

[Shri Dineshbhai Trivedi]

because a lady who does not even know the name of her would-be husband, and I do not hesitate to say that there are chances of the same lady, who might not have been a prostitute, being forced into that profession by the society.

Thank you, Madam.

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA** (Karnataka): Madam, may I just say that perhaps there is a little mistake because, under the amended Immoral Traffic Prevention Act—we ourselves amended the law last year—there is a special provision that any minor found on the premises where prostitution is being carried on is presumed to have been brought there for prostitution, and the law automatically comes into operation? I am talking not of the Juvenile Justice Act but of the amended Immoral Traffic Prevention Act in order to prevent children from being automatically forced into prostitution by being kept on the premises where prostitution is carried on. Therefore, it is under that Act that these raids take place sometimes to prevent children from automatically being pushed into the profession. I just wanted to clarify that they are two different Acts.

**SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI:** Madam, I have no doubt about the motive of the Government. All I am trying to submit is that nobody on earth has a right to take away the children if the children are given proper education. I do not know which law permits children to be snatched away from their mothers—and I was further told that prostitutes are not even recognized as mothers.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Shri Pasumpon Thai. Kiruttina...Not here. Shrimati Margaret Alva.

**Shifting of Control of Department of Women and Child Development**

**SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA** (Karnataka): Madam, I rise to mention here a matter which has caused

serious concern to many of us in the women's movement in this country. Madam, it was even before the International Women's Year that the National Commission on the Status of Women was set up, which gave a very detailed report on corrective actions that were called for to improve the status of women in this country. The year 1975 was the International Women's Year, and also the decade which followed was the International Women's Decade. At the Nairobi International Movement in 1985, the United Nation accepted the forward looking strategies for women and the thrust of the entire decade was equality, development and peace. The whole concept was that women should be made part and parcel of the developmental processes within their communities and in their countries. We have, as a nation—and Parliament also has—adopted the National Plan of Action for Women. It is not the document of any particular party or any particular Government, but Parliament itself has endorsed the National Plan of Action. Therefore, I feel that the concept of removing women from the traditional idea of welfare programmes to strategies to involve them in mainstream developmental processes in their countries has come to be accepted by the International Movement, by the United Nations and also by our country as part of our accepted national strategy. I am, therefore, concerned I would say, even dismayed, and I am expressing the feelings of women outside this House as well as in other parties. Even within the House I have talked to a number of women who feel the same way that the moving of the Department of Women and Child Development to the Ministry of Welfare without consultations with anybody is a very unfortunate and retrograde step. The Department of Women and Child Development was a part of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. We were proud and happy that at last this country and the decision-makers had begun to accept women as human resource and as a resource capable of development. It looks like

the new Government has given up the concept and feel that women cannot be a part of any developmental activity and must go back to the welfare concepts which have been rejected throughout the world and also by Parliament when it adopted the National Plan of Action.

Madam, this is the first Government since Independence in which there is no woman of Cabinet rank. This is the first cabinet without a woman of Cabinet rank. Here I would say that we at least had a woman of this status of the Minister of State in the previous Government which has now been brought down to the level of Deputy Minister. The entire process seems to be to devalue them. I would still say that there must be at least acceptance that it is the first time that we have got no woman of Cabinet rank in the Governments. (*Time bell rings.*)

Madam, I will just take a minute more.

I want to say that over the last five years a number of programmes of development like the Women's Development Corporations the National Perspective Plan for Women and also the National Resource Centre for Women's Training and Development had been conceived, and we have come to Parliament with these proposals. Today we are suddenly told that the only thing that we are talking about is, and to every question that is asked in Parliament the answer is, that we are setting up a National Commission for Women. Madam, it is six months. There is no proposal. There is no blueprint, there is nothing. I am told day in and day out Mrs. Dandavate is working out details of what the Commission should be. There is nobody who knows about it. There is no consultation with anyone of us, not even with the Members of Parliament who have been involved with the question. I would request the Government, therefore, that now that there is a women Member on the

Planning Commission at least consultation on what the programmes should be, must be held with women in Parliament, of all political parties. This is not an issue of any individual or one political party or any one group. All of us are involved and I think, it is but natural that we should be consulted.

I may add here that the Social Welfare Board again was one which was kept out of politics. It has always been kept as a Board which dealt with only social work and social welfare. I would request the Minister to look into the precedent. An effort is now on, Madam, to dismiss the existing Board Chairman because she was appointed by the previous Government and to bring a new person. I don't think that the Social Welfare Board—we have not done it in the past—should become a question of political rivalry. I wish and hope that the Government will keep at least women's activities and women's programmes out of the pale of these controversies and see that we are part of the main developmental activity of the Government and not just recipients of welfare.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA (Bihar): Madam may I be allowed to comment on this?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want to comment for or against?

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Let me speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, I should not allow any comments on special mentions.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Madam, this rule may be applied after this, in future.

श्रीमती कमला सिंहा : मैडम वाईस चेयरमैन, श्रीमती अल्वा ने कई प्रश्न उठाए । एक तो यह कि जो मिनिस्ट्री वुमैन एंड चाइल्ड डेवलपमेंट को डील करती थीं, ह्यूमन रिसोर्स मिनिस्ट्री में, उसके बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है । गवर्नमेंट ने जो किया है, मैं उसके बारे में कमेंट नहीं करने वाली हूँ लेकिन नेशनल वुमैन कमीशन के बारे में मैं जरूर कमेंट करना चाहूंगी ।

महोदया, बारम्बार नेशनल वुमैन कमीशन के बारे में मीटिंग्स हुईं । सभी दलों के लोगों ने उसमें भाग लिया, देश भर के सभी वुमैन आर्गनाइजेशंस के प्रतिनिधियों ने उसमें भाग लिया, मैंने भी भाग लिया ... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा : हम लोगों को नहीं बुलाया । आप तो उनकी पार्टी की हैं इसलिए आपको बुलाया । यही हम सोच रहे हैं कि हम लोगों को क्यों नहीं बुलाया ? आप डिबेट चाहती हैं तो डिबेट करा लीजिए ... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती कमला सिंहा : यह कोई पार्टी की मीटिंग नहीं थी । इस महीने के फर्स्ट वीक में भी एक बैठक हुई ... (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा : कांग्रेस के लोगों को क्यों नहीं बुलाया ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : शायद पहले भी ऐसा कई बार हुआ हो ।

श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा : कभी नहीं हुआ था । सबको बुलाते थे ।

श्रीमती कमला सिंहा : महोदया, सुश्री गीता मुखर्जी की अध्यक्षता में एक बैठक बुलाई गई थी जिसमें ला सेक्रेटरी भी थीं और एक ब्लू प्रिंट तैयार हो चुका है और हम आशा करेंगे कि शायद इसी सेशन में वह बिल आ जाए ।

उपसभापति : वह सरकार को जवाब देना चाहिए ।

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Is it a reply from the Government or a question? What is happening, Madam?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we are not discussing it.

श्रीमती सरला महेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा ने अभी जो अपनी भावना प्रकट की हैं मैं उसके साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ और इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि महिलाओं के सवाल को राष्ट्र की मूल धारा के साथ जोड़ने के लिए जरूरी है कि मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय के साथ उसे जोड़ा जाए जैसा की हमेशा जोड़े जाने की मांग की जाती रही है, मैं चाहती हूँ कि सरकार ने जो किया है, उस पर फिर से वह विचार करे और महिलाओं के विकास को सिर्फ फैमिली वेलफेयर के दृष्टिकोण से ही न देखे । इसीलिए मैं श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा के साथ अपनी भावनाओं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ ।

**Financial irregularities and corruption in Paradeep Phosphate Ltd.**

SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY (Orissa): I am indeed grateful to the Chair for permitting me to speak for the first time in this august House.

I am going to remind this House that I am talking about a subject which was discussed in this House earlier and that it has turned to be so serious to Orissa. It is relating to a memorandum submitted to the hon. President of India and the Prime Minister of India on 25th September, 1986 by Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. Employees' Union, of which, I along with the Office bearers was the signatory. In this memorandum, it was pointed out that the maladministration, mismanagement, financial irregularities and serious corruption are existing in Paradeep Phosphate Ltd., a joint venture of the Government of