

[Mr. Chairman]

For Members, who are making comments, I would like to say that my ear catches everything. There is no provision for Zero Hour and Special Mentions. It is I who took the initiative and I am conducting it during the extended Session. Extended session is only for Government Business. Please understand. If you are not interested; it's okay, no problem. But, there are Members who are working hard and giving notices. Now, R.K. Sinha, please continue.

**Need for mandatory training in schools for life-saving skills in
Disaster Management**

श्री आर. के. सिन्हा: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मेरा यह ज़ीरो ऑवर का नोटिस कई बार आया, लेकिन कई कारणों से टेकअप नहीं हो सका। आज मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूँ कि आज मेरा यह ज़ीरो ऑवर टेकअप हो गया। मैं इस शून्यकाल के नोटिस के माध्यम से बच्चों और किशोरों के पाठ्यक्रमों में सेल्फ केयर एंड प्रोटेक्शन मॉड्यूल के गठन का विचार रखना चाहता हूँ। हम देश भर में चाहे कहीं भी किसी भी अखबार के पन्नों को पटलें, तो शायद ही कोई दिन ऐसा जाएगा, जब हम छोटे बच्चों के डूबने ने या उनके जहरखुरानी, उनके जल जाने, जानवरों द्वारा काटे जाने, रोड accident में मौत, जैसी खबरों से रू-ब-रू नहीं होते होंगे। ऐसे बहुत सारे युवा छात्र हैं, जो कट-ऑफ मार्क्स और प्रचंड प्रतिस्पर्धा के दुष्प्रक्र में फंस जाते हैं और वे इससे अवसादग्रस्त हो जाते हैं। वे अवसाद और चिंता जैसी गंभीर मानसिक बीमारियों से ग्रसित होते रहते हैं और इन समस्याओं से जूझते रहते हैं। पूरे परिवार को इन समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है। उपरोक्त कतिपय अप्राकृतिक कारणों से हमारे बच्चे और किशोरों की असामयिक मौत की एक प्रमुख वजह उनके पाठ्यक्रमों में सेल्फ केयर एंड प्रोटेक्शन मॉड्यूल का अभाव है। उनके शिक्षण पद्धति में इसका अभाव है, इसलिए बच्चों को बहुत कम उम्र से ही प्री-स्कूल से लेकर, स्कूल, घर, ट्यूशन आदि में उनको यह बताया जाना चाहिए कि किसी तरह की प्राकृतिक आपदा या असामयिक परिस्थिति आने पर किस तरह से निपटा जाए।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विशेष कर गृह मंत्रालय से, आपदा प्रबंधन मंत्रालय से और मानव संसाधन मंत्रालय से यह अपील करता हूँ कि वे छोटे बच्चों के लिए प्राइमरी स्कूल में और even सेकंडरी स्कूल में भी यह सेल्फ केयर एंड प्रोटेक्शन मॉड्यूल को शिक्षा के पाठ्यक्रमों में डालें, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Zero Hour submission is about "Menace of female foeticide".

Menace of female foeticide in the country

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal): Sir, through you, I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and the entire

House. We are facing a serious social, medical and mental crisis in our society and this is a case of individuality also. Recently, it has been observed that the number of female foeticide is increasing in our country. The evidence is the sex ratio in the country. There is a deep gap in the sex ratio in many States. This is not the condition in all the States, but, in many States, the condition is the same with regard to the sex ratio. Recently, a report came about Uttarakhand and Uttarkashi area. In 132 villages, 216 child births took place. Out of which, not a single female child was there. After that report came, the villagers, the social scientists, the medical officers, district administration, all of them went to that place and surveyed. What is happening there! We have a legal perspective of Union Government as well as the State Government that the detection of sex of foetus through ultra sonography is illegal and it is a punishable offence. But, even after that, this illegal process of sex determination is continuing with the help of some private ultrasound clinics. Some doctors, some quacks in villages, are also involved in this. They are detecting the female foetus and killing her. The mentality of the male and particularly the mentality of the family is not in favour of birth of a female child. So, I urge upon the Government, through you to kindly give a note from the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare to all the States to be very concentric on the investigation as to why our female child is not progressing in number. The family, the husband and wife, the society and the village, they are all against the birth of a female child. This is a serious issue in our country and we should change this mentality and we should stop it and intervene in a way that we could save the female child in our country.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter re-raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please send your names. The next speaker is Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy, not present. Now, the next speaker is Shri Jairam Ramesh.

**Urgent need to implement directive of the National Green Tribunal on
protection of Western Ghats**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I wish to draw the Government's attention to the urgent need to protect the ecologically valuable, but, critically endangered Western Ghats. I hope my good friends, Mr. Sadananda Gowda and Mr. Suresh Gopi will associate themselves with this. In August, 2011, the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Madhav Gadgil, India's pre-eminent ecological scientist, submitted its recommendations to the Government suggesting that 64 per cent of the Western Ghats area be notified as ecologically sensitive. Thereafter, two years later, another Committee Chaired by the eminent space scientist Dr. Kasturirangan, reduced the area for ecological protection from 64 per cent to 37 per cent. But, more importantly, denied any role to democratically elected local panchayats. The problem is that the Government of India is now using the Kasturirangan Committee in its discussions with the States; Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Now, this is disastrous not only because the area under protection is being reduced, but also, because the local panchayats and Nagar palikas are going to be denied their say, when it comes to environmental issues. Therefore, Sir, I urge upon the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, to reject the methodology and conclusions of the Kasturirangan Committee and go back to the original Gadgil Commission for notifying ecologically sensitive areas. This is very important for livelihood and water security in local areas. Sir, the unprecedented floods in Kerala, last year, and in parts of Karnataka demonstrates very clearly the need to protect the Western Ghats lock, stock and barrel. Sir, my demand is to reject the Kasturirangan Committee and go back to the earlier Gadgil Committee recommendations. Thank you.