

decision of the apex court has to be honoured. But we do not know the *raison d'être* behind this limit. In certain States in the South the reservations are more than fifty per cent.

The Constitution has already provided reservation for SCs and STs on the basis of their population, in the House of the People and the State Assemblies, and also in educational institutions and services. Twenty-seven per cent seats are reserved for the OBCs in admissions and services on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission. No census of OBCs is available. This issue of reservation has become the bone of contention. Parliament is silent on this contentious issue. Parliament is the ultimate authority to decide such matters in the interest of the people. Whenever the matter of reservations is raised the Central Government and the State Governments say that according to the apex court's decision, reservations cannot go beyond fifty per cent.

Now there are pressures from different communities for reservations. The Muslims, the Jats, the Marathas and others are demanding to be included in OBCs. If they are included in OBCs they will share 27 per cent seats putting thereby the OBCs in a tight corner.

Parliament should, therefore, pass a legislation increasing the percentage. In certain matters it has kept aside the apex court's verdicts. After all reservation is a matter of social justice.

I urge upon the Government to reconsider the matter dispassionately.

Demand to institute an inquiry into the irregularities in construction of Phase-III project by Air Force Naval Housing Board at Hyderabad

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, AFNHB has taken up Phase-III Housing Project at Hyderabad to construct residential flats to serving and retired Air Force and Naval personnel in 2003. It was to be completed in 2006, but till now it has not been completed totally to the satisfaction of allottees. The AFNHB saying it was because of delay in getting approvals which is not true.

Secondly, cost of flats is doubled. How can the project cost be doubled when land was acquired in 2004 itself? I have personally seen project site and found that many works -- compound wall, fire fighting system, visitors parking, etc., -- are yet to be completed even after 10 years!

Thirdly, allottees are forced to take possession in spite of innumerable problems such as leakages, seepages, open drains, malfunctioning of STP, etc., as they are not able to take up issue with the AFNHB since some of them are still serving and apprehended that action would be taken against them directly by the Air Force/Navy.

Fourthly, there seems to be no professionalism in construction as is evident the way newly constructed buildings look like Century-old structure. I understand that entire amount was paid to contractor before works of project are completed. What are the reasons behind this? Is there any connivance between AFNHB Members and contractor? This becomes evident because the AFNHB is refused to give contract agreement, etc., to allottees.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) in the Chair.]

Hence, I request Defence Minister to order a Judicial Enquiry to find out facts, do justice to allottees, ensure that such irregularities are not committed by AFNHB in future by taking action against errant Members and officials of AFNHB.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy garu.

**Demand to address the issue of deaths of children due
to diarrhoea in the country**

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI (Gujarat): Sir, I stand today to talk about the grave issue of diarrhoea deaths in India. It is estimated that 16.55 lakh children under the age of 5 died in India in 2011, of which 1.8 lakh children died due to diarrhoeal diseases. India is a signatory to the Millennium Development Goal-4 which aims reducing the under-5 mortality by two-thirds by 2015. An important step towards achieving this goal is addressing diseases such as diarrhoea.

Scientific evidence available today tells us that in India more than 10 lakh lives of children could be saved by scaling up known and proven cost effective interventions. It is believed that nutrition, medical treatment and other easy measures could prevent 90 per cent of diarrhoea deaths.

If ORS and zinc tablets are given early during an episode of diarrhoea, it would help save 50 per cent of children who would otherwise die. Unfortunately, however, according to the Ministry's figures, only 34.2 per cent of children with diarrhoea in India receive ORS.