

Desam Party is following his principles. NTR dedicated his life for the welfare of the poor and for the sovereignty of the downtrodden. He is an ideal person in the field of national politics. To confer upon him the highest civilian award “Bharat Ratna” would be a matter of pride not only to the Telugu people but also to the people of this nation. Sir, through you, I request the Central Government that Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao be awarded “Bharat Ratna”.” Thank You, Sir.

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

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

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is making a request to confer Bharat Ratna on Late Shri N.T. Rama Rao. He was explaining about all his qualities. Now, Shri P. Wilson.

Insistence by the Central Government to follow Central reservations in State institutions

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise today to bring to the kind attention of this august House that the Central Government is making inroads into the States' power to make reservations and is thus circumventing the State Legislatures' domain. Such an attempt is an assault on the federal structure guaranteed in the Constitution. In Tamil Nadu, we have 69 per cent reservation in educational institutions by virtue of 1993 Act which is preserved in the Ninth Schedule. Anna University which is a State University is bound by State reservation. In the land of Periyar and in the bastion of Perarignar *Anna*, a social injustice is now done to our students by the Central Government. The Anna University offers M.Tech. Biotechnology course since 1985 and the course is wholly sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. All along, in admissions to this course, Anna University was granting 69 per cent reservations. Suddenly, the Central Government, from for the academic year 2020 onwards, is insisting on following 27 per cent reservations in the said course offered in the Anna University, to avail the said course and the grant.

Sir, the Central Reservation Act, 2006 does not apply to State Universities. Despite orders of the Madras High Court and the Supreme Court on a DMK case to grant reservation in State-contributed seats to All India Quota, the Central Government is refusing to implement reservations. Now, an attempt being made to unsettle the three decades-old law on reservations, which has served as a foundation to uplift socially backward sections, is striking fear and causing abundant mental stress to the members of the backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is quite unfortunate that settled legal and constitutional issues are now sought to be reopened by the Central Government under the untenable premise that States have no power to legislate after the 102nd Constitution Amendment.

Sir, what message is the Central Government trying to convey to the States? It is that they have no more legislative competence qua reservations. Is India now a unitary country? Is the federal structure no longer a basic feature of the Constitution? How can the Central Government denude the State's legislative powers preserved under the Constitution by misinterpretation of 102nd Constitution Amendment? Sir, time has come where all of us have to unite under one platform to protect the majority people in India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand? What is your suggestion?

SHRI P. WILSON: Sir, the settled constitutional *lakshman rekha* between the Union and the States must be preserved at all costs. The struggle to obtain reservations in this country as part of our constitutional setup was through a massive struggle. Many gave their lives, sweat and blood to get these reservations in education and employment, and it must not be disturbed by the Central Government.

Through this august House, I request the Law Minister and the Minister of Social Justice who always support the issues relating to reservation not to circumscribe the power of the States to give reservations through any institution. Sir, as doing so would gravely upset the delicate balance, so beautifully settled by our Constitution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

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

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद: महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

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

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: 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. SASMIT PATRA: 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.

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

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

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

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those who associate, please send the slips. Next is, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia.

Increasing cases of malnutrition among women and children

श्री ज्योतिरादित्य एम. सिंधिया (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके ज़रिए बहुत ही भावुक और अति महत्वपूर्ण विषय को सदन में उठाना चाहता हूँ। वर्ष 2019-20 में किए गए राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण की जो रिपोर्ट है, उसके पहले हिस्से में 22 राज्यों को लिया गया था। उस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 22 राज्यों में से 13 राज्यों में स्टंटिंग और अंडर वेट बच्चों की संख्या में पिछले सर्वेक्षण की तुलना में बहुत बढ़ोतरी हुई है। तेलंगाना, महाराष्ट्र और पश्चिमी बंगाल जैसे राज्यों में