

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no lunch break today.

.. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (PUNE) : There should be half-an-hour lunch break. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (MUMBAI NORTH) : You please give half-an-hour lunch break and then continue with the proceedings. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, no there is no Zero Hour. Uttar Pradesh budget has to be passed. (Interruptions). I am only requesting. Will the hon. Members be good enough to pass the Uttar Pradesh budget without discussion ? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, no. (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK) : What about Zero Hour ? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned for Lunch till 3.30 P.M.

14.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-three minutes past fifteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, this Bill for reservation of women should be discussed now. At six o' clock so many Members will go away. There will be no quorum. They will raise issue of quorum and other things. (Interruptions) Please allow me for only one second.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : Where are the women Members ? ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Everybody is supporting this. Why are you discriminating lady Members and others ?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, hon. Speaker has already mentioned in the House today about this. As per his decision, this matter will come. Therefore, you need not worry on that score.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, there are some valuable suggestions from the Members. Every Member is supporting this. You accept the suggestions. We do not have any objection. If you discuss this at six o'clock, I am afraid that there may not be quorum.

I do not know whether there will be two-thirds majority or not. I think that 50 per cent of the people will go away. Sir, this is a very serious thing. So, I am humbly requesting you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already seen in the House today that every section of the House supported this matter. Therefore, your apprehension of not going to have adequate quorum does not arise. Everybody will be here. All the hon. Members will be here.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, everybody has to be present here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us take a positive stand.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, everybody has to be present ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please resume your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir I told you my apprehension. If you are sure that 80 per cent people will be here and the Bill will be passed today, I do not have any objection. May I also request you to please ask the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Vajpayeeji and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, about their opinion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, all the parties which are on principle supporting it, honestly supporting it should see that their Members are present in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW) : Mr. Chairman Sir, presence of 273 Members in the House is necessary to pass this Bill. Earlier, it was not said confidently that this Bill would be introduced. All the parties want that this Bill be passed but the presence of 273 Members is necessary for that. My suggestion is that the discussion on Uttar Pradesh may be cut short and immediately after that discussion be held on this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, it is for the House to decide whether the matter relating to U.P. will have to be disposed of taking one speaker from each party. It will be better. Otherwise, this Bill may not be in a position to come up before six o'clock. That is what my apprehension is. Anyway, whatever it may be, the hon. Speaker has already mentioned in the House today that immediately after the U.P. matter is disposed of, this Bill will be taken up for discussion. Everybody is enthusiastic to get this Bill passed today itself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hope for the best.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Only few Members should speak on U.P. Budget. After that we can discuss this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Who is opposing it ? Now, the hon. Home Minister is to make a statement.

15.38 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Steps taken to Relieve Aftermath of the Amarnath Tragedy

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Some hon. Members yesterday desired to know details about the procedure for obtaining the *ex-gratia* relief to the next of kin of the deceased persons in the unfortunate Amarnath Yatra tragedy. I would like to give a brief account of the measures taken in this regard.

Of the 243 deaths reported, the identity of 163 persons has been established. Eleven have been partly identified. Of these, 19 were porters and five were from security forces. The State-wise break-up alongwith addresses of the identified deceased have been sent to all the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States. The identity could not be established in 69 cases. Since these persons also would have come from various parts of the country, photographs of them have been sent to various State Governments to give adequate publicity with a view to establish their identity.

The Prime Minister had already announced *ex-gratia* relief of Rs. Two lakh to be paid to the next of kin of the deceased pilgrim. In order to see that this *ex-gratia* relief reaches the persons concerned without any hassle and

harassment, orders have already been issued to place proportionate funds at the disposal of the various State Governments from where the deceased pilgrims had come. The Chief Secretaries of the States have been advised to place this fund in turn at the disposal of the District Magistrates of the various concerned Districts. The procedure for obtaining this *ex-gratia* relief is quite simple. There is no need to produce any death certificates or succession certificates. It would be adequate if the persons claiming the relief can establish that they are the next of kin of the deceased. The list of deceased are already available with the District Magistrates. A simple application needs to be made to the District Magistrate who would get the verification done through the subordinate revenue staff at the Taluka and village level and disbursement would be made. We have instructed the concerned authorities to start receiving the applications immediately and make disbursements expeditiously. The aim has been to reduce red-tape and delays.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention once again the State-wise number of deceased for the information of the hon. Members :

1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Bihar	2
3.	Delhi	20
4.	Gujarat	36
5.	Haryana	8
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
8.	Karnataka	1
9.	Maharashtra	10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	9
11.	Orissa	2
12.	Punjab	10
13.	Rajasthan	8
14.	Tamil Nadu	1
15.	Uttar Pradesh	22
16.	West Bengal	3
17.	NRI	1
Total		163