem. That is why we feel the problem is a complex one. We have taken up the matter at the diplomatic level. In fact, the economic condition of Bangladesh is not as good as on this side of our border. This is one of the temptations for the people across the border to cross over to our side.

Regarding the condition and constitutional rights of the minorities and their legal rights, he has mentioned. I will certainly take up the matter with the Ministry of External Affairs. I will convey the sentiments of the hon. Member to them. I am really not in a right position to answer his question. But I am sure the Government has taken up the matter with the Bangladesh authorities. I know that the Government has made some efforts in this direction. We have friendly relations with that country. We can discuss this problem with them in a cordial atmosphere.

He has also suggested that we should take the advantage of the cheap labourers in Bangladesh. As you know, Madam, we have big unemployment problem in our country. I do not think that availability of cheap labour would be an attraction to us. We cannot allow the

influx of labourers from that side to our side. Traditionally, there has been some utility for each other's talent at the borders. As I said earlier, at the border outposts, we have some system where people could come, meet and go to exchange their goods. My friend, Mr. Ahluwalia wanted to know how much quantity of trade is being allowed on the borders. I do not have the correct information. It is a fact that on the borders, there are some belts which have excessive trade from both sides as we have on our border with Bhutan. Myanmar and Bangladesh border also must be only five kilometres away from there, as he has mentioned. He has also mentioned that cows and other animals are being taken away to Bangladesh for slaughtering and for being imported to other countries. I will certainly check on this. He also mentioned about girls being brought from that part to these two or three States. I do not have very reliable information. But I have read in newspapers that it took place somewhere in Muzaffargarh. I will certainly look into all these problems he has mentioned. If there is any truth in it, I will certainly take action. It is not correct. We shall not allow it to happen on our borders. As I mentioned, we are concerned about the forest nature of the border. We have taken many steps. We are in the process of tightening our borders.

That is all I can say at this stage. I have noted the concerns of hon. Members about the borders, especially in the North-East. Keeping in view the insurgency in the North-East, the Government will not leave any stone unturned and will take all the steps necessary in this respect.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Miss Saroj Khaparde): Now Shri' Krishan Lai Sharma is not present in the House to reply. I would like to ask hon. Members whether we should go ahead with the Bill.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I would ask the House to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: The mover of the Bill is not here. So it lapses.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Miss Saroj Khaparde): Hon. members, now I would put the motion for consideration of the Bill to vote.

The question is:

That the Bill to check, unauthorised entry of foreign nationals p the country into and for their deportation to the countries of their origin and formatters connected therewith be. taken into consideration.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Miss Saroj Khaparde): Now, we shall take up the Married Women (Protection of Rights) Bill, 1994, Shrimati Veena Vienna.

THE MARRIED WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) BILL, 1994.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): madam, I beg to move:

That the Bill to protect the rights of a married woman and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, 6 वर्ष की लम्बी प्रतीक्षा के बाद मेरा यह गैर सरकारी विधेयक मुझे इस सदन के माध्यम से सरकार के सम्मुख रखने का मौका मिला है, इसके लिए मैं आपकी आभारी हूँ।

महोदया, महिलाओं के बारे में ख्यात करना किसी भी देश की आधी जनसंख्या के बारे में बात करना है, तो आज हम इस सदन में, सर्वोच्च सदन में, इस देश की आधी जनसंख्या, जो महिलाएँ हैं, उनके बारे में सोचने, विचारने के लिए खड़े हैं। स्वतंत्रता प्राप्ति के उपरान्त भारतीय महिलाओं ने न केवल स्वयं अपना स्थान पहचाना है बल्कि पुरुष को भी महिलाओं का स्थान पहचानने के लिए विवश किया है, लेकिन भारतीय समाज में उनका स्थान अभी तक गौरवशाली और सुरक्षित नहीं कहा जा सकता। यद्यपि हम 20वीं शताब्दी से 21वीं शताब्दी में प्रवेश करने जा रहे हैं, फिर भी महिलाओं के प्रति हमारा दृष्टिकोण अभी तक मध्य-युगीन सामन्तों जैसा है। आज पुरुष जिस स्वतंत्रता का भुक्त रूप से आनन्द ले रहा है, वही स्वतंत्रता हम महिलाओं को देने को तैयार नहीं हैं। कहा जाता है, "पति हो देवे नारिणः" अर्थात् नारी के लिए पति ही परमेश्वर है; पति के अलावा उसका कोई और देवता नहीं है, पति को प्रसन्नता से बढ़कर दूसरा कोई स्वर्ग भी नहीं है। नारी को पुरुष और परमात्मा के अधीन लाने का यह अचूक तरीका है। मैंने जो यह विधेयक, गैर सरकारी विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया है संसद में, इसके पीछे खासतौर से उद्देश्य मेरा यह है कि आज स्त्री का अपने पति द्वारा शोषण किए जाने का

वास्तविक कारण यह है कि उसे अपने पति के घर में कोई अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं है। उसे अपने पति की सम्पत्ति पर कोई अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं है। हमारे कानून में उसके पति की मृत्यु के बाद ही स्त्री को सम्पत्ति का अधिकार प्रदान करता है, परन्तु पहले नहीं। यदि स्त्री का विवाह होते ही उसके पति की सम्पत्ति में उसका अधिकार स्वीकार कर लिया जाए तो अपने-आप को वह सुरक्षित महसूस करेगी और अपनी निरश्रयता और असुरक्षा की भावना पर काबू पा सकेगी। ऐसा करने से अलग होने और विवाद-विच्छेद की घटनाएँ बहुत कम हो जाएंगी। क्योंकि यह बहुत से मामलों में इसका कारण आर्थिक होता है। विवाह विच्छेद होने पर उसे जो कुछ मिलता है, समाज को चाहिए कि उसकी मंजूरी उसे वैवाहिक जीवन में ही उसे दे दे। यह स्त्री का सबसे बड़ा अपमान है कि पति की हिस्सेदारी होते हुए भी पति उससे सलाह करना तो दूर अपनी वित्तीय तथा पारिवारिक लेन-देन की सूचना भी उसे देना अवश्यक नहीं समझता। इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य महिलाओं को कतिपय अधिकार दिलाकर उपयुक्त उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करना है।

महोदया, हजारों सालों से औरत के लिए कहा जाता है कि प्राचीन समय में उसका स्थान समाज में, घर में बहुत ऊँचा था। मैं थोड़ा सा इतिहास ब्रह्मना चाहूँगी कि महिलाओं की स्थिति क्या रही है। चाहे वेदकाल हो, पुराण काल हो, चाहे मनु का समय हो, महाभारतकाल हो या रामायण और फिर आधुनिक वर्तमान काल। जब से हमारा समाज आधुनिक और सभ्य हुआ, तब तो यह था कि स्त्री को समाज में उसके सारे अधिकार और सम्मान वापिस लौटा दिए जाएँ, जिसके अधिपत्य से वह मध्यकालीन भारतीय समाज के दौर से कराह रही थी। लेकिन पुरुष प्रधान समाज के समानान्तर सम्मान और प्रतिष्ठा की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए, अभी तक हम आम भारतीय औरत को न्यूनतम स्तर पर जीने की सुविधाएँ भी नहीं दिला सके हैं। हालत यह है कि आज भी हमारे भारतीय घरों की औरतों को आँखों में हजारों वर्षों से लगातार उड़ने वाला धुँवा उसके आँसुओं के साथ बह रहा है, उसके देह को जलते तने की तरह बना दिया है। उस पर हम मजे से अपने स्वर्धों की रोटियाँ सेंक रहे हैं। समाजवादी विचारक डा. राम मनोहर लोहिया ने कहा था कि भारतीय स्त्री की मृत्यु के दो ही कठमरे हैं प्रसूति गुह और रखेई घर। वह इन दोनों ही कठमरों की ट्रेजेडी से आज तक नहीं उभर पाई है। यों तो हम स्त्री को बहुत महानता का दर्जा देते हैं। उसे पृथ्वी की तरह पुरुष को धारण करने वाली और समुद्र की तरह दुखों को अपने भीतर समेटने वाली कहा जाता है। कहा जाता है कि: