

It has been the policy of my Government that all allegations pertaining to corruption should be thoroughly inquired into. Accordingly, the CBI is inquiring into this whole matter and it would be premature to state anything till the inquiry is complete.

As Hon. Members are aware, the CBI has full functional autonomy and, under the recently enacted Central Vigilance Commission Act, the superintendence of the CBI in relation to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, has been vested by the Government in the Central Vigilance Commission.

There should, therefore, be no fear or misgiving regarding the independence of this inquiry.

I would like to assure this august House that the truth will soon be out and the law will take its own course. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, as per practice, normally, we seek clarifications to the Statement made by the Minister. But as this matter is a serious one and it has been agreed by both sides, we would like to have a discussion on this issue. Sir, this discussion may take place tomorrow, if the Government can allocate some time for it.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : सभापति जी, सरकार को कोई आपत्ति नहीं है, अगर वे इस पर फूल-फ्लेज्ड डिसकशन चाहते हैं तो कल डिसकशन कर लें और प्रधानमंत्री जी परसों उसका जवाब दे देंगे।

श्री सभापति : ठीक हैं।

Now, we shall take up further consideration of the Motion moved by Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi on the 9th December 2003 on the National Charter for Children, 2003, laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December 2003.

GOVERNMENT MOTION

On National Charter for Children, 2003 - *Contd.*

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, it is a very important move concerning our policy on children. Thank you, Sir, for permitting me to take part in this discussion. Sir, the fate of the children in the country, by all legislations and the so-called reformative moves, still remains very pathetic and very unfortunate. The hon. Minister, as also the

entire House, is aware of the fact that in the last decade many developments have taken place against the security and the well-being of the children community.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the sexual exploitation of children. There were shocking reports about child pornography, and also about the process of children being used as a tool for sexual harassment and sexual exploitation. Sir, recently, one major daily carried a detailed report on the sexual exploitation of children that was going on in the coastal regions of the country in relation to tourism. Sir, sometimes, tourism, in our country, is used as a tool, or as a cover, to indulge in any kind of immoral and anti-human activity. Children are working in these coastal areas for their livelihood. The so-called tourists and some people of our own country who act as agents, use these children for very nasty business that is related with sexual exploitation. Sir, I think, the hon. Minister and the Government will take note of it and strict measures will be taken by the Government to check this unfortunate process that is prevailing. Sir, another very important matter is with regard to the television. That has already been mentioned here by many senior hon. Members, who have already taken part in this discussion. Sir, modern man and modern society cannot go forward without such instruments of information technology that has rendered revolutionary influence on the contemporary society. But, Sir, at the same time, this good instrument, is used again for negative purposes. Sir, the professors of the famous Trinity college of London conducted a research on the impact of television upon the minds of children. Then, Sir, they published a very detailed report of their research, and three things were underlined in that report on the impact of television upon the mind of children. First of all, it creates alienation in the children community. They feel isolated.

Sir, because of the so-called mechanical influence--everything is mechanised nowadays--we are missing, day by day, the morality and the human face of life. There will be a feeling of alienation among the people. The psychiatrists and the philosophers of the last century had already emphasised that in the coming century there would be an unfortunate situation of alienation. Man will be alienated from his work, from his society, from his tools of work, from his own self, and, Sir, the television is helping that process.

The second important thing emphasised by the Trinity College researchers was that this creates drug addiction in the children. That is quite clear. We need not go into the details of that.

The third point concerning the television influence which was found by the researchers and which is quite alarming is that it snatches away the ability of speech from children. Sir, a man's ability, a man's personality is very much based on his ability of speech. There is a famous saying in Sanskrit “न स्नानम्, न विलेपनम्, न कुसुमम्, वाकं भूषणम्, भूषणम् ।” स्नानम्, विलेपनम्, which were used in the olden days can be translated into the so-called things which are nowadays used by a modern man for cosmetics or for making his life outwardly beautiful. There are so many things. But it is the word, it is the *vachan*, it is the utterance that makes his personality great. And the television snatches away that right and ability from the children.

Another important thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is the effects of education. Education is not imparting the moral values of harmony. If we are very serious about the future of our children, the moral values are to be inculcated in their minds. It is said that the future of a country is built up neither in the political platform, nor in the Parliament, but in the classrooms. So, the classroom and the curriculum have to be reformed. In every part of the country, at some time or the other, unfortunate incidents are taking place, concerning communal strife or communal violence. To check it, the children have to be, from the very beginning, from the childhood, taught great values of fraternity, harmony and brotherhood. To build up their personality, moral education has to be imparted. Instead of that, what is happening nowadays is that only the text books are becoming heavier. The text books are becoming a great burden on the children. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to the fact that the size of the text books is increasing. So many times, we have made complaints about that. The burden of the school bag which the children of the Central Schools have to carry is increasing. The hon. Minister himself knows that many times, we made complaints about it, and even during the interactions and the discussions with the educational experts, with the educationists and academicians, we used to point out this fact. We do not know why this is happening. But they are, again and again, increasing the burden of textbooks. A child, either a boy or a girl, who goes to the school in the morning has to take a very big bag full of text books, but, Sir, that does not

make any serious contribution to his mental growth, to the growth of his intellectual faculty or to the growth of his internal personality. Instead of that, so many things are just injected and imposed upon the personality of our children. Sir, the syllabus has to be made simple. Though we have to keep pace with the international standards, we admit, at the same time, the feelings of the students, the feelings of the children, at a tender age, have to be taken into consideration.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to the problem. The children are now facing the negation of love, the negation of human feeling. There was a time when we used to make allegations against the west that they were compelled to open rescue homes for the old and that they were denying the rights to the old people, the old parents. But now, what is the condition in India? Every panchayat in the country is thinking of starting rescue homes for the old parents. The children are not ready to accommodate them in their own homes. In Kerala, in Malayalam, we used to call the head of the family "Karanavar" "Karanavar" means the great guardian. Even such Karanavar's place is missing nowadays. Everybody is confined to his bedroom and to his television. Nowadays, people are ready to weep for a patient appearing on the mini-screen. If a cancer patient comes on the mini-screen, people are ready to weep. Men are weeping with tears in their eyes and women are ready to weep even through their noses. But how many of them will be ready to go to their neighbourhood and touch a person who is really a cancer patient and offer some kind of relief or, at least, utter some consoling words? This kind of artificiality is seen in the society nowadays. The children are falling prey to this kind of artificiality.

(THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

Madam, there is an increase in the number of rescue homes for the old- Actually, if we go into the real causes of the situation, we will find that the children are not able to get their due share of love in their young age. In these days, a child is only a marks-producing machine.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Marx!

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Examination marks.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Oh! I see.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): Madam, he doesn't mean Karl Marx.

SHIR M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: No.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Coming from Kerala, you can expect that.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Suppose the child gets "A" grade today, and if he gets "B" grade tomorrow, the parents are not ready to look at the child. The parents will ask, "What happened to you?". There is some kind of pressurising and suicides are taking place. Recently, in Kerala, a boy committed suicide because he was not able to score the marks that his parents and the teachers were expecting.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI (West Bengal): It is happening everywhere.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI: Yes, it is happening everywhere. The personality of the child is calculated and measured only on the basis of marks. There are instances of great leaders of the country, great leaders of the world, great men of letters and great artists, who had failed in the examinations in their childhood days. They had failed so many times. But later they achieved great things in their lives. Nowadays, the world, the community, the society is not ready to look into these factors. Instead, they are pressurising the children. The children are sent to boarding schools. They are just like a jail for them. What is his duty there? His duty is nothing but to score marks. The children are not getting a chance to look at the stars, to look at the nature, to enjoy the beauty of the world. All the doors are kept closed and some kind of artificiality is being encouraged.

What I would like to point out here, Madam, while concluding my simple and humble remarks, is that there is a great need for humanisation of life. Then only will the children be safe. Everything needs to be looked at from a human angle. Whatever is a plus point for human life is good for people of all ages, including the children. Everything that is negative to human factors causes destruction, spoils the society and leads to decay and collapse.

When we study the history of great civilizations, the great civilizations of the world were not destroyed by the external forces. Prof. Arnold Joseph Toyenbee, in the ten Volumes of his masterpiece work, the *Study of History*, says that it was the internal forces of disintegration, immorality that paved way for the final destruction of great civilizations of the world. So that is what we are experiencing nowadays. Everywhere the rigour and vigour of power is used as a tool to harass various groups of people and the children. The poor and innocent children have become a prey to this kind of harassment. I may conclude by quoting a couplet from Allama Iqbal. He says, "It is the great lesson of history that every time the intoxication of power is harmful."

तारीख-ए-उमम का यह, पयाम-ए-अज़ली है

It is the great message of the history of nations

तारीख-ए-उमम का यह, पयाम-ए-अज़ली है

The stories of civilization, the stories of societies give us this message that

साहिब-ए-नज़रां ।

The people of wisdom please think

नशा-ए-कुव्वत है खतरनाक

The intoxication of power is highly dangerous.

My humble request is that every effort to use the intoxication of power against the poor and innocent children has to be checked and checked strictly. I hope the hon. Minister and the Government will come forward to take very strict and urgent steps to bring a check upon this process of inhumanisation and bring a new morning of humanisation by which our children can be saved. Thank you.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I welcome the Government's policy and also its effort to come forward with a Bill to help the children. Here I would like to emphasise that it is the children who are the pillars of this democratic country. On this occasion, I would like to suggest that the most important thing for the Government is to see to it that no child is left out without education and without minimum support. In our country, there are children who have parents, who have other facilities and who have an opportunity to go to schools. But there are some other

children who are orphans, who are found on the railway platforms and on roads without clothes and they are in very pathetic conditions. While framing a policy for children, the Government must see to it that those unfortunate children would be given top priority who are found without facilities. I would like to say that there are children who have parents and other supports, but they do not go to schools due to lack of knowledge or due to some other reasons. Most of the labour class families do not send their children to schools. It will take a lot of time for the Government to provide education to all the children in the country. But the Government must see to it that the children who do not have any support and who are orphans, are given priority. That is very important. The most important thing which the Government should do is, they should inculcate a philosophy in the minds of the children at the young age, at the elementary school level, that they must become great and big people. You should inculcate in the minds of the children at the young age that your future should be such that the nation, the society, the parents should feel proud of you. These things should be inculcated in the children at the elementary school level.

But what we find at the elementary school level, what is given in their books, is such things like what is 2×2 and so on. That kind of an education is alone imparted. The fundamental thing is that the educational system should be modified in such a way that a child grows with a dream of the future. He should feel, "Yes, I am a child of this great country. One day I will go to school, go to college, and after getting a graduation degree, I must, become a big personality." This should be entered into the mind of the child at a young age. So, this is another important thing which the Government should bear in mind. Thirdly, these days, as some of my colleagues here have mentioned, the T.V. programmes are misleading the children; the children are inspired to move on a wrong path when they see unwanted advertisements and obscene scenes. The Government should bear this in mind and see to it that the Information and Broadcasting Ministry set clear-cut policies and ensure things in such a way that a child is not misled or is not inspired to go on a wrong track.

Madam, I am glad that our hon. Minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has already got a commitment to see to it that a child is moulded well, for which he has come forward with this Charter, and we welcome it. But, I want to add here that in addition to this, there must be a time frame, and the time-frame should be such that, say, by the next academic year, a

change is made at the elementary level and a subject is included which would train the child to mentally grow into a big, responsible citizen of this country. Also, if we do not pick up the vagabonds, those children living on railway platforms and streets, they would become harmful citizens of this country. We are happy that the subject on children is taken. But, while taking up this subject, you have to see to it that some money is provided; some financial support should be given to the families of these children so that these children get minimum of education and have some decent clothes to wear. We all know that a lot of crimes are taking place in the country because the children are not trained properly in their childhood, and they are put on the wrong track. This is another important thing to be taken care of.

Lastly, a vagabond child and the child at the elementary level should be trained mentally and we should inculcate in them the philosophy of becoming a good citizen. This feeling must be imbibed in their blood.

With these words, I hope the hon. Minister will bear my suggestions in mind. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Joshiji, I wanted to speak on the subject, but I will have to ask the Chairman to preside. Anyway, I would like to give one suggestion. While talking about the curriculum, there is a bias. When a boy is asked, "Where is your mother?", he says, "My mother is in the kitchen". When he is asked, "Where is your father?", he says, "He is in the office".

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Those things have now been removed from the Central books.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you have done it, it is good. But I would like it to be more publicised. People still go on by the repeated notion. The second thing is about the children being used in terrorist activities. The little children are given arms to use and kill. We should take care of this also.

श्री कृपाल परमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : माननीय उपभाषित महोदय, मंत्री जी ने राष्ट्रीय बाल चार्टर, 2003 सदन में प्रस्तुत किया है जिससे पता चलता है कि बच्चों के प्रति सरकार का क्या रवैया आने वाले समय में होने वाला है। बच्चों के शोषण को पोषण में बदलने की सरकार की यह जो कोशिश है, मैं इसके पक्ष में अपने विचार रखने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कहा जाता है कि बच्चे देश का भविष्य हैं और यदि बच्चे स्वस्थ होंगे तो राष्ट्र खुशहाल होगा। लेकिन भारत में आज़ादी के लगभग 55 साल के दौरान 1974 में बाल नीति के अलावा किसी भी सरकार ने बच्चों

के भविष्य के बारे में जिसे देश का और राष्ट्र का भविष्य कहा जाता है कभी गौर नहीं किया। आज भी हिन्दुस्तान में करोड़ों बच्चे जोखिम भरे कामों में लगे हैं, वेश्यावृत्ति में लगे हैं जिनको स्कूल जाने का मौका नहीं मिलता। मैंने पिछले सत्र में बाल श्रमिकों के बारे में एक प्रश्न किया था। उसमें मैंने पूछा था कि कितने बच्चों है जो चोरी और वेश्यावृत्ति में संलिप्त हैं और उनके जीवनस्तर को सुधारने के लिए क्या किया जा रहा है? तो सरकार की तरफ से उत्तर आया था कि ऐसे बच्चों का डेटा तैयार नहीं किया जाता। जब सरकार द्वारा ऐसे बच्चों का डेटा और ब्यौरा तैयार नहीं किया जा सकता तो मुझे लगता है कि ऐसी स्थिति में सरकार द्वारा अगर कोई भी उनके लिए कुछ किया जाए तो वहां तक पहुंच भी नहीं सकता है। यह चार्टर मुझे उम्मीद है कि सचमुच में जिनको सरकार की मदद की जरूरत है उन बच्चों तक पहुंचने का कोई रास्ता निकालेगी और उनको उस गंदगी से निकाल कर राष्ट्र के निर्माण में लगाएगी, ऐसी मुझे उम्मीद है। माननीय महोदया, मेरा यह मानना है कि यह ऐसा कठिन काम है जिसके लिए अकेली सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती और चार्टर में इसको बहुत बढ़िया ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया गया है। उसमें कहा गया है कि इस काम की जिम्मेदारी समाज, समुदाय और सरकार पर होगी और मेरा भी यह मानना है कि जब तक समुदाय, समाज और सरकार तीनों मिलकर इसके लिए प्रयास नहीं करेंगे तो इसके परिणाम ठीक नहीं आ सकते। माननीय महोदया, बचपन के लिए सरकार कुछ करे लेकिन हमारे समाज से भ्रूण हत्या एक अभिशाप है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कल जो चार्टर पेश किया था तो उन्होंने कहा था कि बच्चा जन्म लेने से पहले मां की कोख में सुरक्षित रहता है मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी लड़को के लिए तो सुरक्षित हो सकता है लेकिन आज मां की कोख लड़कियों के लिए सबसे ज्यादा असुरक्षित हो गई है। किस तरीके से तीन-चार माह के गर्भ के बाद उनके मरने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है व मारा जाता है, यह भारतीय समाज के लिए एक ऐसा कलंक है जिसको कोई विधेयक लाकर रोकना बहुत जरूरी है। माननीय मंत्री जी, मुझे एक शिकारी मिला जो परिन्दों का शिकार करने जा रहा था। तो मैंने उससे पूछा कि तुम किसको मारने जा रहे हो। कहता है कि जो भी मिल जाए हम उसको मार देते हैं और खा जाते हैं। उस जंगल में मोर भी थे। तो मैंने कहा कि क्या आप मोर को भी मारते हो? तो उसने कहा कि-हां, मिल जाए तो मार देते हैं। तो मैंने कहा कि मोर तो हमारा राष्ट्रीय पक्षी है। तो वह कहता है कि हम मोर को तो कम मारते हैं मोरनी मिल जाए तो उसको नहीं छोड़ते।

महोदया, अगर मोरनी नहीं रहेगी तो मोर कहां से आयेगा? अगर बालिका नहीं होगी तो महिला कहां से आयेगी और अगर महिला नहीं होगी तो पुरुष का जन्म भी कहां से होगा? जब जन्म ही नहीं होगा तो बच्चों की देखरेख के लिए इस चार्टर में कही गईं जॉ चीजें हैं, उनका सही रूप सामने नहीं आ पायेगा।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, कल बच्चों के उत्पीड़न के बारे में चर्चा हुई। उसमें यह कहा गया कि जो मां-बाप भी बच्चों को डाटते हैं उस पर भी रोक लगनी चाहिए। बच्चों का उत्पीड़न नहीं होना चाहिए लेकिन मां-बाप की डांट-डपट पर कोई कानून बने, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। मैं अपने बचपन की बात सुनाता हूँ। मेरे घर के पास एक खड्ड में बीड़ियों से लदा हुआ ट्रक उलट गया, रिकवरी वाले आये ट्रक को सीधा किया, जो टीक-टीक बीड़ियों के बंडल थे, उन्हें उठाकर ले गये। उसके बाद हम गांव के सभी बच्चों वहां पर पहुंचे। जो छोटे बंडल थे जो

सिंगल यूनिट होता है, वे वहां पर बहुत मात्रा में ठीक पड़े हुये थें। हमने कहा कि यह राष्ट्रीय धन है यह खत्म हो रहा है और हमें कुछ करना चाहिए। हम अपने कुर्ते की झोली में जितने बंडल आये, उनको लेकर घर आ गये। हमने घर में आकर बंडल दिखाए, हमारे घर में कोई तंबाकू पीने वाला नहीं था तो मां ने कहा – जहां से लेकर आये हो वहां पर फेंक कर आओ। हमें लगा कि मेरी मां हमारी जिंदगी की पहली कमाई को स्वीकार नहीं कर रही है। हमने पशुओं वाले कमरों में उसको छिपा दिया। फिर लगा कि ये सड़ गये, खत्म हो गये तो नुकसान हो जायेगा। इसलिए कुछ किया जाये। हमने घर से माचिस चुराई और अपने खेतों में जाकर एक पेड़ के नीचे बैठकर पीने लगे। इतने सारे बंडल कहां खत्म होने वाले थें इसलिए तय हुआ कि मोहल्ले के बाकी लोगों को भी बुलाया जाये। उस पर भी बंडल भारी पड़े तो हमने तय किया कि बंडल से एक-एक बीड़ी पीकर खत्म करना हमारे लिए संभव नहीं है, पूरे बंडल का रेपर उतरो और जोर से सूटा लगाओ और पी जाओ। जब दस-बारह बच्चे ऐसा करने लगे तो धुंआ काफी निकलने लगा। गेहूं की फसल पकी थी। मेरे चाचा वहां से गुजर रहे थे तो उन्होंने सोचा शायद खेत में आग लग गई है इसलिए धुआं निकल रहा है ? जब वे उधर आये तो सारे बच्चे राष्ट्रीय निर्माण में लगे हुये थे। बाकी सब बच्चे भाग गये और मैं उनके हाथ में आ गया, उन्होंने बैल को पीटने वाली छड़ी से दो छड़ी मेरी पीठ पर मारी, अब अगर मैं ललन भाई को भी सिगरेट पीये हुये देखता हूं तो मेरी पीठ में खुजली होती है। फिर मैंने कभी सिगरेट नहीं पी।

माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, उत्पीड़न के कानून में मां-बाप की डांट-डपट नहीं अपनी चाहिए। हमारे यहां कहा जाता है कि पांच वर्ष तक बच्चों को प्यार और उसके बाद फटकार और जब बच्चे का जूता पांव में आने लगे तो समझों कि वह मित्र है। यह हमारे समाज की व्यवस्था ठीक है। इसमें कानून की जरूरत नहीं हैं। लेकिन बच्चो का जो शोषण हो रहा है उस पर रोक लगाने की जरूरत है।

उपसभापति महोदया, मैंने कल जब अपना भाषण तैयार किया तो मैंने शायर की ये पंक्तियां इस पर लिखीं कि ये दौलत भी ले लो, यह शोहरत भी ले लो, भले छीन लो मुझसे मेरी जवानी मगर मुझको लौटा दो बचपन का सावन, वह कागज की किशती, वह बारिश का पानी। लेकिन बालकवि बैरागी सहित हर वक्ता ने यह कहा कि अगर मुझे भगवान मिले तो मैं उससे अपना बचपन मांगूंगा। अभी बालकवि बैरागी जी यहां उ थे पस्थित नहीं है। जब उन्होंने अपने बचपन को चीर जाने वाली मार्मिक कथा सुनाई तो मैंने अपना भाषण बदल दिया।

उपसभापति महोदया, मैं 1982 में पहली बार दिल्ली आया था। बस से वापस लौट रहा था करनाल रोड पर जहां दिल्ली का सबसे कड़ा कूड़ादान हैं, वहां पर हमारी बस खराब हो गयी, वहां पर कुछ देर रुकने का मौका मिला। उस ढेर पर मैंने तीन तरह के प्राणी देखे जो अपनी आजीविका की तलाश कर रहे थे। उसमें कुछ कुत्ते थे, कव्वे थे और गरीब आदमियों के पांच-पांच, छह-छह साल के बच्चे। मैंने उस दिन एक कविता को लिखना शुरू किया था। 21 साल मुझे उस कविता का लक्ष्य नहीं मिला लेकिन कल यहां पर बैठकर सभी लोगों के भाषण सुनें, बालकवि बैरागी जी की वह कहानी सुनी तो मुझे कल रात उस कविता को पूरा करने का मौका मिला और मैं मानता हूं कि सरकार जो चार्टर लेकर आई है उसके पीछे उसकी यही दिशा है। मैं चाहता हूं कि वह कविता मैं आपके सामने पढ़ूं। गली के एक गरीब बच्चे की दास्तान है-

“गली के उस नुक्कड़ से ले, इस फुटपाथ तक ।
 यह जर्मी सदा ही रही है बिछौना मेरा और खुला आसमान रहा है छत मेरी ।
 सर्दियों में अक्सर कोहरों ने ढांका है मुझको
 और गर्मियों की तपती दोपहरी मेरी छांव बनी है ।
 उस होटल के पिछवाड़े, चंद सूखें टुकड़ों के लिए
 ये कुत्ते सदा मेरे प्रतिद्वंदी रहे हैं ।
 और म्यूनिसिपैलिटी का नल, जो कि निशुल्क है, रहा है तो मां मेरी
 जिसने कभी मुझसे कोई प्रत्याशा नहीं की ।
 और अपनी ममता के दूध से,
 मेरे गले में अटके सूखें टुकड़ों को, मेरे हलक में उतारा है ।
 मैं फुटपाथ से अपनी कुहनियों के बल घिसट,
 इस चौराहे पर अपने घुटनों के बल खड़ा हो गया हूं ।
 तो समाज का यह कहना है कि यही तुम्हारे पांव है ।
 और तुम इस देश का भविष्य हो ।”

माननीय महोदया, घुटनों से ऊपर, अपने पांव पर खड़ा करने का प्रयास इस चार्टर में हैं । मैं इस चार्टर को लाने के लिए और इसमें जो प्रावधान रखें हैं, उनको निपुणता के साथ लागू करने के लिए माननीय मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूं और एक छोटा सा इसमें ऐडिशन चाहता हूं कि जो 6 से 14 वर्ष तक की आयु का रखा है – 6 साल भूख और गरीबी के लिए बहुत लम्बा समय होता है – मैं चाहता हूं कि जन्म से लेकर 14 वर्ष तक अगर सरकार इसको अपनी आर्थिक नीति में शामिल करे तो बेहतर होगा । दूसरा, बच्चों में जिस तरीके से स्कूल कर डर है कि बच्चे स्कूल जाते हुए डरते हैं और वापिस आते हुए भागकर खुशी से आते हैं, इसको भी दूर करने का कोई प्रयास होना चाहिए । महोदया, आपको खुदा का वास्ता और माननीय मंत्री जी, आप भगवान के वास्ते स्कूल के बच्चों को इस बस्ते से...

डा० मुरली मनोहर जोशी : आप हमें खुदा का वास्ता और उनको भगवान का वास्ता दें...

उपसभापति : हां, आप हमें डिवाइड क्यों कर रहे हैं ?

श्री कृपाल परसार : आप कृपया बच्चों को इस भारी भरकम बस्ते से निजात दिलाने का प्रयास करें । मैं आशा करता हूं कि जिस नीयत के साथ और जिस बेहतर नीयत के साथ सरकार यह चार्टर लेकर आयी है, सारा समाज इससे लाभान्वित होगा । धन्यवाद । जय हिन्द ।

उपसभापति : आप यह कहिए, ऊपर वाले का वास्ता। वह चाहे भगवान कहलाए, खुदा कहलाए या गॉड कहलाए। उधर भी झगड़ा नहीं लगाना चाहिए।

श्री कृपाल परमार : मैडम, परसों जो मेरा रेज़ोल्यूशन है, यह कनवर्शन पर है। उस पर भगवान और खुदा आएगा, इसलिए मैंने आज से शुरुआत की है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we have only three minutes left for lunch. The next speaker can speak after the lunch hour so that his speech would not be incomplete. If the House so agrees, we can adjourn the House till 2 o'clock, for lunch.

Mr. Cho. Ramaswamy has requested that he wants to speak early. So, I would ask Mr. Raghavan to be kind enough to allow Mr. Cho to speak. The next speaker would be Mr. Cho Ramaswamy.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-eight minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at six minutes past two of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

श्री सभापति : श्री चो. रामास्वामी जी, आप शुरु करे इससे पहले मैं सत्ता पक्ष से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हाउस में कोरम रखने की जिम्मेदारी आपकी है।

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : जी, हो गया कोरम।

श्री सभापति : अब हुआ है। मैं पांच मिनट से वेट कर रहा हूँ।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : जी, ठीक है।

s (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : फ्लोर मैनेजमेंट ठीक नहीं हो रहा है।

श्री सभापति : आप भी एक ही बैठे हैं। ... (व्यवधान)... सरला जी कों मैं बुलाकर लाया हूँ। ... (व्यवधान)...

SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY (Nominated): Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I don't have the pleasure of addressing many Members, I do have the privilege of addressing the Treasury Benches and the Opposition Benches. During the debate, much stress was laid on the education of children.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, SHRI NILOTPAL BASU, in the Chair]

But, I am afraid, we are failing to realise a crucial drawback in the education of children in the country. And, that is our failure to provide the

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RAJYA SABHA

right kind of environment, conducive to education, to millions and millions of children in this country. The rich send their children to the best of schools, and also provide right kind of atmosphere to study at home. The middle class people have to make certain sacrifices to send their children to good school, but still they manage it because they can bear it. But, those living below the poverty line or just above it are not able to send their children to schools. If at all they send their children to schools, it is to second-rate schools, where the teachers are third-rate and it ends in the fourth-rate education, and it is the first-rate problem of the country. I feel it is a first-rate problem because, in my opinion, half-baked education, indifferent education is worse than no education at all. A person who is not educated, no doubt, remains ignorant. But a person who is indifferently educated, who is badly educated, not only remains ignorant, but also becomes arrogant. Bharthrahari, in his *Neeti Shatakam*, said, "It is easy to convince a man without knowledge; it is easier to convince a knowledgeable man; but even Lord Brahma cannot convince an arrogant man, with half-baked knowledge. अज्ञः सुखमाराध्यः सुखतरमाराध्यते विशेषज्ञः ज्ञानलवदुर्विदग्धं ब्रह्मापि नरं न रञ्जयति । I Agnya : Sukamaaradhyate Sukatharamaaradhyate Visheshgya Gnamalavathurvidhaghdam Brahmaapi Naram Na ranjayathi. The children from the poorest sections have to live in slums or in some God-forsaken place, if they are living in villages. They live in such poverty that everything is a problem in their homes — from water to electricity, from food to roads, from medicines to clothing, from festivals to funerals, everything is a problem, and because of that there is a constant tension in the home and in the neighbourhood.

Added to this are the social evils like illicit liquor distilling, bootlegging, gambling etc. You name the vice and you can see it there. And, worst of all, every person in such a locality belongs to one political party or the other, thereby giving one more cause for tension. Now, how can we expect the children living in these localities to compete with those children who are blessed with a much better environment that is suited for education? It is unfair. I would say it is a cruel joke to expect these children to compete with better-placed children in education. The only way in which we can solve this problem is by providing residential schools to the poorer sections of society, to the deprived classes, irrespective of caste, creed, community or language. The residential schools need not be posh affairs. Provision of basic amenities like an asbestos shed, four uniforms in a year would be sufficient.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): Sir, if you yield for a moment, I just want to inform you that there are nine Members on this 'others' column and we have total forty minutes for that. So, roughly you have five minutes, which you have already exhausted. ...(*Interruptions*)... I am not stopping you.

SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Can I get five more minutes?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): It will be difficult to give you five minutes. If you can wind up in 2-3 minutes, it would be better.

SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: All right, Sir. Then my appeal is that we should provide residential schools to the deprived classes. That is the crux of my appeal. Thank you.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Sir, adoption of a National Charter for Children is a welcome step. The hon. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has stated that a high-powered Commission is to follow. I hope that the Commission will have sufficient teeth to deal with the welfare of the children. A Commission without teeth would be of no use. One of the problems faced by the children of our country today is that they have to live under a disturbing cloud of hypocrisy of the elders. When question papers of examinations are in the market for sale, how can you expect a child to be honest? The children closely watch the contradictions in the words and deeds of our leading personalities. They preach something and do just the contrary.

Our children are faced with so many discriminations. Let us begin with the religious teachings. One religion teaches that if children don't follow it's preaching, they will go to hell. All the other religions say the same thing, that if a certain religious preaching or belief is not followed, then, they will go to hell. So, instead of instilling love in the minds of children, in the name of religion hatred is being preached from the very beginning.

So, from the childhood itself, instead of love, some kind of hatred is imparted to children's mind in the name of religion. Another thing is caste discrimination. We still have caste discrimination in all the States. In some States it is more; in some States, it is less. And, that discrimination is

going on among the children also. Before Independence, when Independence struggle was on, there were powerful social reformers and they did a very commendable job about this evil, the evil of caste, the evil of hatred. Unfortunately, after Independence, such powerful reform movements are lacking. That is why this kind of discrimination still continues. We must be ashamed of it. This discrimination continues to prevail in our society. Another point is, we have so many laws; the laws which are ignored rather than being implemented. We have prohibited child marriage, but what we see in the media is several VIPs participating in the child marriages. The prohibition is challenged openly, but nobody cares to check it. The number of child marriages is going up year by year. It is not decreasing. (*Time bell*) Sir, unfortunately, the time was unlimited till now, but when we, 'the Others' come to speak, time-limit is enforced on us. You are a powerful person, you can enforce it. (*Interruptions*)... But this also is a kind of discrimination.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): I don't want to point out ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Okay, Sir... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): See, I cannot be held responsible. I have explained to Mr. Ramaswamy also how much time has been allotted and how it has been distributed.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I am only pointing out that for the last two days, unlimited speeches have been going on... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): So long as I am in the Chair, I can explain my conduct.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Okay, Sir, I am concluding. We have prohibited child labour. Where has it been implemented? Under our own nose, child labour is going on. What a pitiable sight it is to see small boys of 8, 9, 10 or 11 years of age carrying heavy loads on their heads! Who is challenging it? Has any step been taken by anybody to implement this Act? No, Sir; nobody is interested. It goes on like that. For lack of time, I cut short my speech and say that all the Acts to safeguard the children are being ignored as the children themselves. So, some steps need to be taken from the top to implement the existing protection laws.

Another thing is we have so many institutions for welfare of mother and child. It is a pitiable thing to see that those institutions are not functioning properly.

The mother and child welfare centres, the basic health centres in the villages, they are the lot which is ignored by everybody, by the local bodies, by the State Governments and by the Centre Government. They say they are not able to do it due to lack of resources. The lack of resources is the justification for everything. So, these are the things about which we must do something. Instead of giving lectures to others, we must find some resources. Both the Centre and the States should work together and see that these institutions like mother child care, the Anganwadis, etc., function properly. The children between the age of 0-6 years are an ignored lot. This is the lot which is ignored by everybody. We may lecture anything, say anything, but the basic minimum things are being ignored. So, my earnest request to the hon. Dr. Joshi is, do something to implement the laws made for this purpose. Do something to activate the basic welfare centres that are functioning today. If you do that, Sir, a lot can be achieved. That basic thing is being ignored. That is the main thing which I had to point out. I have got some other things with me, but I would keep it to myself, and I will communicate it to the concerned authorities. Thank you, Sir.

श्री शंकर राय चौधरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय । महोदय, आज नेशनल चार्टर फॉर चिल्ड्रन पर चर्चा हो रही है, इस पर हमारे क्लीग्स ने बहुत कुछ कहा है । मैं सिर्फ इस पॉलिसी को कामयाब करने में जो चंद एक अड़चनें हैं, उन की ओर मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि शायद, इन का जवाब मंत्री जी के हाथ में न हो । महोदय, मेरे विचार में सब से पहली बात यह है कि हमारे चाइल्ड वेलफेयर के जो प्लान बनते हैं, इस सब की जड़ में पॉपुलेशन कंट्रोल आता है । महोदय, आज हमारी आबादी सौ करोड़ से अधिक है और 2020-2025 तक हम दुनिया में सब से बड़ी आबादी वाले देश होंगे । अब जब तक यह आबादी बढ़ती जाएगी तब तक आप चाहे जो भी प्लान बनाएं, वह कामयाब नहीं होगा। आप ने इस चार्टर में जो कुछ बातें लिखी हुई हैं, वे बहुत अच्छी बातें हैं, लेकिन जब तक जनसंख्या को कंट्रोल नहीं किया जाता तब तक ऐसा कोई भी प्लान कामयाब नहीं हो सकता और पिछले 50 सालों से इसी वजह से यह नहीं हो सका है । इसलिए नेशनल चार्टर फॉर चिल्ड्रन की जो बुनियाद है, उस में यह बात आती है कि क्या आप परिवार नियोजित करने की हिम्मत रखते हैं । अगर आप यह नहीं कर सकते तो मेरे ख्याल तो मेरे ख्याल से आप के ये सारे प्लान सक्सेसफुल नहीं होंगे ।

दूसरी बात, आप के इस चार्टर का सरकार के हर डिपार्टमेंट के साथ संबंध है । आप कोई भी डिपार्टमेंट लीजिए, उस के साथ इस का संबंध है । इसलिए दूसरी खामियों को दूर करने के लिए आप की सरकार को ऑर्डिनेशन से, सारे डिपार्टमेंट्स के मेल-मिलाप से इक्वेटे काम करें – आप इस तरह काम कर सकते हैं तो आप को सक्सेस मिल सकती है, लेकिन अगर उस में कुछ कमी रह जाए तो फिर आप के प्लान पाछे रह जाएंगे ।

तीसरी बात जो इसी कोऑर्डिनेशन से संबंध रखती है, वह यह है कि सेंटर और स्टेट्स का भी इकट्ठे होकर काम करना। हालांकि यह कहने में बहुत अच्छी बात है कि केन्द्र और राज्य इकट्ठे मिलकर काम करें, लेकिन मैं देखता हूँ और मैं मानता हूँ कि आजकल के परिवेश में यह बहुत मुश्किल हो रहा है। और जब तक आप सेंट्रल और स्टेट को किसी तरीके से नजदीक नहीं जा पाएंगे तक तक ये जो हमारे अच्छे इरादे हैं वे सिर्फ इरादे ही रह जाएंगे।

महोदय, चौथी बात है राजनीति। बच्चों की परवरिश की एक बुनियादी जरूरत है शिक्षा और शिक्षा में स्कूल से लेकर कॉलेजों, यूनिवर्सिटी तक में राजनीति प्रवेश कर गई है। क्या आप हमारी शिक्षा नीति से, शिक्षा सिस्टम से राजनीति को निकाल सकते हैं? क्या आप स्टूडेंट्स यूनियन्स को बंद कर सकते हैं? क्या आप स्टूडेंट्स इलेक्शन्स को बंद कर सकते हैं? इनका जो असर पड़ रहा है, वह हमारे डवलपमेंट में बुरा असर डाल रहा है।

महोदय, यहां पर एक जिक्क हुआ था वार टॉयस, कम्प्युटर गेम के बारे में और सभी सदस्यों ने इस पर चिंता प्रकट की थी कि वार गेम्स और वार टॉयस किसी तरीके से बंद किए जाएं। वैसे यह कुदरत की बात है। इसको आप बदल सकते हैं तो जरूर बदलने की कोशिश करिए, लेकिन इसमें मैं एक थोड़ी सावधानी की बात कहना चाहता हूँ खेल-कूद में एक कंपटीटिव स्पिरिट तो आपको रखनी है। बार बार हमें यह सुनने में आया है कि जो हमारे हिंदुस्तानी खिलाड़ी हैं उनमें यह किलर स्पिरिट नहीं है। तो यह किलर स्पिरिट और वार टॉयस, इनके बीच में समन्वय करके आपको यह देखना पड़ेगा कि हां, जरूर हम यह वार टॉयस, वार गेम्स बंद करें, लेकिन खेल-कूद में हम पीछे न रह जाएं। यह हमारी बड़ी कमजोरी है, आपको इसमें देखना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, आखिर में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि ये सारे जो प्लान बनाए हैं, जो बिल पास किए हैं, इतने कमीशन बैठे हैं, पालिसीज बनी हैं, क्या उस पर आप कम्प्लायन्स, उसके साथ उसको लागू करनेकी हिम्मत रखते हैं या नहीं? यह बात बार बार माननीय सदस्यों ने भी उठाई है। यह आपने बहुत अच्छी तजवीज पेश की है, लेकिन जब तक इसको लागू करने की हिम्मत नहीं रखेंगे तब तक मेरे ख्याल से आप कामयाब नहीं हांगे।

ये जो मेरे विचार थे, वे मैंने यहां प्रकट किए। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU) : Before proceeding to the next Speaker, as per the business list for the day, we will have the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2003-04.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2003-04

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in