

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri P. Wilson.

Implementation of Uniform Civil Code in the Country

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is an attempt to thrust the Uniform Civil Code by the Union Government on the people of this country. The Uniform Civil Code proposes a unified set of personal laws applicable to all religions, which would govern marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption. If the UCC is implemented, the current separate laws for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Zoroastrians and Sikhs would be replaced by a common law. The question is whether the *

Sir, India is a remarkably diverse country encompassing a wide range of religious, cultural and linguistic variations. Within Hinduism, numerous sub-cultures exist, each distinguished by its individual identity, traditions and customs. Imposing a

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

single set of personal laws on all religious, sub-sects and denominations could potentially erode their distinctiveness and the rich diversity.

Sir, the first casualty of the UCC would be the Hindu tribes, especially from States like Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur ...*(Interruptions)*... Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka, which have unique customs and traditions and which are all protected by Article 371(A-H) of the Constitution of India. The UCC would destroy this constitutional guarantee. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will examine it. Please take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. WILSON: The second casualty would be freedom of religion, guaranteed by Article 25 of the Indian Constitution, not only for minorities, but also for the majority religions. Additionally, Article 29, which protects the rights of the minorities to preserve and protect their distinct culture, will erode the unique culture and traditions of minorities. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thirdly, UCC would affect the advantages given to the Hindu Undivided Family in property and taxation laws. Most religions treat marriage as a holy sacrament. The UCC would reduce it to a civil transaction, like property transaction, and will destroy the sanctity of these sacraments. Tying a *thali* or *mangalsutra*, taking seven steps around the holy fire or performing *seerthirutha* self-respect marriages, introduced by *Perarignar Anna*, will be wiped out by UCC. ...*(Interruptions)*... Already, the 21st Law Commission, after two years of consultations, recommended not to bring the UCC. The Constituent Assembly itself said, while enacting Article 44, that unless there is a consensus by all citizens of this country, the Uniform Civil Code should not be implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, take your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, please. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI P. WILSON: I would like to urge the hon. Prime Minister through this august House that instead of thrusting the Uniform Civil Code that wipes off customs, we should adopt a rights-based approach to bring equal rights for women, children and disadvantaged groups by encouraging dialogues, understanding and bringing in gradual reforms within communities through social engineering to weed out undesirable practices. It is through these means that we can strike a balance between

individual rights, freedom and communal harmony. I thank Mr. Deputy Chairman for giving me this opportunity. The Treasury Benches should listen to us calmly.

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

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

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

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

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

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

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

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

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

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Dr. V. Sivadasan. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Sivadasan, you will speak for two minutes because Shri Ajay Pratap Singh will associate for one minute on the same issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Concern over Silkyara Tunnel accident in Uttarakhand

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, a painful incident has occurred in Silkyara tunnel. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You will speak for two minutes because Shri Ajay Pratap Singh will associate for one minute on the same issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Sir, Silkyara tunnel incident was a very painful incident. All security measures, rules and norms were violated there. The company has violated it. Why did this sad incident happen there? What was the inquiry report after the incident? This was not the first time that such an incident happened in that area. The workers told that earlier 17 times such an incident was reported. For 17 days, the 41 workers were in the tunnel. The entire world was watching it. There were security violations in the tunnel. There was no safety exit. It was in the plan but, in reality, it was not there. Another thing is that the escape route was in the plan but it was not there. Trench cages or safe tubes were not there. Workers were working in unprotected parts of the trench. Workers said that fume pipes which were required as per safety norms were not there. This gross negligence on the part of the company should be inquired. *(Time-bell rings.)*

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

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

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