

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Sir, what about the ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not allowed.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: *

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Rajani Patil. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen, we have to take up the Private Members' Business. I said that it will start at 3.30 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, it is 3.42 p.m., and, we are starting twelve minutes late. Therefore, the Private Members' Business will be over by 6.12 p.m. only. We are taking additional twelve minutes. After 6.12 p.m., we may have Special Mentions also. That is the scheme. Now, the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, it is Private Members' Business. Shrimati Rajani Patil. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing else will go on record.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have given the ruling. Please sit down. I said that. What I had to say, I have said. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. I have said all that. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Rajani Patil.

[THE VICE CHAIRMAN, (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN) *in the Chair*]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Making stringent provisions of capital punishment for rape and commercial sexual exploitation of girls and women; amending social laws relating to inheritance of property, and making reservation for women in public employment

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I move the following Resolution:-

Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) the women in our country are still not economically independent and those who brave to venture out of their homes to work in the fields, establishments, shops and Government departments and establishments are sexually harassed despite several laws have been enacted to prevent this menace;

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Rajani Patil]

- (ii) girls and women are also subjected to teasing, molestation, disrobing and sometimes paraded naked in full public view and also branded as witches and ultimately killed as such; and
- (iii) the condition of widows, infirm and destitute old women is more precarious who are not supported by their kins or who have no one to take care of them and who are forced to survive on begging and working as maids in houses and remain exploited throughout their lives,

This House urges upon the Government to—

- (a) make stringent provisions of capital punishment for rape on girls and women and also for commercial sexual exploitation of girl child and for incestuous rape on girls and women by suitably amending the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and other related laws;
- (b) amend the existing social laws so that women should inherit half of the movable and immovable property of her husband after her marriage as a measure of social security to her;
- (c) reserve posts for women in all public employment so that they become economically independent; and
- (d) introduce welfare measures, subsistence allowance, old age allowance, medical care, old age and caring homes for the destitute widows, infirm and old women so that they too lead an honourable life in the society.

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से इस सभागृह को यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि महिलाओं का यह विषय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और सालों से इसके ऊपर चर्चा होती आ रही है। हमने प्राचीन काल से जो कहानियाँ सुनी हैं कि हमारा भारत देश एक ऐसा विशाल देश है, जहाँ गार्गी, मैत्रेयी जैसी बहुत बड़ी विदुषियाँ हुई हैं। हम यहाँ पर भी कभी-कभी देखते हैं कि जब कोई विदुषी बोलती है, तो हमें गार्गी, मैत्रेयी की याद आ जाती है, जिन्होंने अपने भाषण और संभाषण में बड़े-बड़े ऋषि मुनियों को भी मात दे दी थी। 'कैकेयी' उल्लेख हमेशा बहुत गलत तरीके से होता है, लेकिन मैं उनका उल्लेख जरूर करना चाहूँगी कि रामायण में जो 'कैकेयी' हुआ करती थी, वह इतनी सामर्थ्यशाली थी कि राजा दशरथ को भी उसकी मदद लेनी पड़ी, लेकिन कालानुसार उसमें बदलाव आ गया और हम महिलाओं को चौखट पर रखने का काम हमारे पुरुषों ने कर दिया। हमें इसके लिए भयभीत भी किया गया और मनुस्मृति का आधार लिया गया और कहा गया,

“न स्त्री स्वातंत्र्य मर्हति”।

आज 21वीं सदी में महिलाएं कितनी सुरक्षित हैं, यह बहुत ही बड़ा सवाल हमारे मन में आता है।

दिल्ली जैसे शहर में जहां "निर्मया कांड" हुआ था और अभी भी ऐसे कांड हो रहे हैं, अभी परसों की ही बात है, केरल में एक दलित लड़की के साथ रेप करके उसे मार दिया गया। हमारी बहन ने यहां रेवाड़ी का उल्लेख तो किया ही था। छेड़-छाड़ से दुखी होकर दो गांवों की छात्राओं ने स्कूल छोड़ने का काम किया है और रेवाड़ी में "लाला" नामक एक गांव है, वहां की सभी लड़कियां छेड़-छाड़ की वजह से स्कूल छोड़ रही हैं।

सर, मैं आपको वर्ष 1975 में ले जाना चाहूंगी, जब श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी इस देश की प्रधान मंत्री हुआ करती थीं। तब उन्होंने 'स्त्री मुक्ति' का नारा पहली बार लगवाया था। उन्होंने महिलाओं को अपना मुक्त आसमान दिखाने के लिए हमेशा विचार किया था। उसके बाद राजीव गांधी इस देश के प्रधान मंत्री बने। उन्होंने तो हमें इस ऊंचाई पर पहुंचा दिया कि जिस देश में पंचायत राज में 30 लाख लोग चुनकर आते थे और उनमें बहुत ही कम और गिनी-चुनी महिलाएं होती थीं, उस स्थिति में राजीव जी ने 73rd, 74th पंचायती राज का अमेंडमेंट करके महिलाओं को उनका अधिकार दिया, महिलाओं को राजनीति के मुख्य प्रवाह में शामिल किया और पंचायती राज बिल के माध्यम से आज उसमें दस लाख से ऊपर महिलाएं हैं। यदि आकड़ा देखा जाए, तो 17 से 18 लाख महिलाएं पंचायती राज में चुनकर आ रही हैं।

सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि जहां पर निर्णय होता है, ऐसा हमारा सदन राज्य सभा और लोक सभा है। पार्लियामेंट में रिजर्वेशन करने का वायदा हमारी पार्टी ने भी किया था और भारतीय जनता पार्टी ने भी किया है। आज इनकी majority है। मैं आपके माध्यम से इनसे कहना चाहूंगी कि अगर सही मायनों में महिलाओं का दुख जानना चाहते हो, सही मायनों में महिलाओं की मदद करना चाहते हो, तो महिलाओं को आरक्षण देना आवश्यक है। राज्य सभा, लोक सभा और जहां भी विधान सभा और विधान परिषद है, वहां पर 33 per cent आरक्षण देने की आवश्यकता है। सर, जब मैं 11वीं लोक सभा की सदस्य चुनी गई थी, तब पहली बार यह आरक्षण का मुद्दा आया था। उस समय हमारे यहां के ही लोगों ने बताया,

"यत्र नार्यस्तु पूज्यन्ते रमन्ते तत्र देवताः"।

हमें लगा कि अब तो बिल्कुल आरक्षण होने वाला है, क्योंकि हमारे भाई लोग हमें नारी की और देवी की उपमा दे रहे हैं, इसलिए हम बहुत खुश हो गए थे। लेकिन बाद में जब हम सेन्ट्रल हॉल में चले गए, तो यही हमारे भाई लोग बोलने लगे कि क्या आप पागल हो गए हो? हम अपने हाथ में बेला थोड़ी ना लेने वाले हैं! जब तक हम महिलाओं के प्रति यह भावना नहीं बदलेंगे, तब तक तक हमें कोई भी हमारा नया अधिकार नहीं मिल सकता। सर, यह तो राजनीतिक और सामाजिक अधिकार की बात है, लेकिन मैं अभी पूरे देश की महिलाओं की बात कहना चाहूंगी, जिस बात में शहर की महिलाएं हैं, जो महिलाएं हाथों में लैपटॉप लेकर गाड़ी में सवार होकर हर रोज निकलती हैं। जो महिलाएं अपने बच्चों को पीछे स्कूटर पर बैठाती हैं, सुबह-सुबह सबका नाश्ता और नाश्ते का डिब्बा तैयार करती हैं और घर से बाहर निकल झांसी की रानी की तरह जाती हैं। वे खुद अपनी लड़ाई लड़ने के लिए ऑफिस में चली जाती हैं। जब वे ऑफिस में जाती हैं, तो कोई अधिकारी होता है, कोई बॉस होता है, जिसका थोड़ा सा भी चरित्र ठीक नहीं है, तो वह उसके साथ छेड़-छाड़ करने की कोशिश करता है। उसके साथ sexual abuse करने की कोशिश करता है, उसका गैर फ़ायदा उठाने की कोशिश करता है और

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वह बेचारी महिला चुपचाप सहती रहती है। उसके लिए हमने कानून जरूर बनाया है। हमने यूपीए-2 में Sexual Abuse at the Workplace का कानून बनाया था, लेकिन वह कानून कितना क्रियान्वित हो रहा है, इसको देखना भी आवश्यक है। सर, मैं आपको बताना चाहती हूँ कि जिस तरह से शहर की महिलाएं हैं, खेत में मजदूरी करने वाली महिलाएं हैं, जब वे खेत में मजदूरी करने जाती हैं या किसी घर पर मजदूरी करने के लिए जाती हैं, तो उसको भी इन कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

सर, 2011 ऐसा साल था, जब इस देश की राष्ट्रपति एक महिला थी, Lok Sabha की Speaker एक महिला थी, Leader of Opposition एक महिला थी, UPA की Chairperson एक महिला थी। इतना सब होते हुए भी देश की महिलाओं के प्रति आज पुरुषों की जो मानसिकता है, वह ऐसी मानसिकता है, जिसको हम unsaid discrimination कहते हैं। वह unsaid discrimination महिलाओं के प्रति हमेशा रहता है। हमें हमेशा संघर्ष करना पड़ता है और खुद की पहचान बनानी पड़ती है। मैं हमेशा सोचती हूँ कि:

"मुरझाए हुए फूल की तक्रदीर हूँ, लेकिन

चुभ जाऊँ किसी के दिल में, वो काँटा तो नहीं मैं।"

महिलाओं के लिए हमें हमेशा यह लगता है।

सर, हमारा जो Resolution है, उस पर मैं यहाँ दो-चार specific points बताना चाहूंगी। एक तो जो inter-caste marriages, love marriages होती हैं, उसमें जो honour killing का जो प्रकार होता है, उसके लिए भी हमारी Government की तरफ से कुछ steps उठाने जरूरी हैं।

सर, जो female foeticide का सवाल है, जो खास तौर पर महाराष्ट्र, हरियाणा, पंजाब, साऊथ दिल्ली में है, इसमें मैंने सबसे अजीब बात यह महसूस की - क्योंकि मैं Social Welfare Board की Chairperson थी, मैंने यह देखा कि जहाँ पर ज्यादा पैसा है, जहाँ लोग elite हैं, वहाँ female foeticide ज्यादा है, लेकिन जहाँ पर गरीब लोग हैं, जहाँ आदिवासी लोग हैं, जहाँ कष्ट का कार्य करने वाले लोग हैं, वहाँ पर female foeticide नहीं होती है। ऐसा क्यों है? ऐसा इसलिए है, क्योंकि लोगों को prestige बनाने के लिए लड़के चाहिए। लोगों की ऐसी मानसिकता है, ऐसी हमारी महिलाओं की भी मानसिकता है। वे सोचती हैं कि हमारा लड़का होना चाहिए, वह आगे हमारे घर का दीया जलाएगा। इस तरह की मानसिकता से माँ जन्म से पहले ही बच्चे को मारने का काम करती है। वह माँ हो या बाप, दोनों ऐसा करते हैं।

सर, मैं बीड़ डिस्ट्रिक्ट से आती हूँ, जहाँ पर female foeticide के बहुत सारे केसेज़ पकड़े गए थे। वहाँ पर बहुत सारी machines seal कर दी गई थीं। मैं इस सभा गृह को बताना चाहूंगी कि डॉक्टर्स कानून की चपेट में न आएँ, इसके लिए उन्होंने यह किया कि sonography के बाद जो prescription लिखते हैं, उस पर यदि "जय माता दी" लिखते हैं, तो इसका मतलब है लड़की होने वाली है, यदि "श्री गणेश" लिखते हैं, तो इसका मतलब लड़का पैदा होने वाला है। वे "श्री गणेश" का नाम देकर लड़के को spell out करते हैं, और "जय माता दी" का नाम लिखकर लड़की को spell out करते हैं।

और "जय माता दी" का नाम लिखकर लड़की को Spell out करते हैं। इस तरह से उन्होंने कानून से बचने के लिए इस तरक्रीब को लगाने का काम किया है। इन लोगों के ऊपर कड़ी से कड़ी कार्यवाही करने की आवश्यकता है। हमारी हज़ारों कलियाँ खिलने से पहले, माँ के गर्भ से निकलने से पहले ही मार दी जाती हैं, उनके लिए हमें एक stringent action लेने की आवश्यकता है।

सर, dowry और bride burning पर हम कितना भी बोलें, लेकिन हमारे यहाँ पर dowry पर प्रश्न उठना कम नहीं हुआ है। आजकल, जब हम शादियों में जाते हैं, तो हमारे जो बड़े-बड़े नेता लोग भी हैं, वे इतने बड़े लेवल पर शादियाँ करते हैं। हम गाँव में जाते हैं तो हमें आश्चर्य होता है कि इतने करोड़ रुपये खर्च करके शादी करते हैं। वे इस तरह से खर्च करके समाज को क्या राह दिखाएंगे? यह भी आवश्यक है कि dowry का प्रभाव कम हो। आज अगर इसके आंकड़े देखे जाएं, तो इस साल हमारे हिंदुस्तान में 6,787 dowry cases हुए हैं।

सर, हमारे यहाँ पर education disparity भी होती है। जब सिखाना होता है, तो लड़कों को ज्यादा priority दी जाती है, लड़कियों से कहते हैं बाद में। अगर बच्चे को सिखाने का इशू होता है, तो वह भी लड़के ही सीखेंगे। खाने में भी ऐसा ही होता है। गाँव में पहले से ही ऐसा होता आया है कि अगर अच्छा खाना है, तो वह लड़के को दे दो, लड़कियाँ बाद में खाएंगी। हमारे समाज में कभी-कभी ऐसा भी होता है।

सर, domestic violence के लिए, जैसे मैंने अभी बात की है कि 70 per cent Indian women, according to the Women and Child Development Department, आपके डिपार्टमेंट से ही बता रही हूँ कि फैमिली मैम्बर्स से ही 76 प्रतिशत महिलाओं को domestic violence का सामना करना पड़ता है। यह एक आश्चर्य की बात है। मैंने पहले ही शुरुआत में कहा कि महिलाओं का, लड़कियों का property में राइट होना चाहिए। इसमें उनको पुरुषों के बराबर, लड़कों के बराबर अधिकार मिलना चाहिए।

सर, मैं widows के status पर भी बोलूंगी। आप वृंदावन जाकर देखिए, मुझे लगता है कि मंत्री जी ने last week ही वृंदावन पर statement दिया था। आप वृंदावन जाकर देखिए कि वहाँ पर widows की क्या अवस्था है? हमारे देश में पति के चले जाने का गलत अर्थ निकालकर उन महिलाओं का बहुत शोषण किया जाता है।

मैं यहाँ पर witch hunting का भी उल्लेख करना चाहूंगी क्योंकि समय की पाबंदी है, इसलिए मैं ज्यादा नहीं बोलूंगी, लेकिन हमारी महिलाओं के साथ witch hunting की जाती है।

सर, सिर्फ कानून बनाने से काम नहीं होने वाला है। मैं आपके द्वारा सरकार को सिर्फ यही बताना चाहूंगी कि कानून बनाने के बाद उसका implementation कैसे होता है, इस पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। जैसे स्कूलों में हम value education पढ़ाते हैं, अभी स्मृति जी बहुत अच्छा भाषण दे रही थीं, लेकिन जैसे हम स्कूलों में value education की क्लास लगाते हैं, उसी तरह से लड़कियों के लिए जो भी कानून बनते हैं, उन कानूनों में मिले अधिकारों को जानने के लिए कि उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए क्या कानून बनाए गए हैं, उनके बारे में भी उनको जाग्रत करने की आवश्यकता है।

[Shrimati Rajani Patil]

4.00 P.M.

सर, बलात्कार और जो घिनौने अपराध हैं, उनमें अपराधियों को जो सजा मिलती है, जब कोई अपराधी वह सजा पूरी होने के बाद छूट जाता है, तो मुझे लगता है कि उन अपराधियों के ऊपर monitoring करने की जिम्मेदारी भी सरकार को लेनी चाहिए। उनको पुलिस डिपार्टमेंट के through monitor करते रहना चाहिए। रेवाड़ी में घटना हुई है, वहाँ बच्चों ने जो छेड़छाड़ की है, ऐसी छेड़छाड़ के आरोप में उनको अन्दर रखा गया था। जब वे छूट कर बाहर आ गए, तो उसके बाद उन्होंने फिर वह काम करना शुरू कर दिया। यह एक प्रवृत्ति होती है और उस प्रवृत्ति को मिटाने की आवश्यकता है।

सर, जैसा मैंने बताया कि जहाँ कानून बनता है, वहाँ पर हमें आरक्षण मिलने की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने हमेशा कहा है कि हम महिलाओं को आरक्षण देंगे। हमारी नेता सोनिया गाँधी ने हमेशा चाहा है कि इस देश की महिलाओं को लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए।

सर, अंत में मैं महिलाओं के लिए ये चार लफ्ज कहना चाहूँगी और अपना भाषण समाप्त करूँगी:

"ऐ माँओ, बहनो, बेटियो, दुनिया की जीनत तुमसे है,
मुल्कों की बस्ती हो तुम्हीं, कौमों की इज्जत तुमसे है।
तुम घर की हो शहजादियाँ, शहरों की हो आबादियाँ,
गमगीन दिलों की शादियाँ, दुख-सुख की राहत तुमसे है।"

धन्यवाद।

The question was proposed.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Respected Vice-Chairman, the concern of my elder sister, Tai Rajani Patil, is being displayed through the Resolution to ensure gender equity in India.

Ours is a nation which was governed by women. Ours is a Parliament which is being run by women, almost for two terms now. The Indian way of life has imbibed the idea of emancipation of women. Among all the religions, इस्लामियत में माँ तो जन्नत के समान होती है; Christianity में माँ मेरी के स्थान का अंदाजा आप लगा लें; बाकी सिख, जैन, पारसी धर्मों के साथ ही साथ हिन्दू तो माँ की त्रिमूर्ति आत्मक आदि पराशक्ति रूप में देखते ही आ रहे हैं। We assess it in modern times with modern tools as the gender parity index. The UNDP rated India very low on the aspect of women empowerment. The visible gender disparity is not enabling us to enhance the image of the nation in the global fora. This was recently faced by our present Union Minister, who represented us in the UN deliberations on women empowerment. She assured them that the national policy for women empowerment is being improved.

From that context, I would like to mention that earlier the Women and Child

Development was a small Department in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. During UPA time, under Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh improved and elevated this Department to the level of Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was the initiative of Rajiv Gandhiji for giving 33 per cent reservation to women in the local bodies, whether it be rural or urban. The UPA, under Sonia Gandhiji, has improved and elevated it, and fixed 50 per cent reservation for women in local bodies of rural and urban areas. Is it going to give us the overall comprehensive security which we intend to give? What exactly the term 'social security' mean? To assess the social security of a person, there are three levels of elevation. First is the social defence; second is the social justice; and the third is the social empowerment. If these three components are fixed and assessed, then only we can arrive at social security and only then it is attained. Respected Sir, if we assess in our Indian terms even after doing all these things for women, even after showing the magnanimity of the wonderful comprehensive welfare, we find that women in India still have not crossed the level of social defence. When they will cross the level of social defence to enter into social justice and then to empowerment, only then empowerment will come. When we could remove gender disparity and when we could ensure gender equity, then only we can dream of attaining social security for women of the nation. If you look at the employment terms, way back in 1991, it was assessed that just 13 per cent of women had some or other role, whether lower level or higher level, among the manufacturing and the services sectors. That has been gradually getting improved. But, the recent assessment shows that the achievement of employment of women in services and manufacturing sectors is still at 18 per cent. This parity has to come upon. These are giving us challenges in assessment of the Millennium Development Goals. Since we have crossed the level of MDGs to the sustainable development goals, we have a lot more to do. For that, what are we supposed to do? Our challenges are plenty. Complications of culture, social, education, internal security and all other aspects are becoming challenges. One such case in Delhi had necessitated an Act. The then Government, our UPA Government, with the motherly magnanimity of Sonia Gandhiji, promptly enacted the Nirbhaya Act and also ensured a fund of ₹ 1,000 crore to look after and to cater to the needs of enactment utilisation. But now we are from Nirbhaya to Jessup. Other countries are looking at us whether we will come out of this gender disparity so that some level of gender equality is visible among the Indian society. Challenges are going to be much larger. For that in rural areas there was great improvement for women with the setting up of Self-Help Groups. Though it is in very small measure for individuals concerned, but that has enabled to gain the economic power. Once a person starts getting economic power, he will automatically become secured. But even those measures were not comprehensively supported to look into the needs of the women not only in rural India but also in urban India. At this juncture,

[Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu]

I think, Shrimati Rajani Patil thought it fit to move this Resolution. This Resolution is intended to sensitise the Union Government, and also to focus our concern on the issue. Since global community is expecting India to show our gender equality, since people are also demanding us to show the real concern and ensure measures, I hope through this Resolution, the Union Government will get sensitised to the required level. I wish and expect a commitment from the Union Minister on the enhancement and improvement of the national policy for empowering women which will come as a handy tool to cater to the needs and expectations of the women security. Thank you very much.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आदरणीय सदस्या श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल जी ने देश में महिलाओं के साथ होने वाले अलग-अलग प्रकार के विषयों को लेकर एक बार फिर सरकार को इस विषय पर ठीक से सोचने की दृष्टि से अपनी भावनाओं को इस निर्णय के स्वरूप में यहाँ पर लाने की कोशिश की है।

महोदय, यह जो 'gender equality' शब्द है, तो 'gender equality' अच्छा है या 'gender harmony' अच्छा है, इसके बारे में हमें सोचना होगा। क्या एक स्त्री-पुरुष एक-दूसरे के दुश्मन बनकर अपनी जिन्दगी को सुन्दर बना सकते हैं, कहाँ पर हमारी गलती हो रही है? अभी थोड़ी देर पहले मेरे मित्र ने कहा कि दुनिया में देख रही है। अगर मैं कहूँ, तो कई ऐसी चीजें दुनिया से हमारे देश में आ गई हैं, जिनमें से हम कैसे बाहर निकलें? 1994 में जब ग्लोबलाइजेशन के नाम पर इस देश का दरवाजा विश्व के लिए open किया गया, तो मोबाइल, इंटरनेट, टीवी आदि अलग-अलग माध्यमों ने हमारे देश में प्रवेश किया। आज कई ऐसी दैनिक पत्रिकाएँ हैं, जिनमें बहुत गंदे advertisements छपते हैं। एक पत्रिका के सम्पादक ने बताया कि इस advertisement से हमें साल में 6 करोड़ रुपये मिलते हैं। लेकिन उनको 6 करोड़ मिलते हैं और दूसरी जगह 6,000 करोड़ की बरबादी होती है। ऐसी कई महत्वपूर्ण समस्याएँ हैं। मूल समस्या को समझें बिना, रोग क्या है, इसका मूल कहाँ से है, इसे जाने बिना, इस पर केवल कुछ निर्णय करके हम उसमें परिवर्तन कर सकते हैं, ऐसा मैं नहीं समझता हूँ। आपने बताया कि नये संविधान सशोधन के द्वारा लाखों महिलाओं को अधिकार दिया गया। इसके साथ ही साथ मेरे मित्र ने बताया कि आज Self Help Group महिलाओं को अपनी स्वाभिमान भरी जिन्दगी जीने के लिए एक सहारा के रूप में उनके काम आया है। तो कानून में यह सब होने के बावजूद भी निर्भया की घटना के बाद, देश में इस प्रकार के समाचारों के बारे में संदेश बढ़ गए, कम नहीं हुए। कई बार मुझे लगता है और मुझे जे०पी० मूवमेंट की याद आती है, जो मूवमेंट भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ चला। उसके बाद जो सरकारें आईं, देश में भ्रष्टाचार बढ़ता ही गया। केवल कानून के द्वारा इन समस्याओं का निराकरण होगा, ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। समाज में हमें साथ में जीना है और उसी माँ की गोद में हम जन्म लेते हैं, उस स्त्री को, उस नारी को गौरव से हम नहीं देखेंगे तो हम भी अपने देश में गौरव से नहीं रह सकते हैं। उसे गौरवमयी माँ का सुपुत्र भी हम नहीं कह सकते हैं, तो इसीलिए मूल समस्या को माननीया मंत्री जी, समझने की कोशिश करें और उस समस्या के निराकरण की दृष्टि से, समाज में कैसे सही माहौल निर्माण हो, इसके बारे में विशेष प्रयत्न करना होगा। जैसे आजकल छोटा बच्चा भी माँ के विरोध में revolt करता है, जवान बच्चे का व्यवहार घर में अलग होता है, पति-पत्नी के बीच में नई समस्याएँ

खड़ी होती हैं, परिवार के बीच में समस्याएं खड़ी होती हैं। एक ज़माना ऐसा था जब परिवार में 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 100 लोग रहते थे। कई समस्याएं 99 परसेंट वहां के वहां सुलझ जाती थीं, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से आज उस प्रकार का कोई परिवार बचा नहीं है। दुनिया का दरवाजा हमने खोल दिया है और लाखों समस्याओं ने हमारे देश के अंदर प्रवेश किया है। इसके अंदर से हम कैसे बाहर निकलें, इसके लिए हमें रास्ता ढूंढना होगा। इसीलिए मानवीय संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए इस दिशा में देश में, जो धार्मिक संगठन होते हैं देश में जो साहित्यिक संगठन होते हैं, देश में जो सोशल ऑर्गनाइजेशंस होते हैं उनके बीच में इस प्रकार के विचारों से एक परिवर्तन की लहर लाने मात्र से हमारे देश में इस प्रकार की समस्याओं से हमको बचाया जा सकता है। उस दिशा में हम लोगों को सोचना चाहिए। एक-दूसरे के बिना हमारी जिंदगी नहीं बनती है। दुनिया में ऐसे भी देश हैं, मैंने आदरणीया सुधा मूर्ति जी का एक नॉवल पढ़ा है, स्विट्ज़रलैंड एक ऐसा देश है, जहां स्त्रियों की चलती है, पुरुषों की वहां बिल्कुल नहीं चलती। आप जाकर देख सकते हैं। तो फिर वहां की समस्या अलग हो सकती है। इसलिए हम दोनों के बिना देश नहीं चलेगा, ऐसा दोनों को समझ कर चलना होगा। तो इस विषय को लाते समय, इस निर्णय को लाते समय अगर इन चीजों के बारे में आपने सोचा होता तो इसका अधिक उपयोग होता। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से विनती करता हूं कि यह जो सोशल मीडिया है, आज जो मॉर्डन सोशल मीडिया है, देश के अंदर कई नई समस्याएं खड़ी कर रहा है। उसके अंदर आने वाले चित्र, उसके अंदर आने वाले मैसेज पूरे देश के जवानों के दिल के अंदर एक प्रकार का तहलका मचाते हैं। इतना ही नहीं यह सामाजिक प्यार को तोड़ने का भी काम करता है। मेरे एक मित्र ने कहा कि आजकल मोबाइल के अंदर आने वाले अलग-अलग प्रकार के चित्र इत्यादि, क्या सरकार उनको रोज देख पाती हैं या नहीं? नहीं तो, कहीं अंदर से अंदर आग लगाकर देश भस्म न हो जाए, इस प्रकार की सामाजिक आग लगाने की शक्ति भी उसके बीच में काम करती है। तो यह सम्पूर्ण देश की और समाज की समस्या है। केवल इस प्रकार के निर्णय से इसका निराकरण नहीं होगा। वैसे इस ओर सरकार की तरफ से कई मजबूत कानून भी बने हैं। निर्भया कांड के बाद विशेष न्यायाधीश के मार्गदर्शन के बाद जो दिशा-निर्देश दिया गया, उसके अनुसार कानून को और मजबूत भी किया गया। जहां तक मैं समझता हूं कि इसमें ए, बी, और सी, आपके जो तीन महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय हैं, मैं समझता हूं आज वर्तमान कानूनों के अंदर इन सब चीजों को निबटाया जा सकता है। सरकार अपने कदम को मजबूत करे। जो "डी" है, उसके बारे में मैं आपसे सहमति रखता हूं। आप माननीया मंत्री जी से विनती करके, जिसमें विशेषकर इंट्रोड्यूस्ड वैलफेयर मेंजर्स, सब्सटेंस एलाउंस और ओल्ड एज एलाउंस, मेडिकल केयर जैसी अलग-अलग प्रकार की सुविधा में कुछ वृद्धि कर सकते हैं। अगर मैं कहूं, सबसे बड़ी आवश्यकता क्या है, तो महिलाओं को धैर्य और आत्म-विश्वास देने की आवश्यकता है। फिर हम अपनी मेहनत से काम करके आराम से जी सकते हैं, इस दिशा में सरकार की नीति होनी चाहिए। उनका जितना आत्म-विश्वास बढ़ेगा, उतना ही इसका निराकरण होगा। जब इस तरह का विश्वास बढ़ेगा कि हम काम करके जी सकते हैं, तभी इसका निराकरण होगा।

आपने कहीं पर कहा कि प्रॉपर्टी में उनको हाफ राइट मिलना चाहिए। अभी भी प्रॉपर्टी में सभी लड़कियों को बराबर राइट है। केवल राइट से समस्या का निराकरण नहीं होता है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि माननीय सदस्या, श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल द्वारा प्रस्तुत किए गए संकल्प में दिए गए पहले तीन आग्रहों पर माननीय मंत्री जी गंभीरता से सोचें और अभी जो कानून है, उसी के अंतर्गत उनको न्याय दिलाने की कोशिश करें। आदरणीय सदस्या न अपने संकल्प के द्वारा जो यह आग्रह किया है,

[श्री बसावाराज पाटिल]

"बेसहारा विधवाओं, अस्वस्थ और वृद्ध महिलाओं के लिए कल्याणकारी उपाय, गुजारा भत्ता, वृद्धावस्था भत्ता, चिकित्सा सुविधा, वृद्धाश्रमों और देख-रेख गृह जैसी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए, ताकि वे भी समाज में एक सम्मानजनक जीवन बिना सकें।" सरकार इस विषय में आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उनके लिए सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करे, लेकिन पहले तीन विषयों के अंदर सबसे पहले समाज की समरसता को रखते हुए और जो विकृतियां आई हैं, इनके निराकरण के लिए नए-नए रास्ते ढूंढ़ कर इसका परिहार किया जा सकता है। यह काम केवल दोषारोपण से नहीं हो सकता है। मैं फिर एक बार कह सकता हूं कि यह equity नहीं है, मैं इसको harmony कहता हूं। Harmony के द्वारा एक सुंदर समाज को देखा जा सकता है और इन समस्याओं को मात दी जा सकती है। इसलिए मैं आपसे विनती करूंगा कि आप जो यह संकल्प लाई हैं, इस पर माननीय मंत्री जी के assurance के बाद आप इसको वापस ले लें। इस संकल्प के भाग (घ) के अंदर जो अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बातें हैं, उनको सरकार कंसिडर करे, यही बात कहते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, first of all, I must appreciate and congratulate my friend, Shrimati Rajani Patil, for raising this very, very important, sensitive issue through the Private Members' Business (Resolution). While I am supporting all her points, I want to bring to the notice of this august House, and also of the hon. Minister, that the condition of women in our country at this age also is very, very pathetic. We should not forget the history of women, the contribution of women not only in the freedom struggle of our country but at present also. I do not want to repeat, I do not want to mention the names of those courageous ladies who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our country. Though our former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, sacrificed her life for the unity and integrity of our country, even then, sometimes I am very pained, it is a matter of great surprise that in this country the women are not properly given their due honour, in this connection, I want to raise some points.

First of all, I want to raise the point of women empowerment. If women empowerment policy is fully implemented and if this concept is made completely successful, especially in three sectors, that is, social, economic and political, then, I think all these problems will be automatically solved. So, for women empowerment, as far as economic sector is concerned, I want to cite some examples. Our UPA Government, in the National Food Security Act, introduced a system whereby it has been made mandatory that ration card should be issued in the name of women, that is, the wife of the family. Likewise, there are so many other schemes. In all these schemes, wherever it is possible, we should make it mandatory. For example, the Indira Awas Yojana is a very good scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development. Just as we have made it mandatory in the National Food Security Act, in the Indira Awas Yojana also, we should make it compulsory that women

will be the beneficiary. As my friend, Shrimati Rajani Patil, has mentioned some of the schemes, in para (d), she has stated about old age allowance. So far as the old age pension is concerned, on the matter of age, there is no discrimination. Whenever anyone crosses the age of 66, he or she is allowed to get the old age pension. That is all right. But, at the ground level, in its implementation at the Panchayati level, what we have seen is that in many cases women are not considered as the beneficiaries, or, I should say, only in a very few cases, women are considered. So, in this aspect also, I want to know whether we can make an amendment of our law and whether we can make a mandatory provision that in all such schemes, women will be made the beneficiary. It is only if it is made mandatory for women to be considered as the beneficiary that the economic empowerment can be successful. Now what happens in certain cases? There is a provision that if the husband, who is a Government employee, dies in harness, his wife, if she is qualified, should get appointment on the compassionate ground. All right, that provision is there. But we have seen, in many cases, whether it is a Central Department or a State Department, that a poor woman, after the death of her husband, has to run from pillar to post to get employment on compassionate ground. Sometimes, she has to wait for five or six years or even ten years, and she has to even approach the High Court for justice. So, this happens. Similarly, even in the matter of pension, if the husband dies, the woman is entitled for pension. But we have seen that in order to get her due share, the system, the red tapism, the corruption, is such that that poor lady has to run from pillar to post just to get her due claim, her due pension. Therefore, can we make some mandatory provision whereby in case of compassionate ground, a woman gets her appointment within a stipulated period of time, and that in case of pension, she will get it within such and such period of time, and, that in the event of this not happening, the concerned officer will be made responsible for it? If we can make such mandatory provisions, then, certainly, economic empowerment of women will be a success.

Sir, my friend also referred to women SHGs. Yes, it is a very good step towards economic empowerment of women. But, in reality, what have we seen? Even these SHGs are harassed in banks. Banks are not helping them. They are not opening their accounts or giving them loans. In fact, whatever they are entitled to get under the scheme, they are not getting them. There are so many instances where our system has denied women their rights. It is because of this defective system that women are harassed for no fault of theirs. Therefore, my humble submission to this august House and the hon. Minister is that we have to make some strict rules, some strict provisions, to ensure that women are not discriminated against and that women get their due share. Sir, apart from this, one aspect is for unmarried women. In our villages we have seen that there are some

[Shri Ripun Bora]

unmarried girls. So, can we not make a provision? In the Social Welfare Department Act there are some schemes, but those schemes will not help because in order to get the benefit of the schemes the woman has to be again harassed. So, for unmarried, can we not give them some regular pension like old-age pension, monthly pension, subsistence allowance? In the case of a widow there is provision. One scheme is there, the National Social Security Scheme. Under this scheme, if the husband of the woman dies, she has to get ₹ 20,000. But this is a very meagre amount. Sir, at this time of sky rocketing prices this is a very meagre amount and not all the women are getting. At the Panchayat level there are some targets which are given. Only five women in a year or only three women or two women are getting ₹ 20,000. This will not cover all the widows, the victims. I am not speaking about the rich people. I am speaking about the widows who are living below the poverty line. Darkness has come after the death of her husband. So, in that case, can we not make a provision? Can we not extend this scheme to all the victims? And this amount should be increased and a one-time grant will not solve the problem. If we make a monthly subsistence allowance or a monthly allowance or a monthly pension, then, in this way also we can empower the women in the field of economy. So, hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with these few points, I want to fully support the Private Members' Resolution which has been raised by my friend, Shrimati Rajani Patil and I do hope the august House will consider it and the hon. Minister will give some positive reply to incorporate all the suggestions in Government rules and procedures. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI): Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank Shrimati Rajani Patil for bringing up such an important issue and I would like to thank all the other speakers, Shri Rapolu, Shri Basawaraj Patil and Shri Ripun Bora for taking part in this discussion. I am just going to answer a few points of what we have done, what we intend to do and what is still in the realm of ideas and where we would benefit from suggestions.

The first thing you talked about was *Sarpanches* and how we have two lakh *Sarpanches* in this country who are women and how it has benefited the body politic. In actual fact, it was a brilliant idea. There is no doubt about it and it was intended to produce a large number of politically-aware and economically-aware women. It didn't work out quite like that and the reason for that was that apart from making them *Sarpanches* we didn't train them. So, a lot of women who became *Sarpanches*, in fact, most women who became *Sarpanches*, went back into ghunghats after they were elected and their husbands then technically ran the village and interacted with officials and called themselves, actually unofficial, *Sarpanch-pati* or *Pradhan-pati*. For the first time, we are recognising this in a

belief that if these *Sarpanches* are trained and if they are confident enough to handle their villages, we will see a marked change in the economic and confidence levels of women in that village and all over India. So, out of 6 lakh villages, 2 lakh villages are headed by women. These Sarpanch women are being trained as we speak in matters ranging from how to make *cement ki naliya*, houses for women, how to control the girls from being molested — in fact, I may have to control the boys, actually — how to take care of women whose families do not send their girls to school, how to look at Anganwadis work, how to make sure that teacher comes to school, how the look at girl dropout, etc. The first phase of training has just got over. We are starting it in batches of 40 at a time. And, we have started it from Jhalwad. It was amazing that all 40 *Sarpanches* came with their husbands who insisted that they would also sit them. They were all stopped outside, kept in a room, fed tea and coffee for the whole day. The women were, actually, for the first time, on their own. They were not only trained, but, at the end of it, requested that we design an App for them in which they could keep in touch with each other and tell each other what they were achieving in village. So, look, how quickly they picked up. This is going to be repeated till all 2 lakh women are trained. So, this is amongst many things we have done.

Coming to the other point, we have, of course, Sexual Harassment Committees at every workplace. Every workplace has to have one now. The hon. Finance Minister was requested by us to ask companies to declare it in their audit. Apart from that, the Finance Ministry has also come up with an innovation of making one women Director on the Board of every company. While this stared, of course, with wives and daughters, but sooner or later, it will be independent women on the Board. And, they have also been asked to declare it in their audit.

Regarding safety and security which all the four hon. Members have raised, one of the game changers that we have come up with in which the Home Ministry good enough to listen to us almost immediately is to have 33 per cent women in the police force. Now, I think, all the UTs and 7 States have 33 per cent women. This, more than anything else, will contribute towards the defense of women or they will have a social feeling of safety. Added to this is what we call the 'Panic Button.' From 1st January, 2017, we will put it into action. It means, every cell phone in India has a button which can be pressed should the women be in danger or feel herself in danger at any time. From police sensitization, increase of women in police force, Panic Button and many other things that we have come up with, including one-stop-centres, will help them a lot. With regard to the One-Stop-Centres, we allowed 36 in the first year. We may have made 14. All the 14 centers are doing extremely well. They have taken care of a large number of women problems — from being stalked to being raped. We are now, this year, going to make it 150 — 5

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per State. If these go well, before our term is up, I hope to make it 660. Then, of course, next time, whoever comes here should set up even more centres so that women have this place to go for help. Sir, I am happy to say that it has an immediate effect. When we put first one in Raipur, it has an immediate effect in stemming more common forms of sexual molestation, stalking, rape, etc., because men then begin to feel that women has somewhere to go, she has got a free lawyer, police help and everything is catered to her well being. Once we can get more of these things on the ground, it will address many things. Why have we not been faster? It is because the States are taking their time to give us land. We just need 300 sq. yards. We are asking again and again and as soon as we get each one, within two months, you have the centre. So, Sir, several things are being done.

All four hon. Members have talked about female foeticide. Sir, female feticide exists. Yes; there is a divide down in the middle of India into West and East. The East is poorer, has a large number of children and does not really care about quality as much as quantity. They does not really care so much about whether they are girls or boys. The West which, it seems to be, considering itself upperly mobile is having less and less children often confining themselves to two but wanting exactly what they want which is either two boys or a girl and a boy or a boy and a girl, whichever. So, this is where, we discovered that female foeticide was more prevalent. So, we started a programme called 'Beti Bachao' and we took the hundred worst-affected districts. We put rupees one crore per district and we made the DM the head of it. We put on a set of simple things to do, namely, (i) there will be institutionalised delivery of babies; (ii) there will be a Guddi-Gudda Board in every village which would show these many boys and these many girls, so that every villager can see it. The third thing is that we involved NGOs. We involved even grandmothers who often decide whether a child will be born or not. So, we involved people, the informers, who would give us reports. We had vans running with films and music. We dominated the radio for this. The end-result has been enormously valuable. When we were starting the programme, I thought that Haryana which had the Child Sex Ratio of 830 would, at the maximum, go up, in one year, to 840 or 850, if we were lucky. After we put in so much intensive work into all hundred districts, what Haryana did by itself, and it was a worst case study in the whole of India, went up in one year from 830 to 907, which is in itself a miracle and shows you how willing India is to be changed, provided it is done sensibly. Now, we have added 61 more districts, and hopefully, we will achieve this miracle in them also. We have, out of these 100 districts, 49 districts, which went way beyond our thought. But, amongst all of them, one that is last place was J&K. But, even in J&K, there is an increase and it has improved also. So, we were very pleased with that.

Then, you talked about making laws to help women in property. I think Haryana and some other States have got a law in which if you put the land in the women's name, then you get a certain amount of tax benefits in the land. So, that is a good idea. You talked about widows.

I am happy to tell you that we are building India's largest and first huge widows' home in Vrindavan. I went there the other day just to put the neeve and it should be ready by the end of the year. It is for thousand widows. It won't be just homes where they live with dignity in one place; they will also get things to do, ways to earn money; they get to keep their own *Goushala*; they get to do their own gardening and vegetables. It will be like an entire community. If that does well, we will make another. But, it will be very positive for them.

You talked about sexual offenders and a national register for them. You may have read Shri Kiren Rijiju's reply in Parliament where he talked, a few days ago, about the Home Ministry establishing, for the first time, in India a national register for criminal offenders of different types of which one will be a sexual offender.

Apart from the women's safety, we have also started the Women's Helpline, 181. It is functioning in eleven States and the WCD Ministry has sanctioned funds to all States through this. This has come out of the Nirbhaya Funds. Then, 19 more, as I just told you, One Stop Centres will be ready in another few months, and 150 by the end of the year. Then, one of the things that Mr. Bora talked about was how difficult it is for widows and other people to get certification after their husbands die. It is true that if for some strange reason, when somebody died, the name of his heir, his wife or her husband, is not mentioned on the death certificate. This made it almost impossible for widows to claim pension benefits or anything. This is one of the first things we did. When this Government came to power, we asked the Registrar to make it compulsory for all death certificates to mention the partner's name so that it becomes easy, and this has been done.

Now, we come to women's empowerment. What we have done are several things. I have a bank called Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. Before I came, it was not doing well at all. All it did was, very strangely, lent money at 6 per cent to NGOs and they then lent money ahead at 12 per cent, then they all run away with the money. So, nobody ever returned it. Then, we put lawyers, which cost us even more money to try and retrieve that. Then, we put people on top of those lawyers to make sure that the lawyers attended! The whole thing was a complete mess. Now, it is sorted out and it is an active, functioning bank for women, which has other schemes in it. It has training schemes for women. The first time any Government has ever done anything is called e-Mahila Haat. The e-Mahila

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Haat, if you look up on your computers, is a place where any woman producing anything anywhere in India, can put her things free on this Haat. We charge no money. She gives her address and the buyer gets in touch directly with the seller. So far, we already have a couple of lakhs of women on it, who are selling/buying and we have received expressions of interest from Flipkart and Amazon, who would like to partner with us. So, hopefully, in a couple of months, this will be an active help to women to sell their products, no matter whether it is Mehendi or goods and services, whether cooking item or anything else. This is going to lead to something which one day will be very, very important. It has been a dream of mine for a long time—that is, we have FICCI, we have ASSOCHAM, we have CII. These three are taken very seriously by the Finance Ministry and all Governments. They don't really have Women's Wing. They do have a Women's Wing, but usually they are the wives of the people on it. It is not really an independent wing that contributes much. What we want is Women's Entrepreneurship Council. This Council will ultimately come out of this Ministry's e-Mahila Haat. Every woman selling something will have a vote. She will vote at various levels till she reaches the National Council. This National Council will make policy for women in the economic sphere, will make banking policy for them, and will interact with Government when the Finance Minister calls them. Within a year, we have to have this up and running. As time goes on, hopefully, it will become very powerful. This is one of the things that are already in the pipeline.

Sir, in order for equality to become more of a thought in every class, we have proposed—it has been agreed on and it is going to start now—'gender champion' from Standard-V up. Any child that behaves well towards the opposite sex and protects them, looks after them, shows courtesy to them will get a prize in each class for being the 'gender champion'. If we can make little boys proud to be nice to girls, then we might be able to change the future for them. We also have something very significant, which is the Mahila Police Volunteer. We have been allowed to do this by the Home Ministry. Every village will have one girl above the age of 21 who will act as a Police Volunteer. She will be chosen by the local SP and she will then have to look after her village to see to it that the children get to school, that there is no molestation, that there is no case of husbands beating their wives, that there is no dowry and such things that happen in villages which often don't come to our notice. So, this Mahila Police Volunteer is already on its way. Madhya Pradesh has an excellent programme called the Shaurya Dal. And that has got ten people in each village, both men and women. In fact, it is taken so seriously that on Republic Day, Madhya Pradesh, actually, has a contingent of *Shaurya Dal*, being paraded.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): This is like the system which the Sheriff in the US started. You suggest some good names, so that it will be a nice name.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I am open to suggestions. If anybody gives me a suggestion, I am happy to take it. The Nirbhaya Fund is actively working. The panic button will come through it; One Stop Centres are coming through it. The MHA has made Victim Compensation Funds through it. You already know about the POCSO Act, which safeguards the interests of the child at every stage of judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for recording of evidences, investigation, speedy trial of offences through special courts. I have already told you about the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013, which was passed by you, but, now makes it mandatory. We have also made a booklet telling what you have to do if you are harassed, and this has been sent to almost every company and every group of companies, so that they know, exactly, what they are supposed to do. We have a lot of schemes for welfare coming up. Swadhar and Short Stay Homes for relief and rehabilitation to destitute women; working women hostels; Support to Training and Employment Program for women which is called STEP, in which my Ministry will pay the money to train anybody; 200 women at a time, in new innovative things which are job-based.

I mentioned about the National Mission for Empowerment of Women which has been set up to strengthen the overall process. We have a creche scheme for children of working mothers. We have a women helpline which I have already mentioned about. We have Sabla Scheme for holistic development of adolescent girls. There are so many schemes. But the point is, every thing that you have said in the economic area, in the political area, in the defence area ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh) Can I seek one clarification? This panic button that is going to be put on the telephones; what is the physical backup that this has? When I press the panic button, what is the fastest reaction time I am going to get and how?

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Good question. It will go to the police station, and hopefully, the police will flat-foot it immediately. But, there is another app that I am trying to add to it, which will make it even better. The panic button will be mandatory and it will be on every phone and all the previous phones will have to be retrofitted as well. But there is one app which interests me greatly, which we will have to buy because it has been made privately. It is that, in the same panic button, when it is pressed, till the police come along, it alerts the ten people closest to you. Hopefully, one out of those, will be civic-minded and will come and help you. So I want to make that attachment to this. And if the panic button won't bear it, then, we will put the separate app, which we buy and give free. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There is an imminent danger, as this is known in the public about the panic button, the molester can take the phone and throw it. So you will need to activate GPS. I have a plan in mind and I will discuss it with you ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: Yes; of course, it will be GPS activated. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: When the phone is at the nearest point and after that, the point where the woman is taken away, is still a question mark. But, I have a suggestion which I will discuss with you later, just to put that into action, it is something I have been. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: You can tell me, because we are still at the stage where we can ask them to refine. The other danger for it — just talking off the top of my head — is that a child gets it and keeps pressing that button and so, you have a wolf-wolf syndrome coming in. Hopefully, that won't happen because once women realise that it is for their own good, they won't allow it to be misused. But, if the other app can get ten people around her to take action, then it would help. Then, it is GPS connected. I assure the hon. Member, Shrimati Patil, that my Ministry is addressing all the concerns raised by her in the Resolution, and we will continue to work for the betterment and safety of women.

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीया मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूँ कि मंत्री जी ने जो 'सरपंचपति' शब्द का प्रयोग किया, मुझे उससे आपत्ति है, क्योंकि यह भी पुरुषों की एक साजिश है कि जो महिला राजनीति में आती है, उसके लिए ऐसे शब्द का प्रयोग हो।

हम खुद सरपंच से लेकर जिला परिषद तक और वहां से आज राज्य सभा तक आए हैं जब राजीव जी ने हम महिलाओं को 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण दिया, तो हमारे पति हमें डिक्टेट नहीं करते थे। अगर आप सभी को जनरलाइज़ करेंगी, तो यह उचित नहीं होगा, चूंकि इतने सालों से आपने महिलाओं को एक चौखट से बांध कर रखा हुआ है, इतने सालों से उनको घर में बंद करके रखा हुआ है...

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I am not deliberating, and I am saying that this exists. Now, there are *Sarpanches* who hold their own.

But most of the *Sarpanches* don't. That is why we are training them so that we don't have you as the exception.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: No, no; there are many such women.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: The Sarpanch Pati or Pradhan Pati

then becomes an illegal position. When we talk about it, it is a position that usually deals with officers, which should not be. That is why we are training them.

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: दूसरा, मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि महिलाओं के लिए जो 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण की मांग की गई है, उसके लिए आपने कुछ नहीं बोला है।

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I can't answer that because that is the political decision that the House will have to take, and every party will have to stand by. So, I don't have the liberty to answer it by myself.

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: गवर्नमेंट का इस बारे में क्या कहना है, हम इसके बारे में जानना चाहते हैं।

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: I don't have a comment on it either. Since we are going to be. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: There is one other aspect which I think we have come of age to take. You know, my hon. colleague was telling that, when a woman's husband dies, as a widow, she has to run up and down. This is a reality. Now, why should any woman be dependent on her status as married or unmarried or single or separated to get any benefit for a sustainable livelihood? She is a citizen. An old man doesn't have to be dependent on whether his wife is alive or not for him to get a pension. Why should a woman be dependent? All the time, we are associated. You commit sati because you have *pati*. If there is no *pati*, there is no sati. So, this perpetuates the whole syndrome. I think we should do away with that. If a woman is single and she is earning or not earning, that is all that depends. She should be entitled to any kind of benefits from the Government. I think we should do away with this. There are times in the villages where the man leaves the woman. There is a man who has two wives. Now, if he dies, one wife gets the benefit; the other wife is left begging all the way. I think you should consider that.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: What is the alternative? We have pensions, we have allowances, and we have tax benefits. All three of them should be applicable to women or men depending on what the rule is.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No, they don't give it.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: If you are over 60 years, then, you are entitled to a pension. All these things — none of which — are in the sphere of the Centre. They are all State-based. Now, for instance, in Uttar Pradesh, they announced with great *dhum-dhamka* Widows' Pension. That Widows' Pension was ₹150 a month, which is given every six months, which is really not enough for her to live. On the top

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of that, it was often misused, stolen by local postman, and she never actually ever got it. Now, it has been withdrawn completely. So, there are no pensions. धूम-धड़ाके से उन्होंने एनाउंस किया 'Old Age Pension'. Some people got it in some village, some people didn't, some people had to prove it with birth certificates, and the really poor didn't get it. And, now, that has also disappeared. So, every State decides for itself what pensions, what tax benefits, what reliefs it gives to men and women. It is not within the Centre's purview at all.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: The Old Age Pension comes from the centre.

SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI: No, no; it doesn't. For instance, U.P's pension comes from U.P., and now it disappeared like everything else. So, it came; then, they stopped it for a couple of years; then, they started again, then, it gets stopped. So, nothing has been mandated here. If we could, perhaps, mandate, that everybody gets a pension, then, it would help them. For instance, the hon. Prime Minister has made this amazing Insurance Schemes of ₹ 12 and ₹ 325, which are the cheapest in the world possibly, and give you a lot of benefits. There are also old-age pension Schemes. All of which are new and innovative. All of which, over a period of time, will give you security, should you want to take part in. That, I think, will go a long way. Perhaps, we should have a discussion one day on schemes for women, or, just insurance schemes and old-age schemes for women.

I would request the hon. Member to withdraw here Resolution, as we are trying our very best to look after your concerns.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Smt. Rajni Patil, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल: सर, मैं आशा करती हूँ कि सरकार ने, मंत्री जी ने यहाँ आपके माध्यम से जो सूचनाएँ दी हैं, ...(व्यवधान)... उन्होंने जो रिप्लाय दिया है, उसका अनुपालन होगा। मैं आशा करती हूँ कि हमारा जो 33 परसेंट का मुद्दा है, जिसका उत्तर उनके पास नहीं है, लेकिन वह उन्हीं की सरकार की उद्घोषणा है। वह चुनावी जुमला है, यह मालूम नहीं, लेकिन उसे करने की आवश्यकता है। इसलिए इसी अपेक्षा के साथ मैं अपना संकल्प वापस लेती हूँ।

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, we shall take up the next item. Shri D Raja to move his Resolution regarding the need to abolish capital punishment in the country.