

Due to the untiring efforts of our late leader and my mentor, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and also by the intervention of the hon. Supreme Court...*(Interruptions)*... the final order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal datum was published in the Gazette. Now, my appeal to the Government is that...*(Interruptions)*... The release of the water should be immediate...*(Interruptions)*... We have a great anguish that the Central Water Commission has given a go ahead to the Government of Karnataka for preparation of DPR...*(Interruptions)*... I want the Government to immediately reject and return the DPR...*(Interruptions)*..

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the way...*(Interruptions)*... If you don't want anything, on the first day itself, I have to adjourn the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: I urge the Central Government to immediately reject and return the DPR...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tiruchi Siva, you are a Vice-Chairman; you can't stand on your own...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: I want the Central Government to immediately reject and return the DPR...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it's over...*(Interruptions)*... You please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the way. You have completed your submission. Your allotted time is over.

#### **Tribal status to eleven communities living in Sikkim and other Gorkha-dominated areas**

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak. I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House that the West Bengal Government vide their letter dated 28th February, 2014 had recommended granting of Scheduled Tribe status to 11 communities living in Sikkim, Darjeeling and other Gorkha-dominated States and areas. In consequence to this proposal of West Bengal, the Central Government had constituted a Committee to examine and recommend regarding granting of Scheduled Tribe status to those 11 communities; several years have rolled by since then. The West Bengal Government recommended these 11 communities because they fulfil the criteria of having primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness of contact with community at large and extreme backwardness. There is an urgent need to bring these highly-deprived communities into mainstream. Sir, there has already been a

[Shrimati Shanta Chhetri]

huge delay since the West Bengal Government had submitted its recommendation way back in 2014. Sir, it is my humble request and urge upon the august House to seek a detailed explanation on the delay and a definite timeframe within which the Central Government would approve the State Government's recommendations and grant these 11 communities Scheduled Tribe status and help create equal opportunity for all, which is every Indian's constitutional right. Thank you, Sir.

#### **Safety regulations against fire hazards**

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, this is very, very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything you raise is very, very important.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, there is a need to update building bye-laws and to monitor fire safety measures to safeguard public buildings and offices from fire hazard and Mr. Chairman Sir, as the House is aware, recently, several fire accidents have taken place at various places in the country which have claimed more than 50 lives, apart from loss of properties worth crores of rupees. At least 22 people were killed in Surat after a massive fire engulfed a Coaching Centre. Earlier, in February, at a hotel fire in Karol Bagh, Delhi, more than 17 people lost their lives; they were staying as guests in the hotel. Fourteen students are still under treatment for grievous injuries and burning. Due to congestion and land pressure, lot of buildings come up in the cities ignoring all rules and regulations. Even without NoC from the Fire Department, people come and occupy and they start their business activities. Therefore, it is high time that the Central Government, under the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, comes out with byelaws for improved safety in the building. For example, kitchen or cooking activity, in any form, should not be allowed on roofs or basements of the buildings. There should be a ban on storage of inflammatory materials. Surprise inspections should also be carried out in public buildings and buildings which are found to be violating fire safety norms.

Sir, in conclusion, I must say the carbon monoxide detectors and fire alarms as per standards prescribed by Fire Service Department have to be installed in the buildings for warning the occupants before major fire breaks out. The Government should undertake periodic fire safety audit of vulnerable buildings and suggest follow up action.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to come out with model byelaws for improved safety in public buildings and offices, which can be adopted by various State