

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over the horrendous scenario of witch-hunting in the country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): It is an irony that within the country, where women are worshipped like goddesses, there is another India where 'Ghar-ki-Lakshmi' is branded a 'witch' and mercilessly slaughtered. There are endless instances where women have been called witches, stripped, shaven and made to make rounds of village and even eat and drink their own urine and excreta. In many parts of Rajasthan, particularly Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur, Tonk, Chittorgarh, Kota and Bhilwara it has been seen that women are branded as witches. If not killed, such women often commit suicide. Witch-hunting is prevalent in the tribal heartland of Central Gujarat, comprising Vadodara, Panchmahals and Dahod districts. Branded as 'dakan', about 100 cases are reported in these three districts every year. Most of these cases go unrecorded or are registered under mental or physical harassment.

A woman guilty of refusing advances, reluctance to sell land or bearing girl children, is likely to be branded a 'witch' and have her breasts chopped off, teeth broken, limbs amputated, eyes gouged out and then killed. Such cases abound especially in tribal-dominated belts.

Above alarming scenario of 'witch-hunting' is a crying shame and every State has its own horror stories. Hence, I would urge the hon. Minister for Home Affairs to take remedial steps on war footing.

Demand to confer Bharat Ratna on the veteran classical vocal musician

Gangubai Hangal posthumously

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, पिछले 22 तारीख को कर्नाटक के हुबली में हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत की लक्ष्म-प्रतिष्ठित गायिका पद्मविभूषण गंगूबाई हंगल का निधन हो गया। गंगूबाई का जीवन कथा-कहानी की नायिका की तरह है। केवट जाति-जैसी पिछड़ी जाति में पैदा हुई गंगूबाई अपने खून में संगीत लेकर पैदा हुई थी। यह वह जमाना था, जब गाने वाली लड़कियों को समाज में अच्छी निगाह से नहीं देखा जाता था, लेकिन गंगूबाई ने समाज की मान्यताओं और वर्जनाओं के विरुद्ध संघर्ष किया तथा कभी समर्पण नहीं किया।

गुरबत, सामाजिक अपमान और भूख से संघर्ष करते हुए गंगूबाई ने उस समय के विख्यात संगीतज्ञ, किराना घराना के उस्ताद, सवाई गंधर्व से संगीत सीखा। इसके लिए 30 किलोमीटर रेल की यात्रा और उसके बाद लम्बी पैदल यात्रा भी की। भारत रत्न पंडित भीमसेन जोशी इनके गुरु-भाई थे। दोनों ने साथ-साथ संगीत की शिक्षा प्राप्त की। दोनों में कौन बड़ा और कौन छोटा संगीत का पंडित है, यह कहना कठिन है।

अतः मैं भारत सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वह इस महान संगीतज्ञ और एक आदर्श महिला, जिसने अपनी मान्यताओं और निष्ठा के लिए सतत् संघर्ष किया, को मरणोपरान्त भारत रत्न से सम्मानित करे। हालांकि यह सम्मान उनको जीवन-काल में ही मिल जाना चाहिए था।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, मैं अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री शान्तराम लक्ष्मण नायक (गोवा) : सर, मैं भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Concern over re-appointment and extension of term of the retired officers and employees

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, nowadays, retired officers and employees are getting extension in the name of vast experience. Civil servants are in a very advantageous position to get extension or get different postings before their retirement. Especially, all the State Chief Secretaries, Police DGPs, Principal Secretaries to the Government of India or State Governments usually find a suitable job for themselves before retirement. Now, the retirement age of the Doctors, Professors, Lecturers and civil servants has been increased. Even the private sector companies also prefer to appoint retired Government officers. Then, what will happen to the young civil servants, doctors, engineers, diploma holders and ITI diploma holders? Their future is blocked.

For example, in Punjab, recently, the Punjab State Electricity Board has decided to re-appoint the retired employees, having lot of experience, on consolidated salary of Rs.7000 for SSO and Rs.5000 for SSA thereby ignoring 20,000 diploma holders and ITI trained youngsters. If the financial condition of PSEB is not good, the Government should ask them to work on a consolidated salary. But, giving fresh employment to retired employees, who are also getting pension, and denying the right of employment to poor young people may create explosive situation in all the State Governments and the Central Government. I urge upon the House and the Government that the space for youngsters should not be encroached upon by the retired personnel. They have already enjoyed their share of the cake. Let others should get their share and the re-appointment of retired Government officers and employees should be stopped.

Demand to set up monitoring committees for implementation of laws relating to forest land management in the country

श्री मोती लाल बोरा (छत्तीसगढ़) : उपसभापति महोदय, वन भूमि व्यवस्थापन अधिनियम के लागू होने के बाद भी कई राज्य सरकारें राजनीतिक आधारों पर या तो कार्य-गति को धीमा किये हैं या फिर भेदभाव कर रही हैं। यहां तक कि आवेदन फार्म जमा करने में भी भेदभाव बरता जा रहा है। अतः राज्य स्तरीय निगरानी समितियों का गठन जरूरी है। इन्हें अधिकार संपन्न करने के लिए कानून में प्रावधान हेतु संशोधन आवश्यक होगा।