

almost every walk of life. We have always been discussing about the upliftment and the dignity of women. Unless the woman has a role in decision making and she gets equal participation in the political power, the schemes for her upliftment can not be implemented widely. In view of this, every party had declared before the election that they would provide 33 percent reservation to women in State Legislatures and Parliament. The Bharatiya Janata Party, in its national convention, had also passed a resolution to this effect. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, he had also reiterated the same thing. This fact also found mention in the President's Address. The present Prime Minister has also made a promise in this regard. If you really want the upliftment and equal participation of women, a Bill for providing 33 percent reservation to women should be introduced and passed in this very session so that women could avail this benefit in the ensuing Legislative Assembly elections. I, through you, would like to request the Government to introduce and pass a Bill to this effect in the current session itself ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, atleast an assurance should come from the Government that the Bill would be introduced in this very session.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, you called Shri Hannan Mollah...*(Interruptions)*. Let him get his chance. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : This Bill is almost ready.

This Bill will be introduced in this Session and the Government's intention is that, with the cooperation of this House, this Bill should be passed in this Session itself.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given a privilege notice against the Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After Mr. Mollah, I will allow you.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to raise a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that a Bill will be brought before this House for 33 percent reservation to women in the Parliament. What about reservation in jobs for women?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The matter regarding reservation for women in jobs is yet to be decided.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I hope it will be decided quickly.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, as you know, a large number of jute mills in West Bengal and other parts of the country are lying closed for a very long time. In my Constituency, Kanoria and Premchand Jute Mills and some other new jute mills are closed for a very long time. Another 12 jute mills in other parts of West Bengal are also lying closed. Most of the jute mills are partially closed. About 50 percent of the jute mill workers are out of job at the moment. It is a serious problem. One more major problem is that under the Compulsory Package Act which was passed by this House, the Government and the public sector have to use jute bags for carrying cement and other things. But that Act is not being implemented by the public sector.

Secondly, the Jute Corporation of India are not purchasing adequate quantity of jute. Over and above due to shortage of raw jute, many jute mills are closed and thousands of workers are out of job. The JCI is also suffering from shortage of funds. The Finance Ministry is not giving adequate funds to JCI to purchase raw jute. The economy of West Bengal and other parts of the country where the jute mills are closed, are in a shambles.

So, I would request the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Labour to take appropriate action so that the jute mills which are closed now are reopened and the Compulsory Package Act is implemented fully. The JCI should also procure raw jute so that the shortage of raw jute can be tackled, the factories can be reopened, and thousands of workers can also get back their jobs as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One-by-one everybody will get a chance to speak.

COGENTRIX POWER PROJECT

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Privilege Motion on the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday, I had asked some questions regarding Cogentrix Power Project in this House during Question Hour. The reply of the hon-Prime Minister to it is available in the proceedings of Lok Sabha which was sent to me in the morning. He had stated.

[English]

"The Cogentrix Project has not yet been cleared by the Central Government. The PPA is at the level of the State Government which is the Karnataka Electricity Board. So far as this Power Purchase Agreement and its other aspects are concerned, the State Government has to finally take a decision. The Central Electricity Authority will then examine the whole issue and only then will it come before the Central Government.

At this stage, I am not in a position to say as to what are the items that they have agreed and ultimately what the Central Government is going to agree."

[Translation]

This is the statement made by the Hon. Prime Minister yesterday in this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I received your Privilege Motion a little while ago. I have not read it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I had given the notice before 10.00 a.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You might have given. You had said that some documents were to be attached with that. These have not been attached. Please give these documents too.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will examine it

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned the issues related to the documents which I am going to raise in the House, in this letter. The Hon. Prime Minister says that the project is yet to be cleared. I have a document with me from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India. The very first sentence of it says... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : No notice has been given for this.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Notice has been given by me.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It is not complete, no documents have been attached. What is this? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, The Prime Minister has not declared it because when a project is being cleared, environment is one of the clearances and this is not the only clearance. He has not declared it... (Interruptions)

No... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Unless I examine it, I am constrained to say anything on it.

[English]

I will go through it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not talking of newspaper reports. I am presenting the documents of the Ministry. It says...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please send it after attaching the documents I will examine it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : When will you take it up? Tomorrow?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I can tell you only after examining it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I have brought all the documents with me. I have mentioned all these documents in my letter. The Hon. Prime Minister says that no clearance has been given to the project. But, I have documents showing clearance of his Ministry. It says...

[English]

"The Mangalore Power Company may refer to the proposal on the subject mentioned above. The project has been examined and project clearance from the environmental angle is subject to effective implementation of the following conditions."

[Translation]

Now the Hon. Prime Minister says in this House that clearance has not been given. The Hon. Minister of Environment and Forest is sitting here. This is the document released in his behalf... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please give the documents. I will examine it.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : We do not want to see anybody's photograph here... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You cannot go on saying like this... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : All Members are here to raise important issues... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Listen to me... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The Hon. Prime Minister has given wrong facts before the House... (Interruptions) When I am speaking, all of you are interrupting me. Don't interrupt me. I do not stop you from speaking then why are you all interrupting me... (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : The Hon. Prime Minister has misled the House as well as the entire country. Therefore, Shri George Fernandes should be allowed to speak on the subject... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will examine it.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATYAR : The Hon. Prime Minister has misled the House as well as the entire country by making a false statement...*(Interruptions)*. Please let him speak and clear his points...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, let Mr. Fernandes complete first...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have put some facts before you as well as the House. I have mentioned an official document in my notice, which I have still with me. Secondly, the Hon. Prime Minister stated yesterday that no clearance was given to the project. Sir, in today's 'Economic Times' there is a statement of the highest authority of this company 'Ron Somers', which say :

[English]

The Central Electricity Authority has given the clearance more than a month back"

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my one point should atleast be accepted. Thereafter the reply can be given. I want to say that yesterday at 11 a.m., the Hon. Prime Minister had stated in this House that the Central Electricity Authority had not given clearance. Thereafter Mr. Ron Somers, the Chairman or M.D. of the company, admitted that the clearance of the Central Electricity Authority was given to the company. You should atleast listen to what I say. Sir it is not the question whether it appeared in the newspaper or not.

We never had such a dispute with the press. The newspaper has published it now. When it was quoted, the newspaper...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I have raised an appropriate question. They have said that the P.P.A. was not entered into. However it was entered into on 18th January...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish first.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, please speak. He is on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Harin Pathak, he has already mentioned about the Privilege Motion...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : There is no point of order in Zero Hour. Hence there is no need of raising it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, if you allow me, then I will speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bilpur) : I would like to just remind the hon. Members that the whole proceeding is being telecast...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The hon. Deputy Speaker has allowed me. Sir, I just draw your attention to one thing. Every Member has every right. And he has given notice for a breach of Privilege Motion. Shri George Fernandes is right.

If the Prime Minister has misled the House, he has every right to bring a Privilege Motion against the Prime Minister or for that matter against anybody...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. I just draw your attention to Rule 222. Sir, you mentioned while he raised this issue that his notice is not complete and that he has not attached the documents which are required in the Notice itself. That means that Notice itself is incomplete. Why is he raising this issue again? He is a senior Member. When he gave the Notice, he should have attached all the documents which he wanted to attach. Why is he showing it here? Why does he not give it to the Speaker? This is wrong. This is what the other Members will follow him. He should try to follow the rules. Why do you not give it to the Speaker? The rule says it very categorically. He should just read and rule.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will you please read my Notice?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I have gone through your Notice...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want your protection on this issue. You yourself said, 'Mr. George Fernandes, you attach whatever documents which are required in the Notice. The documents are not given.' Sir, You please ask him to give the Notice properly.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have made two things clear. The first is that the document is not attached with the motion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That is exactly the position. Then, why is he raising this issue?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Secondly, if the document is attached, I shall examine it.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSHI (Howrah) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : On Privilege Motion, it is always the practice that the Chair will decide.

Views are taken, Something cannot be decided on the floor of the House today. It is under the Consideration of the Hon. Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is what I have said. You attach all the documents. I will go through the documents.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I will say only one more sentence and then I will sit down...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

I am submitting the documents and shall speak only a sentence. It has been said in this House that P.P.A. was not signed but the fact is that P.P.A. had been signed on 18th January. As it has been said here that the agreement was not signed, therefore, it becomes a case of privilege...*(Interruptions)* I shall despatch all the documents in the office immediately. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not necessary to submit the documents. If an officer insults a Member of Parliament then what kind of a document is required to be attached in this regard. When it is very clear that the hon'ble Prime Minister has made a wrong statement and misled the House, then it becomes a case of privilege. There is no need of the documents...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I shall listen to you also

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : My point of order is under rule 277... of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This must go out from the record...*(Interruptions)*. This must go out from the record...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow Shrimati Sushma Swaraj to speak. Please listen to her.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I have raised the point of order before Shrimati Sushma Swaraj...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let Shrimati Swaraj speak.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : He has identified me. It is his discretion to identify the speaker...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have allowed her. Let her speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I am not here on your mercy. I am here on my own right. It is not a concession I have stood on my right according to the rules...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising my point of order under rule 277. Just now the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was telling about raising the motion of privilege. While quoting the rule, he had told us about the procedure for moving a privilege motion. However, there is a rule 277 in the chapter relating to privilege in which it is stated at the outset :

[English]

"Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Speaker may refer to any question of privilege to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation or report."

[Translation]

Thus, it is under your jurisdiction that irrespective of all other rules, you can directly refer a Privilege Notice under rule 227 to the committee to examine and submit a report thereon. As regards the rules relating to examination of the motion of Privilege by you, it depends on the seriousness of the subject. The only condition under rule 227 is that how important the subject is. If it is a serious subject then you can refer it to the committee directly under Rule 227 irrespective of all other rules.

My submission is that if the hon'ble Prime Minister is charged of misleading the House and a Member submits the documents against the facts stated by the hon'ble Prime Minister then what else can be more serious than this subject. I, therefore, urge upon you to refer this matter directly to the privileges committee bypassing all other rules. There is no need for any examination because under rule 227, you are empowered to do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is your own interpretation of the rule. You cannot interpret the rule in whatever way you like. Do not mislead the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is not my interpretation of the rule. Can you interpret it in a different manner?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, the clear-cut policy to transact the business of the House and about the use

of the rights of the hon. Members, specially the privileges, have been well defined in rule 223 and no Member in the House can take a special advantage bypassing the rules. Today morning I myself got a call from the Notice Office saying that my notice for an Half-an-Hour discussion was not supported by the accompanying document and, therefore, the notice was being returned. I had to accept that. I am on record. Rule 223 clearly says :

"A member wishing to raise a question of privilege shall give notice in writing to the Secretary-General by 10.00 hours on the day the question is proposed to be raised. If the question raised is based on a document, the notice shall be accompanied by the document."
...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, rule 227 supersedes all other rules. The hon'ble Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda has misled the House. His statement is available there and except that, there is no need of any other statement...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : If a notice is given without document and the document is placed in the House, the notice itself is to be rejected. It cannot be accepted. Rule 223 further states that if anything is submitted after 10 O'clock, it shall be deemed to have been received on the next day at 10 O'clock. That is what the rule says. How can the hon. Member bypass the rule? No Member can get an extra advantage, whether he is a Member for the third term or fourth term or fifth term. With all respect to Shri George Fernandes, I would like to submit that he cannot do it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Newspaper cutting is no document, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have gone through all the three rules i.e. rule 222, 223, 227... In spite of that, I am saying...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As the name of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been involved in it, this matter has become a serious one. Once the documents are attached.

[English]

Then it will be examined. That is all.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I want to raise a very important matter in the House. In my constituency, Unnao, about 50 vacant posts of the Lekhpals have been filled up recently. In this regard, an advertisement was given in different newspapers. Since that very day, the bargaining started for these vacant posts. One interesting aspect of this process was that a committee was constituted before the examination. However, this committee was constituted only as a formality. The bribe ranging from Rupees sixty thousand to Rupees one lakh bribe was taken for a single post. This examination was conducted under the supervision of the District Magistrate and the Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue). Such malpractices were committed on a large scale under their very more knowledge and as a result, the suitable candidates were deprived of the job. The relatives of all the members of the selection committee like cousin of the Chairman, son of the S.D.M., brother of the Tehsildar etc. were recruited in this way.

Sir, I demand that this case should be enquired into by the C.B.I. because some vacant posts of the clerks and Group 'D' employees are yet to be filled up in this district and bargaining has already started for these posts. The examination conducted for the Lekhpals should be cancelled and an inquiry should be conducted immediately in this regard.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from Mirzapur-Bhadohi region. That area is a backward area. There is no factory or industry through which the people of that area could earn their livelihood. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I therefore, want to urge the Government, through you, to declare that area as No-industry area so that some industries could be established there and lakhs and crores of people can earn their livelihood.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to add that those people who are engaged in laying roadstone work, are given two kilogrammes of grains as their wages. I demand that their wages should be raised and my area should be declared as No industry-area.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise, through you a very important issue in the House. A statement of the Minister of Home Affairs has appeared in different newspaperes today, in which he has expressed his views regarding the functioning of the Government of Bihar.

[Translation]

We all have read the said statement in newspapers. It has created a strange and contradictory situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Home Minister is at present the Home Minister of United Front Government headed by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda whose party is in power in Bihar. I do not intend to go into detail whether the party is virtually ruling or not?