

Hon. Members, I do not find any ground to accord my sanction to these and I would try to accommodate the hon. Members if they would make a request for Zero Hour in precedence.

Hon. Members, I need to indicate to the House that we, yesterday, had a very fruitful interaction on the issue that is agitating minds of the public. There was gracious presence of leaders of political parties including the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. Without going into the details, the deliberations were consensual, reflecting cooperation, concern and the issue is not between institutions *inter se*. It is not that Executive, Legislature or Judiciary are pitted against each other. All the institutions in the country have to function in tandem, in togetherness and also there are checks and balances which are well-meant. It has been given by both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition that after having wider consultations amongst all concerned, in their respective parties and otherwise, they would come to the Chairman for further deliberations. That was the conclusion after both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition had shared their thoughts along with others.

Now Matters raised with permission. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi regarding non-fulfillment of maternity entitlements under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and PMMVY.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Non-fulfillment of maternity entitlements under National Food Security Act, 2013 and PMMVY

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Rajasthan): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to address this House on a matter of great importance, that is, the non-fulfillment of maternity entitlements under the National Food Security Act, 2013 and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. The National Food Security Act was passed by Parliament in September, 2013, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh. It has been the foundation for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The Act also includes Rs.6,000 per child as maternity entitlement for pregnant women in the informal sector. The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana or PMMVY launched in 2017, seeks to fulfil this entitlement. But, it provides only Rs.5,000 for the first child, that is extended to the second child also if it is a girl child. According to one informed analysis, in the year 2022-23, about 68 per cent of pregnant women

received at least one installment of PMMVY for first birth, but in the very next year, this proportion fell drastically to just around 12 per cent! I would like to ask the Union Government: Why was this allowed to happen? Sir, the full implementation of the maternity benefits provision of the NFSA 2013, requires an annual Budget of around Rs.12,000 crores. It is surprising that the Budget documents do not contain information on allocations for the PMMVY separately. All that the documents reveal is that there is a programme called 'Samarthya' in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This has five components of which the PMMVY is one. The allocation in 2025-26 for Samarthya is only Rs. 2,521 crores. This clearly shows that the PMMVY is severely under-funded thereby violating the key provisions of a law passed by Parliament itself. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi: Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri G.C. Chandrashekar (Karnataka), Shri Digvijaya Singh (Madhya Pradesh), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sanjay Singh (National Capital Territory of Delhi), Shri Mallikarjun Kharge (Karnataka), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Ritabrata Banerjee (West Bengal), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shrimati Mausam B Noor (West Bengal), Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi (Telangana), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan (Chhattisgarh), Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala), Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury (Telangana), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil (Maharashtra), Shri Rajeev Shukla (Chhattisgarh) and Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik (Rajasthan).

Now, Ms. Dola Sen on 'Need to reconsider the advisory of reducing cooking oil in midday meals under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN).' Your birthday!