

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Therefore, it was not implemented. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You always try to disturb.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Running commentary will not help you. You are a senior Member. You must understand that. *(Interruptions)* That was not put into effect. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been writing to that effect. You know that I assumed charge only three months back. Previously there was a chequered carrier with regard to the implementation. But later at a point of time when the Speaker has raised this and said that it is an important issue and that it must be answered and there must be an half-an-hour discussion, by which time, I got a note from the Cabinet that I should give a report. Then, I have incorporated all the things that has happened and also the urgency and the need for this Fund. Because of half-an-hour discussion in Rajya Sabha as also here, I am waiting and I am going to send your impressions and expressions with regard to this Fund. If that Fund is given, yearly we will have Rs. 2000 crore, thereby I will be able to satisfy, at least, some States, if not all the States. For doing that, you must all help me to see that it is implemented. That is already there. But that is not being implemented for which I cannot be held responsible. I am pleading. On your behalf, I am sending a note to the Cabinet in this connection to the effect that it is very necessary. The funds that are provided in the Budget are very meagre. Therefore, this Central Road Fund should be given to us. I will also impress upon the Government that cess should be given. I also understand your feelings. I am also pleading for more funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : We are requesting him to reply the questions we have put ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : What is this ? I am telling the House that the Resolution is there and the implementation is there. *(Interruptions)*. On your behalf, I am impressing upon the Government that five per cent cess will be of great help to relieve the financial crunch for road development.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ (Jamshedpur) :

[English]

I just want to ask one line question.

[Translation]

I want to say only one thing. We have discussed here the length of highways. This is important. The question is

of providing infrastructural facility, it has been given somewhere and not given elsewhere. For example, many things have been said about Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot reopen it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Sir, let me complete ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Bill be passed. I had promised to do it at 6.30 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER : I have come exact at 6.30.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is now quarter to Seven. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh—Delhi) : It has already been delayed. Let there be no further delay.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All want to speak.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : It is a fraud on women.

[English]

18.40 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE : MEMBERS OF THE
PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER : I have to make a very small announcement. I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha I have nominated the following members as Members of Panel of Chairmen, (1) Shri Basudeb Acharia, (2) Shri Chitta Basu, (3) Shri P.C. Chacko, (4) Shri Nitish Kumar, (5) Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, (6) Shri P.M. Sayeed, (7) Col. Rao Ram Singh, and (8) Prof. Rita Verma, for remaining part of the House.

18.41 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)
BILL—*contd.*

(Insertion of new articles 330A and 332A)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, what do we do with this Bill ?

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh—Delhi) : Without any delay voting must be done ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jena, do you want to say anything.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Let us start the discussion. Sir, you said that for some time we can discuss this issue. Shri Nitish Kumar was on his legs. So, we can discuss it and then the Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The message that went from here yesterday could have secured a position for India in the galaxy of progressive nations of the world. But the scenario that is emerging now, the ups and downs we have seen since yesterday about this Bill, the dimensions this discussion has touched, have surely saddened us. It appears that a fraud is being committed on the entire women community of India. Yesterday, our expectation were raised so high that the Bill was proposed to be passed without discussion, the question Hour was proposed to be suspended. Today, it is 6.30 p.m. What is the scenario here today ? We have debated it for four hours ... (Interruptions) We are being decured ... (Interruptions) Please ask the hon. Minister to reply to the debate and take up voting.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, a lot of discussion has already taken place. All Parties have expressed their opinion. From all the Parties, more than one hon. Member have spoken. So, as far as the discussion is concerned, all the problems that could be there are already on the record. Now, it is a question of passage of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the Law Minister ?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : This is not the way to function. Let the House come to order ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to the Government.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Law Minister to not present in the House. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Why do you not listen ? He is coming. He is in the other House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, this is no more an issue with the Lady Members only ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : The absence of the hon. Law Minister at this moment shows his casual attitude ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : The other House is also going on ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : How are they going to dispose it of, this way ? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The discussion on this Bill started yesterday morning and it is now 7 O clock, but the Bill is yet to be passed ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It was decided here that discussion on the Eighty-First Constitution (Amendment) Bill will resume at 6.30 p.m. It was proper on the part of the Minister of Law to be here.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, he is in the other House. I have already sent a message to him. He must be on his way. He will be coming within minutes ... (Interruptions) The other House is also going on ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Till the Minister comes, I would like to know the views of the Government on this .

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Imcha, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have to allow the Members from North-East also. They have a peculiar problem. They have every right to place their views. I will come to you too. I will give you time.

SHRI IMCHA (Nagaland) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to request the Lady Member of this House not to agitate over this. We also have our own problems, which I feel, they should listen.

Sir, actually yesterday, when I came to this House after the Question Hour, I was really surprised when I found that time had come for voting on this Amendment. I would like to say that if the present Amendment in this form is passed by this House, it is going to have far reaching effect throughout the country and it will have adverse effect in the North-Eastern region. I am not against any reservation to be given in respect of women, but in this form if it is passed, it is going to create lots of problems. Therefore, about this, I want to say one or two words.

Sir, first of all, I would like to say, that even in the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika Bills, Nagaland has been left out because it is against the spirit of the provision, which is laid down in Article 371 (a). It will violate that spirit, that is why in these two Acts or so we have been left out.

So, if you pass this Bill in this manner, it is going to interfere with our established social practices which are provided by the Constitution. It will create lots of problem in our State. That is why, without some special protection to that, it will be difficult for me to support this Bill.

Sir, as I have said, keeping in view the religious and social practices and the customary laws of Nagas—all these things are there which are protected by Article 371 (a)—it should not be passed like this. It is because of this that the Nagar Palika Act and Panchayati Raj Act became non-applicable in respect of Nagaland. That aspect has not been taken into consideration or thought over while introducing this Bill.

Sir, this is one point on which it is going to be very difficult for us to support this Bill.

Secondly, there is one very peculiar situation. Ours is a male-dominated society. It is women who have to accept it. That is more important. We are finding it difficult in our State even to find candidates for our civic bodies. (Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, this is not true. (Interruptions)

KUMARI SELJA (Sirsa) : That is not correct. (Interruptions)

SHRI IMCHA : Sir, if you put a flat reservation of 33.33 per cent, that is one-third, we have the Assembly of 60 Members, then how do we find these 20 candidates? Even in our civic bodies, we are finding difficulties. Our society is in the process of transformation now. What I want to say is that there will be a leadership vacuum. If you do like this, it will create a leadership vacuum. In democracy, there is nothing more dangerous than creating a leadership vacuum. It is not in our case alone. I have discussed this with the Assamese leaders. It is also there in Assam, in Maghalaya, in Mizoram, even in Manipur and in parts of Bihar also. What I want to say is that we are not against it. But, I think, we should take some time and we should see as to how it will be made practicable.

Let us not pass something which will create problems, particularly, in the sensitive areas like the North-East. That is why, I would like to make this request to you, Sir, and to the hon. Prime Minister. Sir, we have enough problems. Please do not add more problems like this ... (Interruptions) We have sufficient problems. That is why, as I have requested earlier, if you want to pass this Bill, please leave us out (Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Sir, the hon. Member has said that women are not capable of providing leadership. Whatever he has said about women, that should be expunged. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI IMCHA : Please do not think that Delhi is India; do not think that Uttar Pradesh is India; and do not think that Karnataka is India. (Interruptions) We have the people in the regions, which are in the territories of this country. We have to take care of them. That is why, if you want to pass this Bill, I want to say that you have to leave us out. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL (Beed) : He is speaking against the constitution, he is talking of male-domination.

[English]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Sir, he has talked about male-dominated society. Whatever he has said about women, that should be expunged. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the records.

Now, I call upon Shri Nitish Kumar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at last you have given me time to speak for which I am grateful to you. Yesterday I was not present in the House, but I have seen and gone through the proceedings of the House and also have read Press reports. I also got an opportunity to learn many things from the hon'ble Member. I wanted to speak because it is an historic Bill and this Parliament is going to enact a historical Legislative measure. I want to give a vent to my feelings on this occasion and as a Member, I have the right to express my views and that is why I want to express my feelings.

As far as women's rights are concerned, not only women but men also have been fighting for their rights. It has been a world wide phenomenon. The question is not of male versus female. We will have to give the women their lawful rights and if the male society shows slackness in granting the women their rights then they will fight and rest only after achieving their due rights. They cannot be suppressed in a democratic set up. I do not want to go into the legal aspect and also the technical aspect about the manner in which this Bill has been introduced in this House. Much has been said on this aspect. It may have some drafting deficiencies but its intention is to provide one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, although the Bill has left out Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils. We have not been able to provide reservation to women in government jobs and other jobs. The women ought to be given their right in every field. I would like to put forth a different aspect. The Statement of Reasons and Objects of the Bill says that reservation already provided in Panchayats and Municipalities is being extended to Parliament and

Vidhan Sabhas. The Constitution was amendment to provide for reservation for women in Panchayats and municipalities and it also included reservation for OBCs but the same was left to the State Legislatures. I have worked as an active Member of a Select Committee. But what is the position today ? The Prime Minister has rightly said that law has been enacted, the Constitution has been amended and the State Government given powers to provide for reservations for OBCs. But what is the position today ? Has reservation been made in all the States ? What about West Bengal *(Interruptions)* . They are reacting to my speech everytime. ...*(Interruptions)* . They are preventing me to speak on this subject. What is the position in regard to OBCs in West Bengal ? How much time will they take in doing this ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It has been done before elections.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It has been done, it is alright but the OBCs will get reservation in Panchayats after elections. I attach great importance to women. We have sympathies for them. This Bill is meant for women and there is unanimity. There is no difference of opinion. But I would like to ask what crime has been committed by the OBC women. ...*(Interruptions)* . Please do not bring in Casteism. The Mandal Commission report was implemented and everybody has to accept it ...*(Interruptions)* . The CPI accepted it but CPM was opposing it ...*(Interruptions)* . But now all have accepted the report of the Mandal Commission and it has been implemented. ...*(Interruptions)* . You cannot stop me from speaking. You may continue to interrupt me but I will rest only after putting forth my views ...*(Interruptions)* . This is not fair. I heard you patiently. You express your views when you speak. All of us accept that we have to struggle to implement the Mandal Commission Report. There was great hue and cry. Today it is the Bill for women and I support it. I would demand serious discussion on other matters of this Bill and the women ought to be given one third reservation. But at the same time the OBC women should not be neglected. Reservation for SC-ST alone will not do.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, new castes are included every day in the list of scheduled castes and people have been raising their voice for achieving this object. The scheduled Caste population is increasing alongwith the population of the country. Reservation in the Constitution has been provided according to the population. Naturally, the number of Scheduled Castes will increase with the increase of population and their reservation will also increase. The reservation would be horizontal as far as women are concerned.

19.00 hrs.

The SC and ST have vertical reservation. I therefore demand that backward classes should also be provided vertical reservation. Thereafter bring horizontal reservation for women and reserve one third seats for them. This has to be

done. Nobody can deny this. The representatives of backward classes should not plead for their class taking advantage of this Bill and if they do so it would mean they are opposing this Bill. This will convey a wrong message.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said here that a message has gone to the country and the world since the debate commenced in this House yesterday and if nothing is done today, a wrong message will go. This is the value system of middle class, this is the value system of higher middle class they want to do the politics of indication and message. They do not want to do a service for women but want to show that they want to convey a message that they are doing something for the women. The term of this House will end in 2001 and new elections will be held. Nobody knows whether mid-term polls will take place but we are sitting here today and may not be a Member of this House tomorrow but we must think of the situation to be faced by us during the next five years. The life of this Lok Sabha is five years and the identity cards we have been issued is upto 2001. The women will get the benefit of reservation not today but after five years when elections will be held. The Lok Sabha will not be dissolved today and we should not think that if this Bill is not passed today, the women would be deprived of their rights. We should not take this matter so lightly and we must not create a scenario in the House that this is the problem of women only. This involves men also. Those who are against male Chauvinism, male domination but will support this Bill and I want to go on record that we are against this male Chauvinism. We are prepared to make any kind of sacrifices to secure legitimate rights to the women, but, at the same time, rights of women belonging to backward classes should also be taken care of lest the general category women take advantage of reservation and, the women belonging to backward classes remain unrepresented. I may be excused for my audacity that we have single vote system in our democracy and due to this system, the representation of the weaker section, suppressed, oppressed and dalits is increasing in Parliament and Vidhan Sabhas. Had we not the one person one vote system, had we not adopted the democratic system, a person like me would not have been here in this House today, a person like Deve Gowda would not have been the Prime Minister, many of those sitting here would not be here. Suraybhanji would not be sitting here. So an awareness has come. It has come because of single vote system. This system has manifested itself in the composition of this House. We would not allow the social composition that has been achieved after a long struggle to be changed from the backdoors. In case such a message goes out it will pain our hearts, it will pain the women of backward classes. This aspect has therefore, to be considered seriously. They must be given their rights and the heavens are not going to fall if this is done. This measure is going to come into force after a reasonably long time, so

we must have proper discussion on it. We must place on record during this discussion the history of women atrocities and that our resolve of granting these rights to the women. Whenever some research is conducted on this subject, this record will be readily available. We quote here frequently the debates of Central Assembly and Constituent Assembly. Similarly, the debate of this House will be quoted in future. So, all these things must come on record and hence a serious discussion is called for. If we are able to have debate on this Bill for 10-20 hours or for 2 to 4 days, it will be considered a major contribution in our efforts to secure legitimate rights to women. This will also send a right message to the world. In fact, as has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, this is an extension of the reservation already provided for in panchayats and municipalities. So, I want the other provisions that have been provided for panchayats and municipalities should be included in this Bill. It has been provided that the State Legislature, if they so desires, may provide for reservation for OBC women in panchayats and municipalities. We have before us the Constitution Amendment Bill and this has to be adopted in this House. So, we must provide reservations for OBCs. How long will we go on discussing and how long will people go on fighting for their rights? Reservation should be provided for all based on their population. The OBCs should be given population-based reservation in this House, as is being done in case of SC-ST. Today the population of all categories is increasing. The backward castes should be given representation in parliament, in Vidhan Sabha and in Vidhan Parishads in proportion to their population. Reservation should be provided in Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils for SC-STs, for OBCs for women etc. Similar provisions should be incorporated in this Bill.

All these points should be incorporated in this Bill. This can be done by collective debate in this House or the Prime Minister may be requested to give an assurance to this House that a Comprehensive Bill will be introduced by incorporating various suggestions made here and that a special session of Parliament would be called for this purpose after the U.P. elections are over and before the commencement of winter session or this Bill, as introduced, should be referred to a Joint Select committee with the request that it may submit its report within 15 days, one month or two months as may be deemed fit. A comprehensive Bill can be prepared and introduced by amending the present Bill, It will be a milestone in our history.

The job done in a haste will not give good result and this will be legally wrong. This is a Constitution Amendment Bill and do we not need a special majority to adopt this Bill? In case this Bill is put for voting and keeping in mind the presence in this House it may fall. Then it will convey a message to the world that we introduced a Bill for providing reservation for women and the same was defeated. Therefore, I will urge and pray humbly that government

should improve the position by bringing a comprehensive Bill by suitably amending the present Bill lest the present Bill may fall. The comprehensive Bill should be referred to a Joint Select Committee which, after being deliberated by the Select Committee, should be debated in this House during the next session or by calling a special session. This is what I have to submit. I thank you for giving me time to express my views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Minister like to reply to this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not closing the debate. A suggestion had come. I am only asking from the Government whether they would like to react or not. I have not closed the debate. I am only wanting the Minister to react to the suggestion that had come.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : We also want to participate in this debate. I shall express my views in two minutes.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : I also want to make a suggestion ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not understand what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the suggestions made by the hon. Member Shri Nitish Kumar, the Government has no hesitation to accept the proposition in whatever way—it could either go to the Select Committee or it could be, that if the House wants a comprehensive Bill it can come. The hon. Prime Minister has already clarified it. We can put our minds together and come before the house and if necessary, if everybody agrees and the Select Committee passes it unanimously we have no objection again to call for a Special Session.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that no further discussion should be allowed on this Bill since we have already had very long debate, wide deliberations on it. We have received your full cooperation right from yesterday till today and the world at large has seen how the Speaker of Lok Sabha of India has favoured women community. I, on behalf of all the women, request you to give your ruling on this Bill because you are fully alive to the rights that women are going to get in the coming times.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, yesterday everyone of us was very happy to see, and to quote some hon. Member, the historic unanimity of the House. Unfortunately, today we have seen that still there are issues where there is a question mark. The most important issue that came up during the course of the debate, during the course of discussion—even outside the House, I had a lot of consultation—was the question of Other Backward Classes. It is a very very valid point and the Prime Minister himself has told me that it is a very important issue and this issue of Other Backward Classes cannot be ignored.

Secondly, though yesterday we fixed that this Bill could be discussed for two hours and then the House can take up voting, several Members of Parliament today pleaded that adequate time should be allotted and all the political parties must have a say in this matter. The hon. Members should have a chance to speak and participate in the debate because this is a Bill, this is a piece of legislation which is unique in itself where 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent reservation is going to be given to women. We are the first country to do it. It is going to be a historical thing. The hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes pointed out in the morning and drew attention to Rule 362 and reminded us of the right of reasonable debate—that on an important issue of this nature, Members must have the opportunity to exercise the right of reasonable debate. I think it is quite a valid point that the hon. Member has made.

Even just now, we find that so many hon. Members are raising their hands and want to speak. Considering all these aspects and specially when the Government is willing to cooperate as they have stated again and again—the Prime Minister has stated again and again—that they will stand firm on what they have committed, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has just now said that whatever the House decides, they are willing to agree to it. If the Bill is to be referred to a Joint Committee, they are agreeable; if a comprehensive Bill is to be brought, they are agreeable; if a Special Session is to be called, they are agreeable. I think, the Government have adequately demonstrated their desire. As the hon. Member, Shri Nitish Kumar, has rightly pointed out that—well, I know that there can be some elections to the Legislative Assemblies, the earliest Legislative Assembly elections—we are not talking about U.P.—are going to take place, I think, in Punjab it will be in the beginning of next year. That is going to be the next election and the elections to Parliament will come after five years. So, we need not be in a hurry. So, I would also feel, after listening to the debate very carefully today, that this matter deserves a deeper and more elaborate debate. Therefore, I would postpone the consideration of this Bill.

Hon. Minister, I do have your Joint Committee proposal.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, we immediately move a Joint Committee proposal and the Speaker can be authorised to nominate Members as per his choice.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Now the question is that in this Bill about reservation for women, there may also be other things which have to be considered *per se*, but we are all committed to this Bill. Sir, you are proposing to refer this Bill to a Joint Committee. We often see that there are extensions and extensions. We want an absolutely time-bound Joint Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with that. My direction is, we decide that a Joint Committee will be constituted by the Speaker and the Bill will be referred to the Joint Committee to give the report on the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996. That is my final ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ensure that in the Joint Committee also, the same ratio of representation to women is given as is given in the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Why cannot be it that this Bill is passed ...(Interruptions) Why cannot it be ...(Interruptions). Let it be passed as introduced and a committee be constituted to go into the issues raised. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your sentiments.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That is a far better proposal ...(Interruptions) our leaders have said, all of us have said, the C.P.M. leaders have said ...(Interruptions). A committee should be constituted on the issues raised today ...(Interruptions). That is a far better proposal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has been moved and accepted. The final decision has been taken.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to raise any procedural point. We had said that we would go along with any proposal that is practical and is aimed at achieving the goal. It is not the procedural point that I am raising. But when you call it a Joint Committee, you are referring to the other House as well. It is not within the purview of the Lok Sabha alone to set up a Joint Committee, because it becomes a Committee of both the Houses of Parliament and therefore, it is not within the purview of this House alone to anticipate what the other House is going to say. If there is a proposal simply saying that a Select Committee be constituted, then, of course, this House can decide. But if it is a Joint

Committee, then it is a recommendation that you are making and therefore, the other House also comes into play. It is not a procedural matter that I am raising. Otherwise, we will again have some difficulty.

MR. SPEAKER : You are right. Mr. Minister, do you want a Select Committee or a Joint Committee ?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, Jaswant Singhji is correct. In the case of the Joint Committee, the consent of both the Houses will be required.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker Sir, please give me one minute to speak after your observations.

MR. SPEAKER : Umaji, your request has been accepted. It is your victory.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : So my proposal is that at your level and at the Rajya Sabha Chairman's level it can be sorted out. It can be a Joint Committee. If it is not, then it can be a Select Committee. That will be better.

MR. SPEAKER : I will be in touch with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and I will decide. The minimum I can assure the lady Members here is that the principle of

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent reservation to women will be followed in the Joint Committee.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The report will have to be made available to the House on the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, by what time this Committee would be constituted ?

MR. SPEAKER : You must leave that to me. How can I say that now ?

I thank all the hon. Members for their cooperation.

Now, the hon. Members may kindly stand up for *Vande Mataram*.

19.17 Hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.