

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Deepak Prakash has raised an issue of grave public importance. The Report of the Shah Commission, which was formed to investigate the darkest period of Indian democracy, relates to atrocities committed during the Emergency imposed in 1975. The Government must examine the possibility of having its authentic report and place it on the table of the House for the benefit of the hon. Members and also for the benefit of the public at large.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION -*Contd..*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Zero Hour Mention. Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham.

Demand to introduce measures for safe and efficient urban waste management practices in the country

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I stand before you today to address a critical issue that affects the public health, the environmental sustainability and also the safety and dignity of sanitation workers. It is about urban waste management.

Sir, the tragic deaths of sanitation workers is a stark reminder of how we fail in this matter. The sanitation workers, without any protective gears or without any proper training, always face life-threatening situations and undergo very, very sad situations where they are put to difficulties. Despite there being a ban on manual scavenging, this dangerous practice still continues putting the sanitation workers under constant toxic fumes and hazardous waste. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a sad and shocking incident which happened in my home State Kerala where 47-year old sanitation workers lost his life in a tragic manner. While he was trying to clean the waste from a garbage-led canal in Trivandrum city, he got slipped. The gruelling 46 hour of search and rescue operation in heavy rains, ended with a devastating discovery of his lifeless body floating amidst the garbage. All those compassionate individuals in Kerala who have a conscience, were shocked by this incident. The untimely death of this 47-year old Joy has left his elderly mother destitute. I urge the Central Government and the Ministry of Railways to provide adequate compensation to his mother. I also urge the Central Government not to have discriminatory treatment and approach which they have been doing for Kerala.