

arrive at finally by legislation or by an Act of Parliament, it should have the maximum consensus around it. That is what we are trying to work out. I have only asked for some more time from the House. I hope the hon. Members would give me this time.

श्री कमाल अख्तर : सर, ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : वह हो गया। ...(व्यवधान)... नहीं, नहीं। अब इनसे सवाल-जवाब बहुत हो गया ...(व्यवधान)... बहुत लम्बा डिस्कसन हो गया। ...(व्यवधान)... Message from Lok Sabha...(व्यवधान)... अब आप बैठ जाइए।

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

Motion on Constitution of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Monday, the 27th July, 2009, adopted the annexed motion regarding Constitution of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha appointed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House."

Motion

"That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be —

to examine the composition and character of all existing "committees" [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all "committees" that may hereafter be constituted, membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

to recommend in relation to the "committees" examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;

to scrutinize, from time to time, the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

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 लब्ध-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 थीं। 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।