

[Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan]

Sati Act. It is such a pernicious practice. In fact, it is not even a practice. It is going back to the stone ages. It is uncivilised and barbaric to think that a woman should go... (Interruptions). I am sure every single Member of this House will agree with me that it is a shame and a slur on the civilised society and India that today we are even talking about something like 'Sati' in India. We should not even be talking about it. In these circumstances, the Abolition of Sati Act was passed by the Congress Government and according to that, even the glorification of 'Sati' which means 'the observance of any ceremony or supporting justifying or propagating the practice of Sati in any manner'—this is on the Act—is an offence and it is punishable with imprisonment. Secondly, if anybody is convicted under the Act, he or she should immediately be disqualified from the Membership of Parliament. We have amended the Representation of the People Act to that effect. This is section 8-A of the Representation of the People Act.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

Please be brief because we are not discussing 'Sati' as now.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Only one more second, Madam. I do not want to take the time of the House. We have amended the Representation of the People Act to the effect that if any Member is convicted of an offence under the Sati Act, he should be immediately disqualified and cannot stand for another election. In these circumstances, a senior Vice-President of the BJP has publicly supported 'sati' and yesterday, she has gone on record in the other House, I am not referring to those proceedings.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No mention of the other House or the proceeding of the other House.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI; NATARAJAN: She has publicly reiterated her stand on 'sati'. If this Government is really serious, it is not enough to say so. To say, I am against voluntary 'sati' but if a woman wants to go and commit suicide or die on her husband's pyre, it is Hindu religion still amounts to glorifying 'sati'. Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should immediately prosecute the person concerned, take action, against her and see that she is disqualified. Otherwise, nobody is serious about 'Sati'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Atalji. (Interruptions). We are not discussing 'sati'. There is no discussion. There is no question of party representation of it. We all know everybody's view. I am only allowing him because the Member belongs to that party.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) :
महोदया,...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : ये क्यों बोल रहे हैं ? ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : क्योंकि बी० जे० पी० के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट का नाम लिया गया है... (व्यवधान)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी अगर मेरी पार्टी का नाम न लिया जाता तो मैं खड़ा न होता...

उपसभापति : मैंने इसीलिए आपको ऐलाज किया...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इसीलिए मैं खड़ा हुआ ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप बात तो करने दीजिए उनको बोलने दीजिए, अपनी बात कहने दीजिए...