

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have said it beforehand so that it would have gone on record. It is a very important point. But it is not going on record. Now, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw. Please understand, anything said beyond three minutes will not go into record. The very purpose of this is to put it on record, so that the concerned Minister can apply his mind and do something.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Racism in the United Kingdom

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW (Odisha): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I draw the attention of the House to a shared global concern about racism. There appears to be a continuation of attitudes and prejudices from the colonial area, especially in the United Kingdom.

The recent case of Rashmi Samant, a young student from Karnataka, Udupi area, is a classic case in point. She is a bright student from Karnataka. She persevered and overcame all the challenges to become the first Indian women President of the Oxford Students' Union. What was the treatment meted out to her? Shouldn't have this diversity been celebrated? Instead of that, she was cyber bullied to the point that she had to resign. Even the Hindu religious beliefs of her parents were publicly attacked by a faculty member and that also went unpunished. Sir, if this happens at an institute like Oxford, what is the kind of message that goes out to the world?

The second instance is the widely publicised interview of Meghan Markle, one of the erstwhile members of the royal family of the UK. A behaviour of a society is actually a reflection of its beliefs and value systems. If such practices of racial

discrimination are followed at the highest level in a society, what would be the following at the lower level?

These two instances are not isolated instances. The treatment of migrants and their segregation in the UK on racial basis is very well known all over the world. There is a recent report, by Public Health England, which reported that the death rate among the people of Asian origins because of Covid-19 is higher than the death rates in other communities in the U.K. Doesn't this raise a major question about the equitable access to health and indeed about basic human rights? Sir, we are a country with a large diaspora in the U.K. This is a natural concern for all of us. The era of colonialism is over but the mindset seems to be still persisting. This is where the U.K. has to change. If it wants our respect, it has to change. Through your kind office, Sir, I request the hon. External Affairs Minister to take up this matter with the U.K. Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we associate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASH CNANDRA SINGH: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI IRANNA KADADI (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.) (Haryana): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री दुष्यंत गौतम (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कान्ता कर्दम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती गीता उर्फ चंद्रप्रभा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री हरनाथ सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सतीश चंद्र दुबे (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री राकेश सिन्हा: महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सकलदीप राजभर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री परशोत्तम रुपाला (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री विजय पाल सिंह तोमर (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. अशोक बाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री सैयद जफर इस्लाम (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री महेश पोद्दार (झारखंड): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री जुगलसिंह माथुरजी लोखंडवाला (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रामकुमार वर्मा (राजस्थान) : महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

डा. विकास महात्मे (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister wants to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... You all send your names. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Jaishankarji.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. JAISHANKAR): Let me, first of all, commend the hon. Member for bringing up such an important issue. I note the sentiments of the House, Government does. I do want to say, Sir, that as the land of Mahatma Gandhi, we can never ever turn our eyes, away from racism wherever it is, particularly, so when it is in a country where we have such a large diaspora. As a friend of the U.K., we also have concerns about its repetitional impact. What I do want to say, Sir, is that we have strong ties with the U.K. We will take up such matters with great candour when required. We will monitor these developments very, very closely. We will raise it when required and we will always champion the fight against racism and other forms of intolerance. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: Sir, can I stand and speak or should I sit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, yes. The only thing is, you are taller like me and the mike is smaller like mine.

Alleged discrimination by Government between different online news portals

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Thank you so much Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to raise this important issue. In mid 2020, as per the reports that have come in the newspapers, a Group of Ministers was formed where nine Ministers were asked to come forward with suggestions on how to neutralize some media agencies which were speaking up against the Government, not against the nation but against the Government, and how to neutralize them and how to promote those agencies which are talking pro-Government. I would want to ask through your Chair, Sir, how can we discriminate in a democracy between those agencies which speak up for the cause of the people of the country and speak against the Government and question them. Doesn't this go against the freedom of speech as well as Press freedom that has been consistently sliding down as far as India is concerned? I think this is a matter of serious concern and should be raised through your channel. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.