

Judiciary has put up that limit but the Parliament is more powerful and it is capable of quashing that 50 per cent barrier. I call upon the hon. Minister to come to the House with a suitable amendment so that we can surpass this, otherwise, we cannot provide reservation in these places.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Please resume your seat. ... (Time-Bell rings)...

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: The Sachar Committee has given reservation to religious minority, but these are being deprived of reservation. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is over. The Minister will reply tomorrow.

Now, we shall take up matters under Rule 377. If Members are particular to read it, they can read it.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, what is 377?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): No, no. Sorry. I am having the Lok Sabha hangover. In the Lok Sabha, -Special -Mentions are made under Rule 377.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Don't mention that. You are sitting in the Rajya Sabha.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I am having that hangover.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: There is also Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Don't mention that also. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): I don't mean 377 of the IPC. It is the hangover of the Lok Sabha. There, 377 means Special Mentions. Now, we will take up the Special Mentions. Shri Elavarasan. Would you like to read or lay it on the Table?

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): We will all read.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Okay read. It is left to the concerned Member.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to prevent the construction of a dam across the river Palar in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the availability of water in Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (Tamil Nadu): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the impending dismal situation in the State of Tamil Nadu regarding non-availability of water sources which may cause severe drought in the coming years and converting the State as a reservoir of overflowed waters of neighbouring States. As an act of adding woe to an already existing misery, now, the

State of Andhra Pradesh has prepared to construct check dam on Palar river at Ganeshapuram nearly Kuppam in Chittoor district. The Palar, with seven tributaries, rises in Karnataka's Kolar district and passes through Andhra Pradesh and North Tamil Nadu. Its water is also meant to irrigate lands along its 222 kms. journey through Tamil Nadu, serving as a lifeline for the water-starved Vellore district of Tamil Nadu, besides catering to Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts and Chennai. If such a dam is constructed, water supply to five districts would be affected. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to act immediately to prevent the construction of dam across Palar to save the people of Tamil Nadu and bring the national rivers under the Union List like Railway, Postal and Defence, to save our national integrity and good relationship between the States.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my friend.

Demand to extend benefits enjoyed by people of the BPL category to poorer section

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, in the Report of the National Commission for Enterprises, Chaired by Shri Arjun Sengupta, it is stated that as many as 77 per cent of people of the country are unable to spend even Rs. 20 a day. If it is true, it is a sorry state of affairs that only 26 per cent of the population is included under the BPL category. There is neither any instrument nor any mechanism to differentiate between people spending Rs. 11 or Rs. 12 or so each day and others. Practically, they carry on their livelihood within the same or similar degree of hardships. When 26 per cent of population is included in the list of BPL, the rest is treated as APL. Thus, a vast majority of the poorer sections is being deprived of the facilities and opportunities that they deserve rightly.

Moreover, there are some schemes run by the State Governments enjoyed by the people of BPL category only. In this way, a division is created among the poorer sections of the people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to review the whole issue and remove anomalies in respect of opportunities provided for poor people taking care of the ground realities. The Government must devise a mechanism to extend the facilities admissible for the BPL category to the poorer sections belonging to APL category appropriately. Thank you.

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Matilal Sarkar. Thank you.

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Matilal Sarkar. Thank you.

Demand for reconstruction of more Than a Century old Mulla Periyar dam in Kerala

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the imminent threat posed by more than a century-old Mullaperiyar dam. In recent months, there have been reports about cracks appearing on the dam's face, increased seepage and also peeling of plaster. Evidently, all interim strengthening measures have not been of any use. Several studies undertaken by reputed institutions like IIT, Delhi, IIT, Roorkee, have confirmed threat to the dam.