

whereas the distance between these two places *via* Tetulia Corridor in Bangladesh is only 27 KM. If this Corridor is opened, then not only the mileage will be decreased, but also huge foreign exchange will be saved by unexpected less consumption of fuel. The entire North-Eastern Zone will be directly benefited if this corridor is opened. This is, no doubt, a national interest serving project. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary initiative so that the above Corridor to connect Dinajpur with Jalpaiguri may be opened at an early date.

(vii) Need for Construction of Overbridges on Railway Crossings at Erode and Mohudan, Tamil Nadu

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : There are a number of railway subway crossings where railway overbridges are to be constructed in Southern Railways, particularly at Erode which has a population of about four to Five lakh in capital town of Periyar district. There is one railway crossing on which as a result of heavy traffic, accidents are taking place. It is on Erode-Palani Road. This affects office goers and long distance travellers also. Likewise at Mohudan-Zovadi, there is a railway crossing at Idepaddy Road where a railway overbridge is urgently required.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Railways to sanction two overbridges, one at Erode and another at Mohudan-Zavadi road, to fulfill the needs and solve the problem of the people of Tiruchangode Constituency, Tamil Nadu and a new railway division may be started in Erode also.

(viii) Need to include Sub-groups of fishermen Community in different parts of the country in SC/ST list

[*Translation*]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many sub-castes of fishermen community such as Mallah of Delhi, Majhuwar, Gond, Surcha of U.P.; Kewat in Basti District, Gond, Beldar of Bihar, Dhivar, Manjhi, Majhwar in Madhya Pradesh, Pivar (Dewar) in Orissa; Nayka in Goa, Koli, Rajgond in Gujarat; Bhovi, Gond, Rajgond in Karnataka; Koli Rajgond, Takre, Malhar in Maharashtra; Kevati, Jalia, Jalo Malo Bhai in Meghalaya; Manjhi in Sikkim; Mallah, Bind, Kewat Tiyyar, Kevati, Gond in West Bengal; Koli, Dar, Tokra, Boli in Rajasthan, Dhivar etc. in Kerala are included in the List of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes but their Synonymic sub-castes have been deprived of this reservation facility and they are being treated as backward classes while the profession of these sub groups of fishermen community is fish catching, sailing boats, net weaving and other water and pond based jobs. Their socio-economic and political condition is most pitiable and most of them are illiterate and live in Jhuggi-Jhonpris along river banks, ponds, sea banks.

I demand of the Central Government to send instructions immediately to all the State Government for the issuance of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates to these synonymetic Sub-Castes of fishermen community of the whole country.

[*English*]

14.23 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)

BILL—*Contd.*

(Insertion of new articles 330A and 332A)

MR. SPEAKER : For the consideration of the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, the time allotted was two hours and we have already consumed two hours and 35 minutes. There is an endless number of names before me. Please be brief.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : You pass it please.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot deny. Kumari Mamata Banjee, the opportunity of other Parties to speak. Those major Parties who have already participated with two or three Members, if they can now give chance to smaller Parties, it will be good.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I submit only one thing. Before 3.38 P.M. when the Private Members Bills start, this should be passed.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : If the time of voting is announced by you today, that will be good.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know. You decide.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We are under a whip.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Fum dum) : We interrupted the Question Hour so that we can get this Bill passed even without discussion. Then things have changed. What are the causes of these changes? Let the Government explain. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I do not know the position of the other hon. Members. (*Interruptions*). We are not speaking on this Bill. Only the women Members will speak. Since our Congress Party Members are under a Whip, if you give an indication that this is the tentative timing of voting, we can do some little work in the library and then come back. (*Interruptions*) Unendingly, we cannot just do like this. Please tell us that within one or two hours, it will be done. We are under a Whip. That is why I requested you to give this indication of the tentative timing of voting ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we say that the Minister will reply at three of the Clock?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will reply at three of the Clock. I asked the Minister yesterday how much time he would take. He said that he would take about 10 to 15 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : It will need only five minutes. ...(Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : This is an important Bill. Everybody has to participate in the discussion. The DMK, TMC and the CPM Members have to participate. Please give us time.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : At three of the Clock, the guillotine should be applied and the Motion should be put to vote. In five minutes' time, he can do it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you time. You will get the chance. Now, Shri George Fernandes to speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : He has already spoken. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to place two points before you. This Bill was introduced by the Prime Minister himself yesterday. I don't know whether this Bill was listed against his name in the Order Paper or it was listed against the name of Law Minister, because this Bill ought to have been introduced by the Law Minister. Now if the Prime Minister has in his zeal taken over the responsibility of the Law Minister, then I have nothing to say. I accept that the Bill which has been introduced is a historic Bill and this ought to have been discussed here in this House seriously, not because that some party has different opinion about this Bill, the Manifesto of all the parties have conceived of this Bill in one way or the other but printing of this concept in party Manifesto is different from expressing and recording detailed views in this House of the respective parties.

Sir, I have said that this is a historic Bill but historic Bill doesn't mean that this should be passed in this House at this very moment. A situation is sought to be created as if this is the end in itself. Now kindly look at this Bill. You are again and again calling this 81st Amendment Bill and in the Bill itself 81st Amendment has been printed. Therefore, you are reading correctly. But an amendment has been moved by the Law Minister contained in List No. 1; it says—

[English]

"Page 1, Line 3—
for "Eighty First" substitute
"Seventy Ninth"

[Translation]

That means their cabinet also does not know what this Constitutional Amendment is. The Prime Minister stood here and read out the Bill. They have the cabinet, a large Secretariat, a big Government of India behind them and he, as a Prime Minister is introducing Eight-first-Constitutional Amendment which is infact Seventy Ninth Amendment. This ought not to be taken lightly. This House should not be mocked in this way. Sir, the Law Minister brings an Amendment which says:

"Page 1, Line 3
for "Eighty First" substitute
"Seventy Ninth"

[Translation]

But he has left the name of the Bill as it was. He has not brought Amendment for Constitution (Eighty First Amendment) Bill .

Now Sir, this Bill *ab-initio* is ultravires because it is Eighty First Amendment Bill. It may not be wrong if I may say so. If he says that it is a typographical mistake, I cannot accept it because the Law Ministry has all the information with it. Does the Law Ministry not know what Constitutional Amendment it is ? We were so far at the Seventy eighth Amendment and now going back to seventy fifth Amendment. Did the government have no knowledge of it. I think the Prime Minister should not leave so fast as to leave a 3-4 Constitutional Amendment and jump straightaway to Eighty first Amendment. They may say that they are in a hurry and they have very little time. Sir, I am raising this point because I sense some complacency in this and don't see any sense of seriousness. He may say that this Bill has to be passed, we should hurry, the House is going to hurry; pass it immediately, then he has to go to Uttar Pradesh and tell the people that he has enacted a legislation for providing reservation for women. We are giving everything to the women. But how fictitious it is, this legislation is itself a manifestation of it. Not only in the context of its drafting but you please read Section-4. What is in Section 4 ?

[English]

Section 4 says:—

"The Amendments made to the Constitution, by this Act, shall not affect any representation in the House of the People or in the Legislative Assembly of a state until the dissolution of the House or the Assembly, as the case may be, in existence at the commencement of this Act."

[Translation]

We take it that the Prime Minister and his 13 Parties and your 14th party together want to run this Parliament for the next five years, which means you will not allow women to enter this House during the next 5 years. This is written

in this Bill. The Prime Minister still continues to be the Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and he must not have thought of dissolving the Karnataka Vidhan Sabha immediately to bring in more women Legislatures. I concede that he has no such thought in his mind even though his thoughts may be concentrated on Karnataka, but, I don't think he has thought in this way. He must not have said to his colleagues of his State and his comrades of West Bengal that we are going to pass this Bill and that they should dissolve their Legislative Assemblies and then elect one-third women members to their respective Assemblies. Then, may I know why this haste ? Is it connected with Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

14.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

I could have given you the benefit of doubt if it was not written in your Bill but now I cannot give this benefit of doubt. I also cannot say that it seeks to achieve the welfare of women or he has had some great realisation because he has straightaway written that this will not be enforced. He has been saying here that this Parliament will last for five years, his supporters, his 13 Parties are saying that this government will last for 5 years. Therefore, I fail to understand why is he insisting on immediate passage of this legislative measure. Heavens are not going to fall if this is not adopted by 5 P.M. today, what for this haste ? What is the way of your doing things...*(Interruptions)* If the Samata Party splits we will again unite and we are prepared to take some of you...*(Interruptions)* A few of you can join us and we will consider your cases.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will never speak in favour of this Bill because I had introduced this Bill as a Private Members' Bill on the first day earmarked for Private Members Business in the first session of this House. My Bill is pending with this House and therefore, I would not like to make any comments or make any fresh point about this Bill. I have already given arguments for introducing this Bill. I have given detailed reasons in the Statement of objects and reasons of the Bill. They have no arguments, no reasoning because they have never thought how and what to do in this regard. They have not thought of drafting this Law in an appropriate manner. They have a firm belief that this House can last for four and a half years and there is no question of implementing it. Same is the case with Legislative Assemblies. The Punjab will be the first to have Legislative Assembly elections after the introduction of this Bill. I don't think the Prime Minister will ask the Election Commission to postpone elections because he is passing a new Law providing 33 percent reservation for women and that the nominations should be filled up afresh. I don't think he has any such intention. That is why I want this measure should be discussed in this

House seriously. I don't know why the hon'ble Members belonging to different parties in this House want to skip over the debate ? It is a historical step. The women have to struggle for this for many years. The political parties also tried in their own way but whatever be the attitude the mental bent up of the treasury benches, I feel this measure has been introduced belatedly. We shall not be able to send out a message to the world outside that the women of India had to struggle for forcing the government for bringing this Bill. I would like to place on record of this House the dispensation of our society, how the women are treated by it, how they see their future. The proceedings of this House are not meant for publishing one or two times in the Press and we should not be satisfied that our names have been brought out in the Press. Our message has gone to the country. Every word, every sentence, we speak here in this House is recorded. This House creates history and this law will create a legal history. Whenever some one writes a history of the movement of the emancipation of Indian women after twenty years hence, when many of us may not be alive in this world, he will look at this House, at what we members thought, what we said while adopting this legislation, what struggle women had to launch. I, therefore, want that all these things should come in the record of this House so that, in future, any historian of this country or of the world, while writing about the women's Liberation movement of India, may be able to understand the genius of this movement by going through the records of the proceedings of this session or the next session of this 11th Lok Sabha in which this Bill is likely to be passed. He will appreciate the job done by the members of Lok Sabha of this country on this issue. Therefore my suggestions about this Bill is that it should be passed but not in the way in and not with the intention with which the Prime Minister wants it to push through. This legislation should be adopted by recording in this House the views of all-of-us and I would request that debate on this Bill should end on the basis of the sentence '81st Amendment' as introduced in the Lok Sabha, if there is no other reason and the treasury benches should be directed to introduce this Bill in the House afresh. This is all what I have to say today on this Bill.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whether I have to speak on the amendment or on the Bill?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You express your views.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I want to know whether I have to speak on the amendment or on the Bill ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Speak on the Bill.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, yesterday, according to the List of Business for the day, the hon. Law Minister, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap was to move for introduction and the Bill was circulated just the day before

yesterday. We did not have an opportunity to go through the provisions. We thought that this Bill would be introduced and thereafter, some time later, it would come up for consideration.

Yesterday, during the Question Hour one question was over and all of a sudden the hon. lady Members of this House collected together and demanded that this Bill should be passed without having any deliberation. I was really surprised. When we intend to undertake an amendment to the Constitution, they demand that this amendment should be passed without having any deliberation; this was most surprising and that too, the demand was supported by some learned Members of Parliament. What is the purpose of this august House ?

When we come here as representatives of the people, it is our responsibility to ensure that each and every amendment, each and every Bill, which we intend to pass in this House should be thoroughly examined, thoroughly deliberated and after application of mind, a final decision is taken. I saw that the entire atmosphere was favouring this particular demand for achievement of political mileage in order to seek the votes of the ladies of this country, to get more and more sympathy from the ladies. This Bill was introduced to get more and more sympathy from the ladies.

First, the Question Hour and the Zero Hour were cancelled. Subsequently, the Prime Minister had come to the House with the Bill.

Hon. Law Minister, Shri Khalap was about to introduce the Bill. But the entire House has said that only the Prime Minister should introduce the Bill and no one else should do it. The demand was justified and there was nothing wrong in it. So, he moved that. But subsequently things have come to a stage when they said that they should not have any deliberation on the Bill. Then, at that time, I got up and said that we would also support this Bill. It is not that we are opposing this Bill. It is not our intention to oppose. But whatever we intend to do in this House, should be done properly after thorough and proper application of mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your knowledge one very important thing. In this House, there are 287 Members of Parliament who are entirely new; they have come to this House for the first time. Most of them have not understood the procedure of the House. They have not gone through this Bill also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Do not say like that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let him speak. It does not matter. It is not a serious thing

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : What I am saying is entirely different. Please try to understand that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : First you understand what you are saying. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Have you understood the Bill ? Okay, I welcome you. I congratulate you. There is nothing wrong ...*(Interruptions)* But many MPs do not understand the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I met a number of MPs. They said that they had not gone through this Bill. It is a fact. I have met a number of MPs and they said that they had not even seen this Bill.

If that hon. Member has seen that, it is welcome. He is a studious Member and he understood it. I congratulate him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please utilise the time properly. Shri Sarpotdar, please carry on

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, when I say something, it is an authenticated statement.

After having a discussion with some of the new MPs, I have made that statement. If it is wrong, they can pardon me and there is nothing wrong in that. I do not underestimate them. All MPs being equal, I will not make any allegation against any hon. Member. That is none of my business. I will make my statement only. That is all...*(Interruptions)* That is what I said. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If you are not satisfied, please tell me, what do you want me to do ? ...*(Interruptions)*

This morning, I received one piece of paper, as the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes pointed out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude; the Minister has to reply at 3 P.M.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : No. Sir, I am speaking on the Bill. One cannot put any restriction of time on me because I am speaking on the Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, please allow me to make a few points. I am not asking a very long speech.

The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill was sanctioned in the Bill which was circulated yesterday. But today I have received a letter saying that that was not the Eighty-first Constitution (Amendment) Bill, but it was Seventy-ninth. Moreover, they have not mentioned any title for the Bill. I can understand that this Bill was circulated in order to fulfill the promises which they have made in the Common Minimum Programme; and so, they have prepared this Bill and it has come before this House for introduction. This Bill seeks to insert two Articles, namely, Article 330A and Article 332A.

It is meant for seats for Assemblies and seats for Lok Sabha.

I have seen the way in which the entire proceedings started yesterday in the House. Thereafter, it was decided to cancel all other business. We started deliberating it in the House. Yesterday, I was seated here right up to 8.15 in the night. I thought that perhaps we may participate in this deliberation so that we win. Do you know how many hon. Members were there in the House? Out of these who had shown so much interest in the morning, even 50 per cent people were not there in the House.

When we talk about the ladies, I will go a step further and say that even all the ladies present here in the morning were not present at 8.15 in the night. I must thank those who were there because that was in their interest. I looked at it. While introducing the Bill, the hon. Law Minister told that it was a historical Bill. We are creating history in this House. I was just looking at him. I did not know what history they were creating. During the last 50 years, this was the responsibility of all the Members to see that a proper representation is given to the ladies. They miserably failed.

Now, you are saying that you are creating history. Whatever you were supposed to achieve, you could not achieve by making a provision under the law. You are trying to implement it now. It means that it is not by heart but by law. That is the difference. There is no such provision under any Act that ladies are not supposed to participate in any election, and they are not supposed to vote, and only men should participate and they should vote. There is no such provision. Any party can contest any number of seats. Ladies are also contesting. They can also get elected. There was no ban. But somehow this was not implemented only because of a feeling that ladies might not get elected. So, they had been kept aside. It was a wrong move. It was a failure on the part of the men and not a failure on the part of the women. We are taking this punishment today. We are saying that we are creating history and the entire world is looking at it. So, whatever mistakes we had committed in the past, we are correcting them now.

For dowry purposes also, we will eventually be compelled to enact it. For prohibition, we—including

Mahatmajī—tried our level best that people should not drink alcohol.

We had failed miserably. Eventually, we enacted a law and the entire country has become more addicted due to prohibition. Because of prohibition alone, some of the people have started drinking more. So, one should do those things—which we are trying to achieve socially—by making a provision in the law. Therefore, I feel very sorry. We are not putting our efforts to bring more and more ladies into the mainstream.

It is not our contention that we should not bring ladies on the forefront of politics. We started this action not today but 20 years back. We started giving tickets to ladies also. At that time, there was a provision in the law. But yet we decided, yes, ladies should also equally come up because they are also a part and parcel of the society. They are equally responsible. They are equally intelligent. They are equally capable. Only one lady had come. And for eleven years, she was the Prime Minister. What was the state and condition of all men in this country?

They were shivering ...*(Interruptions)* One Durga had come ...*(Interruptions)* I am not asking for your information. Sir, they were shivering. Yesterday, while deliberating and participating on this particular business, hon. lady Member of Parliament, Sushmaji also participated. Those who were shivering have understood what it was.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I just want to know what exactly was shivering?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Those who were shivering have come to know of that and it is for them that I am saying this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : I do not want to make any particular reference to anybody. ...*(Interruptions)* ...Is he referring to some group of people or all the people who are in that area?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Those who were shivering have understood it. The rest of them should not take it at all. That is all.

So, while participating in the deliberating yesterday, I was very quietly observing Sushmaji—her approach, her way of expression and her attacking speech. I thought that all who were seated here were *Mahishasurs* and that *Mahishasura Mardini*, that is, Durga was speaking over here. I was getting that impression. It was an attacking speech. There is nothing wrong in it. In order to establish her point, it is highly necessary that one should express it in that manner. But luckily, thereafter I had heard Girijaji speaking. One Goddess, *Mardini* had expressed herself and thereafter, I noticed Girijaji on the dais who expressed her views on this Bill ...*(Interruptions)* ...The names of the three Devis were taken. They were Lakshmi, Saraswati and Durga. I noticed Durga over here, that is, Sushmaji and I had noticed Saraswati over there. But I was in search of Lakshmi. I have not come across her as yet. It always happens that

whenever we run after Lakshmi, Lakshmi runs away from us. This happens always...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, what is going on here ? What relevance has it got to the Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : When the Bill was taken up yesterday, not a single person had taken objection and when I started talking about these names, I do not know why do you grumble about it. After all, I am on the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Try to conclude.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I have got only a very few points and then I will finish. I never interrupted when other Members were speaking. I was sitting quietly and listening to them right upto 8 P.M. ...*(Interruptions)* ... Please listen to me for some time. Have some patience. I am not accusing anybody nor am I saying anything against the Bill. I am only trying to support the ladies but the method is different ...*(Interruptions)*... When this demand was actually raised in the House, hon. Speaker was compelled to adjourn the House for one hour and thereafter, we discussed the matter in the leaders' meeting. Again, we came out and deliberation started and a number of Members participated in the deliberations. In Maharashtra, we had introduced this reservation in 1990 when Mr. Sharad Pawar was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. I was one of the Members of the Assembly. At that time also, same views were expressed by me.

15.00 hrs.

Instead of bringing in a legal provision into this, let us try to change the entire society slowly and gradually by convincing them; and changing the mentality of men. Let us try to bring them to the mainstream of life.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Fifty years have elapsed.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I know that 50 years have gone by and for that I am blaming men and not women. I am a man and naturally I am blaming myself also.

Sir, yesterday I noticed another thing also and that is the haste to bring this about. Why was it necessary to bring it in such a haste ? Would the skies have fallen on the nation if it had been kept pending or kept in abeyance or had been referred to a Select or a Standing Committee and then, once for all, a comprehensive Bill in this regard was brought forward ? This is what I have said yesterday also and this is what I am saying today also. It should have been brought after involving every section and after proper deliberations. Today the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes have been involved but what about the people from the other backward Classes who have not been included in this Bill ? My humble request to the hon. Prime Minister, the

leader of the house, is that provision should also be made because we should not introduce any Bill in a piecemeal manner. What we are doing today and everything that we are trying to do is out of haste.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Madhukar ji, please wind up.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Yesterday I heard what Shrimati Sushma ji said.

[Translation]

She said in Hindi that the attitude of the male should change. My question is : Can we achieve this by framing a law ?

[English]

Whether introducing this provision in the Bill.

[Translation]

Will we succeed in changing the attitude, can this law change our attitude ? What have we achieved by law ?

[English]

That is the question. I am posing before this August House.

[Translation]

The culture of this country is associated with many payings. We in our country say, "Yatra narasya pujiyante, Ramante tatra devata;"—Women are worshiped in this country. What we practise, is a different matter. But what is the remedy ? If we fail to respect our women folk, the position will continue to remain the same as is obtaining elsewhere even after providing 33 percent reservation for them.

[English]

I have seen exactly what happens by giving reservations also. A number of women candidates have been elected to different Houses, *Nagar Parishads*, *Gram Panchayats* and in Corporations also and we have seen the functioning of these bodies. I have not come to that conclusion and unless we come to a conclusion I would not pass any remark on that but all that I would like to say is that our experience in this regard is not good.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Should I thank you now ?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Our colleague Uma Bharati ji made an excellent speech.

[English]

Sir, I can not ignore what Uma Bharati ji has said.

[Translation]

She cherishes the feelings of sacrificing everything for us, each word of her reflects the greatness of Hindu culture, demonstrates our commitment towards the backward section of our society; is it not the philosophy of this country; does it not raise our head high ? This is the question. I pose to this House. She had expressed her feeling in most appropriate words.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our party has made good efforts. We are not against any enactment for women. Our efforts are around at changing the circumstances.

[Translation]

We should endeavour to change the male mentality, male domination. At least, women Members must try to bring men around this argument provided this Bill is accepted in this House.

[English]

It is not that we will vote against the Bill. We will vote in favour of the Bill. I have put my views before this august House and I hope that the entire House will take cognizance of them. I suggest that this Bill should either be referred to the Standing Committee or a Select Committee for a thorough discussion and thorough application of mind after which a comprehensive Bill can be brought.

15.06 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is three O'clock. What do I do now?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all parties should be allowed to speak on this Bill ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given an opportunity Mr. Speaker, the entire world is watching us and we want to expose this Government through this legislative measure. They have in mind Uttar Pradesh in bringing this Bill. Each Member should be allowed to speak on this Bill for two-five minutes... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Please give a chance to all of us to speak for five minutes... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you Minister would reply at 3 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, now call the Minister to reply... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If every body says 'pass it now' and somebody says 'do not', what can I do ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : What do you do in respect of other Bills ? We have discussed it for more than the time allotted for it. It is three O'clock now, the Minister should reply. Kindly move the motion for division ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : If we go on arranging like this, it will take one month ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Why do you not ask the Minister to finish the reply and start voting ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Everybody is thinking that it will be passed today ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do ? So many other parties want to speak on this Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You please start the voting process.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You also decide about other Bill. B.A.C. had allocated two hours and we have deliberated for three and a half hours. For how much more hours you want to allow discussion on it ?

MR. SPEAKER : The other Lady Member also wants as speak. Tell one, what can I do ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagadh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to pass this Bill at any cost ... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Let the Minister reply to the debate. How long can we wait ? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Pannani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very important Bill is before us and all of us realise its significance and far reaching consequences. It is said that the need for introducing this Bill was felt because women do not have full representation in Parliament and Legislative

Assemblies. It was also admitted that every section, every part of the society should have full representation; they should be done justice. If this is the criteria, then, I am sorry to say that we must feel pity so far as representation of OBCs and minorities, particularly of muslims is concerned.

Sir, the way the minorities and muslims have been facing difficulties in every walk of their life, the way their standard of living has deteriorated since independence, deserve our sympathies. I had great expectations from my sisters here, the condition of OBCs and minorities is worse, they deserve our pity. We have Legislative Assemblies in India today ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order in the House, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not talk in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the place for discussion among yourselves.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I will quote Madhya Pradesh. The Madhya Pradesh Assembly has no muslim representation today. This is pitiable, more pitiable than the position of women. So, I had expected from my sisters here that they should have come forward and said that the OBCs, muslims and minorities deserved more sympathy; give them reservation first, then think about us'. But, today the parameters of justice are different. Our cases are different and if I try to narrate our difficulties, it will take too much time. The deterioration in the living standard of minorities and muslims can be understand from the mouths of the Shair :—

'Khwab main bhi na Socha thha hamane kabhi,
yeh alam bhi chaman main gujar jayega,
Bhaware Chhin lenge libase-bahar,
Aur phulon ka cheharan utar Jayega.

We need a comprehensive Bill which may do justice to all the sections of the society. This Bill is unwarranted and has been brought in a haste —

[English]

ill-advised and unwarranted haste.

[Translation]

This is ill-advised and has been brought in a haste. Had it been the case of burning of brides, atrocities on women, then we could understand this haste. Now, they say it will come into force after the dissolution of the House, not today—after the dissolution of the legislatures, after fresh

elections. Then how this haste is justified ? Besides, I would like to draw his attention to—

[English]

Clause 1, Sub-Clause 2, which says —

"It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint"

It is not said that 'it shall come into force immediately.'

[Translation]

What type of hypocrisy is it ? They are pushing through the Bill in haste but not saying that this shall come into force immediately. Then, the Bill has many technical flaws, many queries which are to be discussed and resolved.

We have 22.5 per cent reservation for SC/ST and now they propose 33 percent reservation for women which means a total reservation of 55 percent, while the Supreme Court says that total reservation should not exceed 50 per cent. So, we have to deliberate this aspect. I have pleaded for providing reservation for minorities and muslims. As far as Muslims are concerned, the draft constitution had envisaged 10 per cent reservation for Muslim community, but after objection from a muslim sister, the clause was dropped, but at the same time some promises were also made. I would like to draw your attention to what Shri Pattabhai Sitaramaiya had said :

[English]

"It is a gentleman's agreement"

[Translation]

He said this when the clause for 10 percent reservation for Muslim community was dropped from the draft constitution. I quote him—

[English]

"It is a gentleman's agreement that we have entered into a terrible responsibility that we have taken upon our shoulders when we ask them meaning muslims—to give up their reservations and their separate electorates. We have to find many representatives from the muslim community through the medium of joint electorates as would have been their legitimate share if they had their separate electorates. Even so, what was the case, with the Indian Christians and others ?"

[Translation]

Today, this gentleman's agreement has been torn apart. We have assemblies, we have Parliament, but no representation of muslim community; today, their member is less that of women, while they deserved reservation first.

Secularism was remembered, minorities were remembered by us only when BJP government came to

power. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee assumed the office of the Prime Minister. We voted that government out by raising the bogey of the rights of minorities. But today, this Bill is coming from those who claim to be the wellwisher of minorities, who claim to be the champion of the cause of minorities. They are concerned for one section only, we will have to think of what percentage reservation should be provided for OBCs, minorities, Muslims, Christians. Now the Supreme Court say that it should not exceed 50 percent. Then, how to provide for reservation for these people. We propose 33.3 percent for women, 22.5 percent is already there for SC/ST which come to a total of 55.8 percent. A case of enhanced reservation in Tamil Nadu came up for judicial scrutiny, while the Supreme Court has been repeatedly issuing directions regarding reservations in the services and educational institutions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am concluding.

[Translation]

I demanded that a constitution amendment should be brought and the reservation quota which exceeds 50 percent in Tamil Nadu, should be protected. Nothing has been said in this important legislation about reservation for OBCs. I am sorry to say that it is an unwise, unwarranted, ill-advised measure brought in a haste.

My second point is.

[English]

We will not associate ourselves with this unwarranted, ill-advised and unwise Bill.

[Translation]

I am again sorry to say that all the stages of this Bill are being completed in a haste. They must bring a comprehensive Bill, only then we will consider it, otherwise we will not associate ourselves with it, we will not be able to support it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to take up Private Member's Bill at half past three.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : So many persons are waiting out side to know about this(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We should know what is going to happen ? Why are we being kept in the dark ?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : We can sit whole night.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Government's intention does not appear to be good.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, with your kind permission under Rule 362, I want to move the motion, the question be now put ...(Interruptions) That means closure...(Interruptions)

I beg to move :

"That the question be now put"

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, he cannot move like this ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please explain, what is closure ?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me understand what is this motion. I do not know.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that before the motion for consideration is moved, we should know as to what unanimous opinion has emerged about the Bill which we are debating. The Private Member's Bill is to be taken up at-half-past three, is it to be advanced ?

What is their thinking about this Bill which is connected with women and if there is any difficulty, the House should be taken into confidence. This is one opinion. But we are of the opinion that this Bill should be passed as introduced.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : This Bill will not be passed until OBCs are included ...(Interruptions) We would also like to express our views.

MR. SPEAKER : This is being said by a Member belonging to the ruling party

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Please allow us to participate in the discussion. This is a very important Bill ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, it was decided that this Bill should be passed as introduced and that the Prime Minister should give an assurance that another Constitution Amendment Bill would be brought which would provide for reservation for backward classes ...(Interruptions) We are talking of women.... this was the unanimous opinion expressed yesterday. Who has backed out of this unanimity ? Why the ruling party not

following this unanimous decision ? We are not against reservation for women belonging to backward classes, but they do not want to pass it. It creates a doubt that they are creating obstacles in this also. We do not want reservation for the women of all sections ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : We do not want to create obstacles ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Then, let it be passed and let the Prime Minister give an assurance. The problem can be solved ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is not so simple. Please listen to us also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You please ask the Government to make the entire position clear.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please give us also a chance to speak. This Bill should not be passed without discussion ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I have one minute ? Let me tell you why I have moved this motion.

Before the discussion on this Bill was taken up, there was a meeting yesterday and ultimately it was agreed, so far as I could gather, nobody had pretested to pass this Bill and even there was a suggestion to pass this Bill without any discussion. Then it was held that about one or two hours would be taken for discussion so that ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : This is not correct ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Some hon. Members might have taken more time. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling as to what had transpired at that time and the entire nation should know as to what had happened. Sir, it was held that two hours would be allotted for discussion and each party would have something to say. Yesterday, we were told that the voting would take place today morning. Since it has to go to Rajya Sabha and when we found find that it has been going on unending, I have moved this motion.

Sir, our rules contemplate that if sufficient discussion has taken place, the Speaker has the right to put it to vote. So, we hold further discussion and put the main question to vote, namely the consideration of the matter, for which there is a provision under rule 362. Therefore, nobody should claim that there was not a sufficient discussion on this Bill. Therefore, the Bill, as it is, cannot be passed. So far as the other issues are concerned the House will certainly take them up and consider them as and when occasions come. Therefore, I feel that it is proper to do it. It is being said that there is no hurry. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : All parties had agreed to pass it and it is on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me also speak. I also want to express my views...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please be cool.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bangarappa, I am on my legs. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot stand up when I am on my legs. Please be cool. It is becoming history in another way now.

Now it is 3.30. It is time for Private Members' Bills. What do we do ? Shall we proceed with this ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Minister should explain on voting. ...*(Interruptions)* We want voting now.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Let us take up voting, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, what have you to say ? Let us listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you standing up ?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : We want to bring up another motion.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot do that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we stand by the stand taken by the Government yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : You stand by that.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to put forth my views ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, now listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please guide me. The Government's stand is very clear that it will be passed. Voting will take place.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now shall I put to vote the Motion of Shri Somnath Chatterjee ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : You will have to hear us before you put that Motion to vote. I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : According to our commitment, when we have issued a whip to the Members, we told them that the whole issue would be over before the Private Members' Bill. ...(Interruptions) Now I shall request, if you extend the time for Private Members' Bill, even then, give some out of time, by which voting will be done. Many of them have bought the tickets for five o' clock flight. They will have to leave the place by four o'clock. Or you say that you do it after two hours, take a decision, so that they will cancel the tickets. There should be a firm decision. The second thing is that we want that it should be passed. The Government should take into consideration whether it can be passed.

The hon. Speaker of the House as also somebody. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is not my business.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : Sir, it was decided only yesterday that all will speak on this. Parliament will not function only on their terms. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am on the point of order raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. He has moved a Closure Motion under Rule 362. Rule 362 is very clear. It says, "at any time after a motion has been made, any Member may move : 'That the question be now put', and, unless it appears to the Speaker that the motion is an abuse of these rules or an infringement of the right of reasonable debate, the Speaker shall then put the motion 'The the question be now put'".

[Translation]

Sir, this is an infringement of reasonable debate. We must have debate in this House ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, we have had the debate for 4-5 hours instead of two hours ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, She is misleading the House ...(Interruptions) I fail to understand why she is shouting while other are sitting quite. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

She will always pull the tail and watch the dog !

Yesterday you made a statement in the House. Here are the proceedings of yesterday. Your statement of yesterday's is that the decision of all Party leaders meeting is as follows. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : He is giving a sermon ...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is this ? What are you doing ? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Mr. Speaker Sir, yesterday, Shri Somnath Chatterjee had said that there would be a discussion on this ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am drawing your attention to what you said yesterday and your statement is very clear. You said and I quote :

"The decision of the all Party Leaders meeting is as follows."

This is your statement in the House and you said that the Constitution Amendment Bill would be discussed. Then, Shri Somnath Chatterjee intervened and he said : "as it is" and the hon. Speaker said; "as it is". That is all. And as it is, it is the 81st Amendment; it is not the 79th amendment. It is the 81st amendment as it is that you want to pass now. As it is, it says that the Bill will come into effect, as far as the Lok Sabha is concerned, if Shri Gowda has his way, with running the country for four years and nine months. As it is, that is what it means. This Bill needs to be looked into. This Bill needs to be examined from all its aspects. Therefore, there is no commitment made by the Speaker. There is no statement made on behalf of the all Party Leaders' meeting that it would be passed today. Why is this House being misled ? Why is everybody getting up and shouting like this ? Do they think that the louder they speak more correct they are ? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No no, that was the misunderstanding

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make myself very clear. The issue is not whether we are on the 79th or the 81st Constitution (Amendment) Bill. The hon. Minister for Law and Justice is going to clarify so far as the issue which you have raised, whether it is the 79th Amendment or 81st Amendment Bill.

Yesterday, I was in the Rajya Sabha because my question was there. The House was stalled here and the Leader of the House came to the other House. He requested me saying that the proceedings of the Lok Sabha were stalled because some of the lady Members were agitated

and I must come to the House. With the permission of the Chairman of that House I came here. At that time again the issue was raised. In fact, one question was already taken up for answer. At that time your goodself intervened. Please note what I have said at that time. I said, 'if the entire House agrees, I have no objection'. That is one point which I want to make myself clear.

Secondly, the hon. lady Member, Kumari Uma Bharati had expressed her reservations about backward classes. I also made it clear that her views cannot be brushed aside. If the House wants to pass this Constitution (Amendment) Bill then her views cannot be brushed aside. That is what I made clear when your goodself adjourned the House and called the Leaders of all the political parties for a discussion in your Chamber.

Let me make one thing very clear to Shri George Fernandes, one of the seniormost Members. I may not have much experience like you. The two Constitution (Amendment) Bills, that is, the 73rd and the 74th, had been brought before this very same House when I was here. I also served as a Member of the Joint Select Committee. No Constitution (Amendment) Bill has been hushed up like this. I do know that. I was a Member of the Joint Select Committee. It met for nearly two months. We discussed the pros and cons about that. Then we recommended to this House and this House had ultimately taken a decision about certain powers to be delegated to the local bodies and the panchayats and the municipalities.

The two Bills are here. Have they been hustled through like this? At that time the intention of the Government was not like that. I would like to make myself clear. I am not going to take the credit for the whole thing. I said that almost all the political parties, in their manifestoes before the Lok Sabha elections, have made a promise to give reservation to the women.

So, in this background, I also assured when the lady Members came and met me. Yesterday morning, several delegations came to me and they persuaded me to see that some reservation is given to the women. With this background, I have committed to them that before this Session is over, I will bring the Constitution (Amendment) Bill about the Lok Pal and the reservation for women. This is what I have stated.

But unfortunately, yesterday when the things came up even the Question Hour was suspended. In the morning when the lady Members came to my house to see me, I told them: 'We are going to introduce the Bill and let it be referred to a Joint Select Committee and we will examine the whole thing. Certain omissions and commissions may be there. Let it be scrutinised properly and brought back before the House.' But they tried to persuade me saying that it should be passed yesterday itself. Then I said that if

the entire House is prepared to agree, I do not come in the way. That is all what I said. I do not want to come in the way. Shri Banatwalla used the word 'hypocrisy'. Shri Banatwallaji, I do not want to play any hypocrisy. In my lifetime I will never do it.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Hippocracy has been going on for the last fifty years.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOVDA : I am hearing it from yesterday saying as if the Government wants to go back on this reservation issue. No. But the only thing is that on this issue the Bill should not be defeated. I will tell you very frankly. If you want to improve upon it, I have no objection. I have shown not only to the country but to the backward classes also about the intention of the Government.

In the Constitution (Amendment) Bill passed earlier there is a provision made. I do not know how many States have implemented it. There are so many political parties which are ruling in their States. How many political parties have implemented the provisions made in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) and (74th Amendment) Bills? I will read out.

AN HON. MEMBER : Have you done it?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Yes. I have done it. ... (Interruptions) I did not rise when Shri George Fernandes was making such sweeping remarks. I do agree that I have to learn so many things. Shri Fernandes, you are a senior Member. You have got vast knowledge in parliamentary life. When you were speaking, I was keeping quiet.

In the very same Constitution (Amendment) Bill—in the Joint Select Committee of which I too served—we have made a proposal. I will read out :

"Nothing in this will prevent the Legislatures of the States from making any reservation of seats in any municipality or corporation or office of chairperson in the municipalities in favour of the backward classes."

Based on this, we brought the legislation in Karnataka. I was not only for backward classes but we went further and we gave it to the backward castes also by identifying the castes. Many of them, in their lifetime, could not have got elected to those posts. We gave reservation in sitting municipalities, taluk municipalities, town municipalities, corporations and zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats. Reservation has been given based on caste. ... (Interruptions) Yes, it was given to minorities also; including Muslim minorities, I gave it to them.

Today the House has not come to a consensus decision. Yesterday, when our other sister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was speaking, I was not here. Madam, when you were speaking, I was not here.

On my part, there is no need for anybody to suspect the intention of the Government. I am ready for it today. The only thing is that the Bill should not be defeated. I want to make a sincere appeal to you on this issue. Fifty per cent of the total strength of the House should be present and two-thirds of those present and voting should vote in favour of it. The Bill should not be defeated. That is my earnest appeal. I want to make myself clear about the stand of the Government on this issue. The Government is not going to say that we are going to revise our decision. The only thing is that the Bill should not be defeated for that purpose.

In fact, the original idea was that these two important Bills—the Lokpal Bill and this Bill on reservation to women—should be referred to the Joint Select Committee. That was the intention for the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have given a motion that it should be referred to the Select Committee. I moved that it should be referred to the Select Committee. I have given the notice in time.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Your goodself were not here yesterday. You were not here yesterday.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If I were here yesterday, Sir, I would not have allowed you to move it.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Thank you very much.

The only thing is that the entire House was in a mood to accept this without discussion and then, at that time, the hon. Speaker adjourned the House and made my point very clear.

Even the views expressed by Kumari Uma Bharati should be taken into consideration. The feelings of the backward classes also should not be hurt. That is my intention. I do not want to mislead the House. Even now, if the House wants to pass the Bill as it is, I have no objection. If the House wants that the Government should bring a comprehensive Bill, I have no objection for that also, because nobody should think that the Government is backing out. If you all want to pass this Bill, I am agreeable; Let us pass the Bill.

Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You will not give me a chance later. Do we have no feelings ? The Prime Minister has said a very important thing ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly listen to me. Mr. Speaker, I am requesting you again and again for giving me time to speak. You kindly allow me to make my point, I will not take more than 5 minutes ...*(Interruptions)* You kindly listen to me. It is an historic occasion. You listen to me. I want to express my sentiments.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give me also a second—should this job be done or not ? It is not proper to waste time.

There is no need to speak any more on this Bill. This is what I have to say.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All right. Please look at your watch and give me five minutes, I will not take a second more than five minutes.

It is an historic Bill and there is no need to repeat it. There are no two opinions about giving rights to women, but I would like to make some point about this Bill...*(Interruptions)* That is the difficulty. I have asked five minutes time only. Mr Speaker, Sir, kindly do not make a mockery of us. There must be some considerations. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are on the panel of Chairmen. Now, the House has to decide whether the Private Members' Business has to be postponed or not. Without deciding that I cannot allow you now. It is time for Private Members' Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUAMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this could have been done at 3.30 P.M. Now you have done it, which means you have taken the sense of the House and time extended. You should have done it at 3.30. I request you with folded hands kindly give me five minutes to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you suspended the Private Members' Business ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have not decided about that.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You have already decided. You have given time to the Prime Minister. It amounts to your having taken the decision. You might not have taken the sense of the House, but you have allowed the discussion to continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the consensus of the House that the Private Members' Business be suspended ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the House cannot decide it. The Private Members' time cannot be changed by the House. You cannot change it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can change it. There are many precedents.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Private Members' time is sacrosanct. Please look at the rule.

MR. SPEAKER : What is that rule ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am on Rule 26.

MR. SPEAKER : What does it say ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, Rule 26 says :

"The last two-and-a-half hours of a sitting on Friday shall be allotted for the transaction of Private Members' Business;"

Sir, the only option you have is this :

"Provided that the Speaker may allot different Fridays for the disposal of different classes of such business and on Fridays so allotted for any particular class of business, business of that class shall have precedence:

Provided further that the Speaker may, in consultation with the Leader of the House, allot any day other than a Friday for the transaction of Private Members' Business:

Provided further that if there is no sitting of the House on a Friday, the Speaker may direct that two-and-a-half hours on any other day in the week may be allotted for Private Members' Business."

Sir, today is the last day of this Session and the Private Members' time cannot be changed. That is the rule. That has been the rule of this House. That rule cannot be broken. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, there are so many precedents where we have suspended the Private Members' Business. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say something now. Please have patience to hear me. I am trying to cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I uphold the point of order raised by the hon. Member Shri George Fernandes. Therefore, the Private Members' Business will be concluded at 6.00 p.m. The Half-an-Hour Discussion will be taken up at six o'clock. The debate will resume at 6.30 p.m. and the Minister will reply at 8.30 p.m.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am on a point of order. That is not a correct interpretation of that rule. It is a totally wrong interpretation which he has given ...*(Interruptions)*. If it is the last Friday, that cannot be the rule ...*(Interruptions)* They are not sincere to support this Bill ...*(Interruptions)*

Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This is a fraud committed on the women of India ...*(Interruptions)*. The male chauvinism has prevailed. ...*(Interruptions)* We walkout in protest of this attitude.

[English]

15.52 hrs.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.

15.52 hrs.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House.

15.53 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : UNEMPLOYMENT

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Private Members' Business.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : (Calcutta South) : There are so many precedents when the Private Members' Business has been suspended ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will be done today

Shri Rajendra Agnihotri—not present.

Shri Oscar Fernandes—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that it will be done today. I have not denied it.

Shri C. Narayana Swamy—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, order in the House, please.

Shri P. Shanmugam—not present.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ram Chandra Dome—not present.

Shri R.L.P. Verma—not present.

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria on which we have already had a long discussion. It is unfortunate that the incidence of unemployment has been growing continuously in our country and the Government have failed to take positive steps.

[English]

15.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

The result is that we have more than 15 crore unemployed youth in the country. They are not getting employment. Nearly five crore people are registered with the Employment Exchanges and they are unable to get