

श्री प्रेम चन्द गुप्ता: कोई किसी एक पार्टी का इश्यू नहीं है। What I suggest is that we should have a one hour discussion on this issue, which is very important.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, somebody can give notice. ...*(Interruptions)*... I think, in this Session... ...*(Interruptions)*... It may not be possible before... ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Next session, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I also agree with you. Notice can be given and the hon. Chairman may consider it. I will also request hon. Chairman to consider it. I agree with you.

Now, Shrimati Kahkashan Perveen, not present. Okay. Now, Special Mentions.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Urgent need to address gender inequality in the country

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. Sir, this issue has been discussed many times here. However, I would like to mention the urgent need to address gender inequality. Sir, gender inequality in India is a growing concern. As per UN Gender Inequality Index, India ranks abysmally 127 out of 146 countries in gender inequality. Even McKinsey's Report "The Power of Parity: Advancing Women's Equality in India shows poor levels of gender parity. And, our global Gender Parity Score is 0.48 whereas a score of 1 would be ideal. It represents 'extremely high' level of gender inequality, which compares poorly with 0.71 for Western Europe, 0.74 for North America and Oceania.

No doubt a significant progress on promoting girls' education and advancing gender equality is made, but stark inequalities still exist between men and women in their access to education, healthcare, resources and opportunities in socio-economic and cultural spheres. Just 13 per cent of women of low economic status avail institutional deliveries, while only 19 per cent in the lowest quintile avail any kind of post-natal care. Adverse child (0-6 years) sex ratio of 914 in 2011 when compared to 927 in 2001 gives grim reminder of continuing aversion to girl child and tempering natural demography. Female literacy rate is 65 per cent against 81 per cent for men and 97 per cent women undergo sterilisation.

So, it is imperative to address low status of women as a national priority by channelizing potential of our 300 million young people to catapult itself into a new

[Shri K. C. Ramamurthy]

trajectory of development. Programmes that educate adolescents and young males and females to influence their health and consequently their overall well-being are an absolute priority, apart from investing in skill development on young.

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, just on the issue of business in the House today and tomorrow, all we have is the President's....(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: One second, Sir. It is just to clarify. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After this, I will. I think, we will finish this. Then, I will allow you. There will be time. Now, Shri Vivek Gupta.

Demand to take steps to maintain the spirit of cooperative federalism in the country

श्री विवेक गुप्ता (पश्चिमी बंगाल): सर, आपका एक बार फिर धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे मौका दिया। Special Mention पढ़ने का मौका बहुत कम मिलता है।

सर, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अभी थोड़े दिन पहले ही कहा था कि भारत की ताकत उसका federal character और federal structure है और हम स्टेट्स के साथ बड़े भाई के attitude में विश्वास नहीं रखते हैं। "We believe in cooperative federalism." उनके स्टेटमेंट से ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार को स्टेट्स की मदद करनी चाहिए। सरकार को एक स्टेट को उसके कामकाज करने देने में पूरी-पूरी मदद करनी चाहिए और उसको इसके लिए जिस-जिस चीज की दरकार है, वह देनी चाहिए। सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार के ध्यान में कुछ आँकड़े लाना चाहता हूँ। पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकार को 2011 में करीब ढाई लाख करोड़ का कर्ज मिला था। 5 साल से ज्यादा हो गए, लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ने न तो हमें कोई फंड दिया है, न हमारी कोई मदद की है, न कोई moratorium किया है, कुछ भी नहीं किया है। मगर, surprisingly, हम लोग विदेशी देशों की जा-जाकर मदद कर रहे हैं। सर, पश्चिमी बंगाल में 101 IAS ऑफिसर्स की shortage है और 88 IPS ऑफिसर्स की shortage है। इस demand को सरकार के साथ regularly उठाया जा रहा है, मगर अभी तक हमारे पास सरकार से कोई response नहीं आया है।

इसके अलावा, आजकल देखा गया है और last six months में हमारी दीदी, hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal ने कई बार इस issue को उठाया है कि आजकल सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट बहुत सारे फैसले बिना स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को consult किए arbitrarily लेती है।