

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

Demand for Enumeration/Revision of Voters' List in fair and justifiable manner

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): *Hon. Deputy Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity. The subject of my Zero Hour submission is Demand for Enumeration/Revision of Voter's List in fair and Justifiable manner.

Sir, democracy will be strengthened only when the Right to Vote is exercised without any fear. Right to Vote is like a weapon for administrative procedure. The

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Telugu.

Right to Vote, which is like a compass to democracy, is being curtailed by removing the names of the voters from the Voter's List without any notice in some States. *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No comment on State Government, please.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: People, who have been recruited here, are being engaged in the process of deletion of names from the Voter's List without following the rules, during the Enumeration of Voter's List. This exercise is done on a large scale, particularly in my State of Andhra Pradesh. In the past, we had submitted many representations to the Election Commission in this regard. For example, nearly 70,000 names from Anakapalli, 17,000 names from Narsipatnam and 9,500 names from Madugula have been deleted from the respective Electoral Rolls. Sir, attempts have been made to remove nearly ten lakh names of voters from the Voter's List as per the State Election Commission's list. The Voter's List has not been rectified till date and a representation was submitted to the Central Election Commission, Chief Electoral Officer and District Election Officers for rectifying the voter's list. However, no action was taken in this regard. * Though the matter was brought to the notice of the Election Commission, the list was not rectified. Hence, we raised this issue in the Parliament today.

We strongly condemn this attempt to win the election through * by snatching away from the people their Right to Vote, which is a weapon for protecting Democracy. At least now, the Election Commission should concentrate on the issues mentioned by us and take suitable action. Names of eligible voters should be reinstated in the Voter's List. In the backdrop of the ruling party issuing Form 7 in bulk for the deletion of names from the existing electoral roll, we request that the matter be examined and voters be intimated before deleting their names. * Thank you, Sir."

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar ji स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर जो कमेंट्स हैं, as per rules, we will examine whether it will go or not. Now, Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

Demand to increase the Creamy Layer income limit for the Backward Classes

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the provisions for reservation were introduced in the Constitution of India to provide educational and employment opportunities to the Backward Classes so that they could be on par with the other sections in the society. In fact, the Mandal Commission had recognized that BCs are historically marginalized and it made recommendations to provide reservations for Backward Classes whose income is less than the mandated ceiling. Other BCs whose income is higher than the mandated limit were excluded. They are called as 'creamy layer' and excluded from the reservation.

Sir, the creamy layer was introduced, and it was first raised to Rs. 2.5 lakhs in 2004, revised to Rs. 4.5 lakhs in 2008, revised again to Rs. 6 lakhs in 2013 and the last revision took place in 2017 at Rs. 8 lakhs per annum. The enhancement is done to adjust for the inflation once in three years. However, the existing limit for creamy layer has not been revised for the last six years. During this time, the inflation increased manifold. Applying three-year formula, the revision of creamy layer limit is twice overdue till now.

Sir, the delay in revising the creamy layer limit has denied the reservations to many needy and deserving Backward Classes, that is, BCs. There is an urgent need to revise the income criteria. The Ministry of Social Justice also recommended for increasing the limit from present 8 lakhs to 12 lakhs of rupees.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Union Government to revise the creamy layer limit and ensure that three-year interval of revising the creamy layer limit is strictly adhered to. This will ensure the true social equality for all BCs in the country. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Vijayasai Reddyji.