

[Shri B. N. Datar.]  
rights of a citizen of India on the citizens of any country specified in the First Schedule. Then, Sir, I would invite your attention to the relevant clause under which this is possible. And may I in this connection invite your attention to section 5(1)(e) which deals with citizenship by registration and there in sub-section (e) it has been made clear: "persons of full age and capacity who are citizens of a country specified in the First Schedule." In the First Schedule we have got two sections—A and B. So far as A is concerned, the Commonwealth countries have been mentioned; and so far as B is concerned, the Republic of Ireland has been mentioned. Now, recently, three other countries have entered the Commonwealth. These three countries are: Ghana, the Federation of Malaya and Singapore. Therefore, the object is to bring these three countries within the orbit of the First Schedule, so that whenever it is necessary action on the basis of reciprocity might be taken. May I point out that so far as Singapore is concerned, Singapore is even now ready, they have passed a Citizenship Act and it contains a provision that the citizens of the Commonwealth country, the citizenship or nationality law of which is notified by the Government of Singapore will be eligible by registration as citizens of Singapore? There are a very large number of Indians there. Their number is fairly large and in case this Bill has been passed and a declaration has been made by the Central Government, then a very large number of Indians will be able to acquire the citizenship of Singapore by registration. Now, similar results are likely to follow so far as the two other countries are concerned. Therefore, this preliminary step has to be taken, namely, that of amending the First Schedule to the Citizenship Act so as to introduce these three countries. Sir, I move.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There is no amendment.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, I move.

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

#### THE COUNTESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND BILL, 1957

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next Bill. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund Bill, 1957. Where is Mr. Karmarkar?

*(The Minister was not in the House at the time.)*

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA (Bihar:) It is a very serious matter. The House cannot go on waiting like that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has been sent for.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: It is true. We submit that the Chair will take due notice of this fact.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): We can do only one of two things. Either we proceed with the Bill and reject it or adjourn.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: We cannot go on just sitting dumb in this House like that.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU (West Bengal): All that can be said is probably that it was not expected that the previous Bill would be finished so soon.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: It does not matter. Expectation is not to be there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will take some time.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Then, we shall adjourn.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: You can adjourn even for five minutes or ten minutes. We cannot go on just sitting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall adjourn the House for five minutes.

The House then adjourned at nine minutes past four of the clock.

The House reassembled at fourteen minutes past four of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Sir, I crave the indulgence of the House for being late. I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to the House. I am certain that by utilising that time . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Some officer of your Ministry should have been here. If your presence is required, he should immediately inform you.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: He gave me a ring. I got it at 4—5.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You move the motion.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer of the Fund known as the Countess of Dufferin's Fund to the

Central Government, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I should like to preface this motion by a few observations.

The National Association for Supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women of India was established in 1885 with the object of imparting medical education to women, rendering medical relief, and supplying nurses and midwives for hospitals and private work. In 1888, the Association was registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Fund which was raised by public subscriptions both in India and the United Kingdom, was known as "The Countess of Dufferin's Fund" and was managed by the Association. A central committee at Delhi was entrusted with the general management of the affairs of the Fund, while in the various States local committees were formed which were allowed to manage their own affairs and funds, but which were affiliated to the central committee. Each local committee was responsible for the establishment of hospitals for women and children and for supplying female medical aid to the women of that State according to the funds at its disposal. In accordance with the scheme branches were formed in the then provinces of Assam, Baluchistan, Bengal, C.P. and Berar, Bihar and Orissa and some other provinces.

Sir, after partition it became necessary to divide the assets of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund between India and Pakistan. For this purpose, resolutions were passed on the 19th April, 1948, at an extraordinary general meeting of the Association for the winding up of the Association and for distributing the balance of funds left after meeting the liabilities between the Red Cross Societies of India and Pakistan in the ratio of 35·8 which proportion was based on the number of Women's Medical Service officers to be absorbed in India and Pakistan respectively.

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

Sir, it was found by our legal advisers that this resolution could not be given effect to because the institution had no power to distribute the funds to two organisations as referred to above, especially as one of the organisations was in another country. Therefore, we were advised to come to Parliament with this measure of legislation.

Sir, Government took a decision that instead of handing over the money to the Red Cross Fund, it might better serve the purpose, especially in view of the fact that Government had on a fairly large scale undertaken to serve some of the objectives for which this Fund was started, if this fund vested in the Government. The wording in the Bill is that the funds shall vest in the Government. They are not to be added to the Consolidated Fund of India in a general manner. But what will happen is, instead of the Association which stands dissolved on the day on which this legislation passes its final stages, the funds will vest in the Government.

The objectives of the Fund were to promote firstly the medical education of women, and with that view at an earlier stage this organisation had started the Lady Hardinge College with a view to promote the cause of women's education in the medical field. Then they had what was known as the Women's Medical Service, and the Government of India, wherever they were serving, proposed to subsidise their pay, guarantee their leave salaries, their study leaves and things like that. There were 41 members in that Women's Medical Service at the time of partition, of whom 16 remain now, and from this Fund is being paid to them whatever is due to them. 16 are under the Central Government and 8 are serving with the States. That is the present position.

Sir, in view of the fact that the objectives which the Association was carrying out were useful, especially during the last few years, Govern-

ment thought that the Fund might vest in themselves for the purposes for which it was meant. For instance, to take only the year 1956-57, in accordance with the scheme that was framed under the Fund, 5 scholarships were granted to girls for nursing and 28 scholarships for under-graduates. Then during the current year 1957-58 about 6 scholarships were given for nursing education and 25 for under-graduates. In fact, we wanted to give 50 scholarships for under-graduates. The number of scholarships actually awarded during 1956-57 and 1957-58 was 28 and 25 respectively. This was due to the fact that the scholarships in respect of the candidates who failed in an examination or whose progress reports were poor were discontinued. Now, three under-graduate scholarships have also been given to doctors in 1957-58 and some further applications are under consideration.

So, that is how the Fund is being worked and I should like to assure the House that the objects of the Fund will be kept intact. Not only that, but we propose also to have a small advisory committee. Formerly, we had a governing body. Now, we shall have a small advisory committee with representation to Members of Parliament also so that we might have the advantage of the guidance of this advisory committee in the due discharge of the objectives of this Fund.

Sir, I beg to move.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the transfer of the Fund known as the Countess of Dufferin's Fund to the Central Government, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, though very small, this Bill has great implications with regard to the progress of women's medical education and as such, I feel that it would have been better if this Bill had been taken up earlier when

there would have been better attendance in the House. This Bill is part of the chain of that policy by which the Health Ministry tries to show that, when according to the Constitution women are guaranteed equal rights, progress in medical education also has come to that stage where no more special arrangement is necessary for them. And the first step in that direction which raised a storm in the teacup almost for the last seven or eight months until the Cabinet fortunately took a decision, was that the Lady Hardinge Medical College would continue as a college for women. Sir, that decision was, for the time being, taken by the Health Ministry and that was that the Lady Hardinge Medical College would be a composite college. Similarly, the Countess of Dufferin's Fund which was also founded much before the College, was established in order to give a fillip to women's medical education. As was put just now by the hon. Minister, it started much earlier and was closely associated with the aims and objects of the Lady Hardinge Medical College. Through this Fund, doctors were provided from the W.M.S. for this college and for all the colleges that were to be run for women and children. I would say that that might have been a laudable object and a good compliment to women who had made some progress. But that certainly did not show imagination, on the part of the Minister when the predecessor in the Ministry was there, to appreciate the import of Article 15 of the Constitution which says:—"The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them." Clause (3) says: "Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children". As this clause is laid down in the Constitution very recently, it shows itself that the makers of the Constitution were aware of the conditions in the country and felt that there was every justification for making such a special provision. As such, whatever the necessity that might be, one does not question the decision of the Government in that

case, if there are certain reasons, to abolish the Fund under this particular name. There was no reason, Sir why in the same breath, with the same stroke of pen, the provision should not have been made to keep the Fund intact, but in another name.

I am very sorry to say, Sir, that in the other House, the hon. Minister was not pleased to accept the motion for referring this Bill to a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses which would have given a very good opportunity to Members of Parliament—and especially, women Members interested in furthering the progress of women's education and in the equal opportunities to women in service, to say what they felt on this matter and other allied matters. Yet, the hon. Minister was kind enough to appreciate the sentiment in the other House which was put very eloquently by all the Members who spoke on that day and to promise that he would have a Committee appointed for administering the Fund or seeing that the aims and objects of this Fund were kept intact. Unfortunately, he used the words 'advisory committee' at that time and said that he would be prepared to accept such a Committee. An advisory committee cannot be under Parliament to the same degree as it should be. He said that there would be nothing to prevent the Government not only from utilising the coffers of this Fund, but in addition from adding to this Fund; that body should not be an advisory body, but should be a body of Members of both the Houses and as such, it should have a larger number of women so as no longer to give any ground for complaint as in the case of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and that the views and sentiments of women and the needs of women in the country were fully appreciated and looked after. I would also add that it was necessary to accept the motion for a Joint Select Committee and nothing would have been lost because this is not such an urgent Bill as could not brook the delay of a session, when it has waited for nearly eight or nine years to come before the

[Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.] House. The accounts of the Fund from 1953 onwards have not been put before the House. Also, when we are asked to give our consent to wind up this Dufferin Fund, we are not provided with any statement of accounts and also not told whether all the aims and objects have been adequately met. We are not also given a chance to say how this Fund should be further utilised and similar other things.

Sir, it was necessary that this motion should have been accepted and the House should have been given a chance to go into all these.

Sir, I may say with some indulgence, as we have lost some time due to no fault of ours, that in the other House, 1½ hours were allowed to the Bill and in view of the importance of this Bill, you will kindly allow me and my sisters to say a few words. Unfortunately, not all of them are present here.

This Fund was meant to provide further facilities for the education of women and to give them opportunities in the service. I would like to say that a Committee for which I have given notice of a motion would look after the interests of women and would have enabled us to go into the question whether, after the W.M.S. which was a sort of special product or charge of this Fund was abolished, women of W.M.S. whose interests were handed over to the States have been given their proper due or not. Sir, the I.M.S. was abolished and at the same time, men of the I.M.S. were provided with lucrative jobs, in highest positions in the military even and in teaching institutions. But women of W.M.S. were rather, I would say, given a step-motherly treatment for reasons which will have to be gone into. There were women of W.M.S. who used to man the cadre of the Lady Hardinge Medical College. Formerly, there was no dearth of women (Time bell rings) because of the attraction of good salary from this Fund.

Sir, when this Fund is going to be abolished, it is necessary that the House should know what its implications are and what we are going to do. Those women who were given scholarships for further studies, particularly in subjects to which they did not take of their own accord, like pathology, radiology, pharmacology, etc, came back to teaching. It was necessary after the W.M.S. was abandoned that this Fund was utilised for giving scholarships, especially for these subjects and making appointments, when this Fund was meant specially to give facilities and encouragement to women in the medical profession. Appointments of women were made in the interim period.

( Time bell rings )

One word, Sir. Women have not been given the posts of civil surgeons.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only 15 minutes more for this Bill.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: May I plead with you, Sir, that we have begun late and I will also say that in the other House, the Speaker gave more time for this Bill. Sir, I would like to point out to the Health Minister that the women have not got their due share. Though it is not convenient to give them the post of a Civil Surgeon, yet that puts on them the inferiority stamp. And one thing more. While men's applications for superior services . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has nothing to do with the Bill.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Because the Central Government by abolishing the Dufferin's Fund has taken . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Budget session is coming. You can attack the Health Ministry as much as you like.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, I will just say one more thing on this Bill. I would only say

that the hon. Minister should see to it that the applications of women like men to States etc. for higher posts are forwarded, and he should write to the State Governments in the same way as he does in the case of men.

**SHRI H. N. KUNZRU:** Mr. Deputy Chairman, according to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, an Association called the National Association for Supplying Medical Aid by Women to the Women of India was established in 1885. The object of this Association was to impart medical education to women, render medical relief and supply nurses and midwives for hospitals and private work. Now, after partition, the Statement says, it became necessary to wind up the Association. Now, in a note supplied by the Government in connection with this Bill it is said that a central committee was formed and that afterwards local committees were formed in the various States which were allowed to manage their own affairs and funds. Each local committee, it is said, was responsible for the establishment of hospitals for women and children and for supplying female medical aid, not medical aid of any other kind, but female medical aid, to the women of that State according to the funds at their disposal. Now, Sir, this is what the note supplied by the Government says. Government themselves recognised that the object of this National Association was not merely to supply medical aid to the women of India, but to supply female medical aid to them. Now, when it became necessary after partition to dissolve the Association, the Association passed a resolution saying that it should be dissolved, and that after all the liabilities have been met, the balance of the funds should be divided in the proportion of 35 : 8 between the Indian Red Cross and the Pakistan Red Cross Societies subject to certain conditions. And these conditions were, Sir, (1) that the corpus of the Fund belonging to the Association be handed over to the Indian and Pakistani Red Cross Societies and the

Societies will keep a separate account in respect thereof, and (2) that the Red Cross Society will administer the Fund in consonance with the objects of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund after making provision for meeting specified liabilities of which particulars will be supplied by the Council to the Red Cross Societies. It is thus clear, Sir, that the National Association, when dissolving itself decided that the funds remaining after the liabilities had been met should be made over to the Indian and Pakistani Red Cross Societies on two conditions. The first condition was that a separate account of the Fund should be maintained, and the second condition was that the Fund should be applied in consonance with the objects of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. Now, Sir, let us look at this Bill. The operative clause here is the third clause which says that:

"On the commencement of this Act—

(a) the Association shall stand dissolved;

(b) the Fund shall vest in the Central Government; and

(c) all the debts and liabilities of the Association shall be transferred to the Central Government and shall thereafter be discharged and satisfied by it out of the Fund."

The Central Government has not taken upon itself any of the responsibilities attached to the transfer of funds by the National Association. Now, Sir, is this fair? The Government can by passing a law do what it likes, but is it honest that funds collected for a certain purpose should be taken over unconditionally by Government? The Minister of Health may have agreed to appoint an advisory committee to look into the administration of the Fund, but there is no statutory guarantee that the Fund will not be merged in the funds of the Central Government, nor is there any guarantee that it will be

[Shri H. N. Kunzru.]  
applied to the purposes for which the National Association was established. Why have these responsibilities not been accepted in this Bill? That is the thing that the Government has to explain.

Now, Sir, any committee that may be appointed will be advisory. Even this advisory committee cannot say to Government that the Fund shall be used only for supplying female medical aid to women. If women are willing to receive medical aid from males, it is their own business. They will be free to consult male doctors. But this Fund is meant only for the supply of female medical aid. How will the advisory committee that the Health Minister may appoint be able to look into this matter? Government may say that in a particular year they did not receive sufficient applications from competent women doctors, or they may say that their applications were not forwarded by the State Governments under whom they were serving. Well, these difficulties have arisen in the past and will arise now. Nevertheless, the funds were used only for the appointment of women doctors who belonged to the W.M.S. And I think the least that the Health Minister can do, apart from explaining why the Government has refused to take upon itself the obligation of administering the Fund in accordance with the conditions attached to it, is to promise not merely that an advisory committee would be appointed to look into the accounts of the Fund, but also that the Fund will be used only for the appointment of women doctors and for the supply of nurses and midwives etc., so that the objects of the Fund may not be departed from, even though legally the Government is competent to use the Fund for any purpose.

श्रीमती चन्द्रावती लखनपाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, अभी जो बिल हमारे सामने विवाद के लिये प्रस्तुत

है, उसका उद्देश्य यह है कि डफरिन फंड को खत्म कर दिया जाये और उसे केन्द्रीय सरकार के जनरल फंड में मिला दिया जाये। जैसा कि अभी कहा गया है, डफरिन फंड एक निश्चित, उद्देश्य और एक निश्चित अभिप्राय को लेकर प्रारम्भ किया गया था। उसका उद्देश्य था, इस देश की महिलाओं को चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में आगे आने के लिये प्रोत्साहन देना, उनको चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में ऊँची से ऊँची शिक्षा देना, नर्सों और मिडवाइव्स बनने के लिये उनको छात्रवृत्तियाँ देना और इस देश की स्त्रियों और बच्चों की चिकित्सा की विशेष रूप से व्यवस्था करना। अब ऐसी अवस्था में, जब कि आज़ादी के दस साल बाद भी चिकित्सा की दृष्टि से, चिकित्सा की सुविधा की दृष्टि से, हम कुछ बहुत ज्यादा बेहतर हालत में नहीं हैं, मैं यह देखती हूँ कि माननीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री की ओर से डफरिन फंड जैसे उपयुक्त फंड का, जिसकी वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में भी इतनी उपयोगिता है, इतनी आवश्यकता है, उसको खत्म करने का प्रस्ताव आता है, तब मुझको वास्तव में आश्चर्य होता है।

श्रीमान्, आज अपने देश में अगर हम देखें तो मेडिकल वीमेन—मेडिकल वीमेन की बात आप छोड़ दीजिये—नर्सों की कितनी कमी है? शहरों के अन्दर अस्पतालों में जाकर आप देखिये, शायद ही कोई अस्पताल होगा, जिसको शिकायत न हो कि उनके यहां नर्सों की कमी है। प्राइवेट काम के लिये अगर नर्सों को मांगा जाय तो दुगुनी फीस देने पर भी नर्सों मिलती नहीं। अभी मुझे श्रीमती डा० परमानन्द बतला रही थीं कि सिंदरो कारखाने के अन्दर जो काम करने वाले लोग हैं उनके लिये जो अस्पताल है वहां पर मैटर्नटी केसेज एक पुरुष डाक्टर के द्वारा किये जाते हैं। यह तो शहरों का हाल है। गांवों का यह हाल है—मेरा खयाल है सैकड़ों गांव ऐसे

होंगे, जिनमें डाक्टर तो क्या, मिडवाइफ तक, दाई तक मेटर्नटी केसेज के लिये हम अभी तक नहीं दे सके हैं। जब ऐसी हालत में आप यह बिल लाते हैं तब आपके दिल में भी यही विचारधारा काम कर रही है कि अब तो संविधान के द्वारा स्त्री और पुरुष दोनों का दर्जा एक हो गया है और क्या जरूरी है कि हम स्त्रियों के लिये एक अलग व्यवस्था करें? परन्तु हमें जो समानता का दर्जा संविधान के द्वारा मिला है, अभी वह कागजी ही है। अगर चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में समानता के अधिकार को बरता भी जाता, तो क्या आज हमें सारे देश के अन्दर एक भी स्त्री सिविल सर्जन नहीं दिखाई देती? आज बड़ी बड़ी ऊंची योग्यता वाली मेडिकल वीमेन हमारे देश में नहीं—ऐसा नहीं है, लेकिन एक भी स्त्री सिविल सर्जन हमारे देश में नहीं। दूर क्यों जायें, यहां दिल्ली में लेडी हार्डिंग कालिज शिक्षा संस्थान जो केवल स्त्रियों के लिये बनाया गया है वहां प्रिंसिपल तक पुरुष हैं और वह तब जब कि वहां ऐसी स्त्रियां मौजूद हैं जिनकी योग्यता उन पुरुष महोदयों से जो प्रिंसिपल महोदय हैं उनसे कहीं अधिक है।

**श्री डी० पी० करमरकर :** पुरुष था।

**श्रीमती चन्द्रावती लखनपाल :** खैर, अभी तक था, मुझे मालूम नहीं इधर कोई परिवर्तन हो गया हो। श्रीमन्, ये सब बातें हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि मंत्री महोदय क्यों ऐसा प्रस्ताव ला रहे हैं, उनके भाषण से ऐसा पता चलता है कि वे देखते हैं कि जो उद्देश्य है स्त्रियों की मेडिकल एजुकेशन को प्रोत्साहन देना, वह उद्देश्य तो अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है, और वह उद्देश्य अभी प्राप्तव्य है, यह भी वे मानते हैं। और इसके लिये उन्होंने यह माना है कि डफरिन फंड को खत्म करके जनरल फंड में मिलाया जाये। मगर मेरी समझ में

नहीं आता कि डफरिन फंड को खत्म करके जनरल फंड में डाल दिया गया तो उनका उद्देश्य किस प्रकार से अच्छी तरह पूरा हो सकता है? मैं बड़े विश्वास के साथ उनसे यह निवेदन करना चाहती हूं कि उनका उद्देश्य अगर स्त्रियों को प्रोत्साहन देना है और वे सचमुच में चाहते हैं कि उनका यह उद्देश्य पूरा हो और अच्छी तरह से पूरा हो, तो वह तभी पूरा हो सकता है जब कि वे इस डफरिन फंड को एक अलग फंड के रूप में रखें, एक सेपरेट इंटिटी के रूप में रखें। श्रीमन्, जब हम किसी चीज की ओर ज्यादा अच्छी तरह ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहते हैं तो हम उसे अलग रखते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि जब फेमिन रिलीफ फंड खोला जाता है या फलड रिलीफ फंड खोला जाता है तब सोशल वेल्फेयर फंड से भी वही काम चल सकने हैं, लेकिन वैसा नहीं होता। हम उन बातों के लिये अलग से फंड खोलते हैं, वह इसलिये खोलते हैं कि जनता का ध्यान, सरकार का ध्यान उन उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति की ओर ज्यादा सतर्कता के साथ जाये। तो इसी तर्क के आधार पर मैं यह कह सकती हूं मंत्री महोदय से कि अगर वे इस फंड को अलग में रखते हैं तो अलग रखने के द्वारा वे जनता के ध्यान को और सरकार के ध्यान को ज्यादा आसानी से खींच सकते हैं और अपने उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति ज्यादा सफलता के साथ कर सकते हैं। इसलिये मैं तो यह चाहती थी कि ऐसी जल्दी जल्दी में जैसे कि आज इस बिल के ऊपर चर्चा की जा रही है, यह न हो और इस (Time bell rings) बिल के ऊपर विचार बड़ी शांति के साथ, सहानुभूति के साथ, एक अच्छे वातावरण में होना चाहिये, जैसा कि सुझाव अभी श्रीमती परमानन्द जी के द्वारा रखा गया है। ज्यादा अच्छा तो यह होता कि दोनों सदनों की ज्वाइंट सेलेक्ट कमेटी बनती और उसके सामने इस विषय पर विचार रखे जाते, क्योंकि यह विषय



[श्रीमती चन्द्रावती लखनपाल]

देखने में तो छोटा है लेकिन इसके अन्दर जो इम्प्लिकेशन हैं, जो महत्व है, वे बड़े भारी हैं और सारे देश के समाज कल्याण के मंतव्य पर इसका असर पड़ने वाला है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री महोदय से फिर कहती हूँ कि वे इस पर पुनर्विचार करें।

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Bill is a very necessary one but in my humble opinion, it is not a very complete one. One expected that the Minister in his opening speech, would have told us as to what exactly is the amount which was at stake in this matter.

As somebody has already pointed out, no detailed accounts have been yet put before anybody. Therefore, while this Bill was being brought in, one expected that the House would have been taken into confidence in that respect as well.

Then it is obvious from the Bill itself that Government has taken more than 9½ years to bring forward this Bill. I think the Government owes an explanation to this House and they should explain as to why this delay has been caused. It is all the more necessary because under clause 4 we have been asked to validate all sorts of acts done. Unless and until the House knows what sort of acts have been committed during this period, why they were committed and what particular reasons were there for the same and why this delay was caused, unless that is explained we don't know how we can validate all the acts.

Finally, I lend my full support to the point raised by Dr. Kunzru that this Bill should have provided something in respect of future administration of the Fund. For, it has been admitted by the Government itself in

the Statement of Objects and Reasons that all this money was collected by way of public subscriptions. The public subscriptions were collected for certain purposes. I know that a sovereign Parliament can do anything but as Members of the sovereign Parliament every one of us would want to know whether we should do anything like that and in any way alter, amend or completely change the terms or objects for which it was received.

Clause 3 only says that the Fund shall vest in the Central Government but no details have been given in this Bill as to how they are to be administered. We would very much wish that all this money in this fund is administered as a separate fund for that special purpose. Therefore I would press on the hon. Health Minister to give a definite assurance to the House that the purpose for which this Fund was collected by public subscriptions not only in India but in England, shall not be changed.

श्रीमती रक्मणी बाई (मध्य प्रदेश):

उप सभापति महोदय, आज हमारे सामने जो डफरिन फंड के बारे में प्रस्ताव उपस्थित हुआ है उसके विषय में मैं अपने कुछ विचार सदन के सामने रखना चाहती हूँ। एक दिन था, जब हमें बड़ी खुशी थी कि एक विदेशी महिला जिसका नाम "डफरिन" था, उसने भारतीय महिलाओं की उन्नति के लिये "डफरिन फंड" कायम किया था, जो हम लोगों के लिये एक खुशी और गौरव की बात थी। लेकिन आज हमें यह देख कर बड़ा दुःख होता है कि हमारे स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी द्वारा इस फंड को खत्म किया जा रहा है। यह देख कर बड़ा अचरज भी होता है। इस फंड की मंशा यह थी कि भारतीय महिलाएँ उच्च से उच्च डाक्टर बनें, नर्स बनें और हमारे देश में जो गरीब महिलाएँ हैं, उनके दुःख-दर्दों और तकलीफों को दूर करें। यह देख कर बहुत दुःख होता है कि हमारे देश में आज महिला डाक्टरों का

नामोनिशान नहीं है। एक-दो, चार हों तो क्या हुआ। लेकिन आपको मालूम होना चाहिये कि हमारे यहाँ महिलायें बहुत शर्मिली होती हैं और अपने गुप्त रोगों तक को दबा देती हैं। वे मरना पसंद करती हैं मगर पुरुष डाक्टर के पास जाना पसंद नहीं करती। इसलिये यह और भी आवश्यक है कि हमारे देश की जो मौजूदा हालत है उसको देखते हुये हमारे देश की महिलाओं को सर्जन, सिविल सर्जन बनना बहुत जरूरी है। हम यह चाहते हैं कि इस फंड से हमारी महिलाये डाक्टर और नर्स बनें और उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा उन्नति मिले।

आज हम देखते हैं कि देश में बहुत से अस्पताल हैं। उनमें ऊँचे ऊँचे कमरे और साफ फर्श हैं, छोटे बड़े कमरे भी हैं। लेकिन मेने खुद देखा है जहाँ पर महिलायें बीमार पड़ी हैं वहाँ पर प्रभूतिगृह में २५ जच्चा है तो २५ ही बच्चे हैं और इन ५० बीमारों के पीछे केवल दो नर्स हैं। आप ही बतलाइये कि दो बहिनें किस तरह ५० जच्चो बच्चों का कार्य कर सकती है? इसके लिये तो बहुत सी बहिनों की, नर्सों की जरूरत है; लेकिन देश में इस समय नर्स और डाक्टर मिलते नहीं हैं। इसका कारण यह भी है कि जो गरीब महिलाये हैं, जो नर्स और डाक्टर बनना चाहती हैं, वे इतनी गरीब हैं और होशियार होते हुये भी पैसे की कमी के कारण सिविल सर्जन या नर्स नहीं बन सकती हैं। जैसा कि हमारी बहिन ने अभी कहा कि वे दाइया तक नहीं बन सकती हैं। हमारे देश की दशा इतनी बुराब है कि अगर आप गांवों में जाये तो आपको अस्पतालों में न डाक्टर मिलेगा और न कोई नर्स ही मिलेगी। आज गरीब महिलाये जो बीमार रहती हैं, उनको पूछने वाला कोई नहीं है। इस तरह की हालत हमारे देश में आजकल है। इस फंड की मंशा यह थी कि जो भारतीय गरीब महिलायें डाक्टरी पढना चाहती हैं, उन्नति करना चाहती हैं, उनको

आगे बढ़ाया जाये और उनको हर तरह से प्रोत्साहन दिया जाये। मेरा कहना भी यही है कि इस फंड को गरीब महिलाओं की उन्नति के लिये लगाना चाहिये, जैसा कि अब तक इस फंड की मंशा थी।

आज तो हमारा यह दावा है कि हमारा मुल्क आज़ाद हो गया है और हमारी बहिनें आगे बढ़ रही हैं लेकिन यह देख कर दुःख होता है कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस फंड को खत्म करने जा रहे हैं। इस चीज को हम पसन्द नहीं करते हैं क्योंकि इससे हमारी बहिनों को बड़ा दुःख होता है कि इस फंड का रुपया उनकी भलाई के कामों में भविष्य में नहीं लगाया जायेगा, जो कि इस फंड की मंशा थी। हम बहिनें यह प्रार्थना करती हैं कि इस फंड के पैसे को गरीब महिलाओं की उन्नति में लगाया जाय, ताकि वे भी सिविल सर्जन और चिकित्सक बन सकें और आगे तरक्की कर सकें। हमारी मंशा यह है कि इस फंड का पूर्ण रुपया हमारी बहिनों की उन्नति में ही लगाया जाये। धन्यवाद।

DR. R. P. DUBE (Madhya Pradesh).  
Mr. Deputy Chairman, I think it is the bounden duty of the hon. Minister in his reply to this debate to give an assurance that whatever money is there—I do not know what money there is, because no account is given and since he also wants validation of some amount which has been spent or mis-spent during the course of nine years and for which there is necessity for such validation—will be spent for the purpose for which it was meant. After all, as this has come from the other House we will have to pass it in this House as well, although I would like some change.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA  
NAND: Why? You can send it back

DR. R. P. DUBE: The Minister has to give an assurance that this money will be utilised for the purposes for

[Dr. R. P. Dube.]  
which it was meant and if he gives us this assurance or if he gives such an assurance to this House, I think, personally I will be satisfied.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:  
No, no.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

DR. R. P. DUBE: I don't know. Some people say "no". But if the Government gives the House such an assurance, that should satisfy us. After all, we are being governed and if you think when the Government gives such an assurance it is not going to keep it, then I do not know what value you have got for the Government. I personally think if the Government gives an assurance that whatever amount is there, that will only be utilised for the purpose for which it was meant, that will be a step in the right direction. I would also request that later on he should at least inform us how much money is left and how much money has been spent during these nine years and for what purpose.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:  
Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have great regard for the hon. mover of this Bill. But I cannot lend my support to him in respect of this Bill. I submit that he should, by now, have sensed the view of this House, particularly of our lady Members, and it will be most undemocratic to force this measure upon this House with the help of the whip sitting behind him. He must take into consideration the sentiments, the views expressed unanimously by all the Members who have taken part in this debate. Nothing would be lost, as a matter of fact, the Government and particularly my hon. friend the Minister will enhance their prestige. The prestige of the Government and of the Minister will be enhanced if he accepts even at this late hour the suggestion to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, or to postpone it. If he does not want to refer it to a Select Committee, he should postpone the passage of this Bill and consult the

Members who have taken part in this debate in both Houses of Parliament and find out how the hon. Members would like to amend this Bill. Nothing would be lost. After all, since 1949 or 1948, this measure has been pending. Where is the hurry to adopt this undemocratic method and rush it through this House against the wishes of each and every individual Member here? I see that other hon. Members are also nodding their heads to what I say.

The other way to accept the opinion of this House would be to have the voting without the necessary party whips. This has often happened in other Parliaments on such non-political measures. The Government party should give latitude and liberty to its members to vote in the manner in which they like. If a measure of this type is turned down by this House, nothing would be lost. It will not be a political vote and Government will not be censured if there is an adverse vote in this House. Therefore, I submit that the hon. Minister who does enjoy a very high reputation for being democratic in his approach and temperament, will accept this suggestion which has come forward from almost every hon. Member, particularly the lady Members of this House.

Now, I would like to say a few words on the merits of this Bill. I wholeheartedly support my honourable and esteemed friend Dr. Kunzru. It is highly undesirable that the funds which were constituted for a set and particular purpose should be appropriated by an Act of Parliament to the central exchequer. Sir, it is very clear and there is no doubt left from the Bill that the Fund will vest in the Government's funds. It will not have a separate identity of its own. There is no doubt about that. If it is the wish of the House that it should be separate, whatever amount is there—and we do not know what funds there are and we are not told what amount is available in this Fund—if that is the desire of the House then nothing would be lost if this Fund

is kept separately and managed separately. We can have provisions for that and we have such special provision in other measures of this nature.

Then I would like to speak for a minute or two . . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is time.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I will just finish.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: I would like to have five minutes after he has finished. I want to give a suggestion.

SHRI H. N. KANZRU: The debate may be allowed to proceed, we have plenty of time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will close at 5-15. We will take another 15 minutes; not that you should take more time. I will permit Mr. Basu to speak and also the Minister has to reply. You wanted only two more minutes.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I would like to submit that after all, the time is fixed for the other Bill also and we shall have plenty of time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have already taken 15 minutes more.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: It is within the discretion of the Chair to give more time, if that is the sense of the House. Therefore, my submission is . . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may just finish.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Now, if you adjourn now today .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not adjourning now.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: The Minister will have some time to ponder over the whole thing this

night. He may coolly and calmly consider the whole thing.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I do not want to ponder over this, I am ready with the reply.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): We request him to consider.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: He will consider whether what we are suggesting is acceptable to him.

5 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please wind up your speech.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: The other point that I was trying to make out was this that we are not aware of the debts and liabilities which the Government of India is now taking upon itself. It says all debts and liabilities of the Association shall be transferable to the Central Government. At least, we ought to have been told what these debts and liabilities are before we accept these debts and liabilities. I am aware that in the next breath you say that they will be met out of the Fund itself but certainly, Sir, we would like to know what those debts and the liabilities are and they ought to have furnished us with that statement. Not only that, Sir, but there is a strong opinion in this House that this measure should not have been brought before this House in the way in which it has been brought. The Fund should be kept intact separately but there are definite irregularities in the Bill itself. We ought to have been given a complete statement of the debts and liabilities in order that we can make up our mind. Considering all these facts, Sir, I would once more appeal to the hon. Minister either to constitute a Select Committee or to postpone the passage of this Bill till the next session.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, after having

[Shri Santosh Kumar Basu.]  
listened to the debate in the course of which some very important points have been raised with regard to the administration of this Fund, may I point out to the House, Sir, . . .

SHRI P. T. LEUVA (Bombay): Let him continue tomorrow, Sir.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to sit half-an-hour more.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: There are more Members who want to speak

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is that the opinion of the House that we should adjourn?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I do not mind going on today. The arguments are still fresh in my mind and I shall be quite able to do justice to the question.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: It is the wish of the House that counts, not that of the hon. Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us finish this Bill. Only Mr. Basu wants to speak.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: There are some more, Sir.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Why should we do it, Sir? There is ample time tomorrow. We have only one Bill left and still you want to make us sit longer. It is already beyond regular sitting time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. The House is not in a mood to continue. We shall adjourn the House.

The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at three minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 24th December 1957.