

I was present on the spot. I knew that there is nobody to recommend her case, so we released her. It is a fact that after her release and taking legal opinion from the Ministry of Home Affairs, I sent this case to the Court. It is true that the Court said that it did not agree to our proposal. But, after that it was Government's duty to plead the case. The Government did not plead the case and the Court has tried to keep her involved by declaring that it will have no mercy on Phoolan Devi. Today Government's prosecutor are fighting this case in the Supreme Court and High Court. Uttar Pradesh Government should plead her case. It has been the practice that when a Chief Minister or Government takes a decision, it is implemented. Phoolan Devi is the daughter of a 'Mallah' and many cruelties have been committed against her. The BJP people should have sympathy for her but I want to say that the Chief Minister in the Government may do any thing but BJP people, at least from humanitarian view point, should not oppose her because their share in the Government is bigger. BJP has 175 legislators and the BSP 66 legislators. If such thing happens, BJP will be responsible for it causing atrocities and injustice against Phoolan Devi. They should plead her case both in High Court and Supreme Court.

So far as we are concerned, personally I will plead her case and engage eminent lawyer but the Government is harassing her and today she cannot move in Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you have made you point. It is enough.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : She cannot go to her own area. Mr. Speaker, Sir, from your side also some solution can be explored so that the Uttar Pradesh Government may plead her case. Had it pleaded her case, such misconduct or atrocities would not have been committed on her.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. It is quite right. First of all, let me make it clear that we have full sympathy with Phoolan Devi and we support the decision of Uttar Pradesh Government to withdraw the cases against her. But it would not be fair to blame Uttar Pradesh Government. I have no objection if this House enacts a law to withdraw all cases against Phoolan Devi. But the Court has its role in this regard. In 1994, the Uttar Pradesh Government withdrew all the cases(Interruptions) the then Government of Uttar Pradesh withdrew all the cases but the Kanpur Court did not uphold it(Interruptions). Thereafter, the Uttar Pradesh Government moved the High Court but the High Court rejected the appeal of the Uttar Pradesh Government. Hence, it would be unfair to blame the Uttar Pradesh Government. We have full sympathy with Phoolan Devi. We have no objection to whatever the decision this House takes in respect of Phoolan Devi(Interruptions) levelling charges in unfair....(Interruptions) For the political considerations and gains, sympathizing with Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions). Now they are sympathising with Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions). We have all sympathy with Phoolan Devi. But it is unfair to blame Uttar Pradesh Government for the Court Case....(Interruptions) political

considerations are behind it. It is all for the political mileage. It is being done for the exploitation of the sentiments of a particular community....(Interruptions) Uttar Pradesh Government is being made a party. I am against this move. I am not against Phoolan Devi....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed this enough. The hon. Home Minister is here I am sure that he has taken note of the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members from different sections. We should closed the matter now.

Let us give a chance to other hon. Members now. We will give a chance to all the hon. Members. Please wait patiently.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I said that everybody would get a chance. Unless you be patient, you would not get a chance. Everybody will speak; but please take not more than two minutes each.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Sir, about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : Sir, Government of India have decided to honour our national leaders S/Shri Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose on the occasion of Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Independence. We want that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel should also be honoured like these three leaders, but his name has been deliberately excluded from the list, which has caused great anguish among the people of Gujarat. Not only in Gujarat...(Interruptions) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down Shri Rana, I will allow you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to express your sentiments.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : When our country got freedom Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was considered to be a potential candidate for the Prime Ministership. Most of the then Congressmen had favoured Sardar Patel to be the Prime Minister of the country. Majority of the people had favoured him but as the luck would have it, he could not become the Prime Minister. I urge the Government that keeping in view the contribution made by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the unity and integrity of this country, he should also be honoured the way Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose are going to be honoured....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you worried? They are expressing their sentiments. They have every right to express their sentiments.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : The name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel should figure along with the names of these three leaders. While we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during the freedom struggle and his contribution in the post independence period should be highlighted throughout the country. I request you to direct the Government to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration. This is my submission to you and this is in the interest of this nation ... (Interruptions)

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the House is unanimous on the issue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The entire House is concerned over this issue.... (Interruptions) Those who are opposed to it may rise..... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, the issue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is being discussed all over the country.... (Interruptions) Sardar Patelji, Dr. Rajender Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, all these people are being ignored (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rana, I think you have made your point.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. This is a very vast country and we are also familiar with the language and dresses of this country. The freedom fighters got this country free from the shackles of mighty British empire wherein sun never set. It is a matter of pleasure that three great leaders are being honoured. They made great sacrifice. They were great leaders, I admit it. Mahatmaji derived his strength during the freedom struggle from the common people viz. farmers, who were his followers. He laid stress on the national unity and gave directions as to now this country could be run.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Why does so happen every time?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : You just listen to my point (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Why is Sardar Patel forgotten every time on such occasions?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : That is what I am telling (Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : You are speaking now, why did you not speak earlier?.... (Interruptions) This is your Government.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Let me speak.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : We would not allow you to speak. We want a reply from the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me finish. Shri Sharad Yadav, please conclude now.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sardar Patel was among the eminent freedom fighters. I agree with him.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) The Government is yours.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Can I say nothing as a member of this House (Interruptions). I am saying it to the Government.... I would request the Government (Interruptions) The freedom struggle..... (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Today they have forgotten Sardar Patel.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel has played a vital role in the building modern India..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. You do not have to give a long speech on that.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The 1942 movement can be considered as the last phase of the freedom struggle and a turning point. Many eminent persons did not join the Government. The role of Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Acharya Narendra Dev cannot be forgotten. They were the three illustrious leaders besides Sardar Patel who were torch bearers during the 1942 movement. They bravely fought during the last phase of the freedom struggle.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir. By this time, you have heard the sentiments of the House. I sincerely submit

through you to the Government that since we are taking the names, I think, the name of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—he was responsible for annexation of States, for bringing the princely States into free India and also for guiding the spirit of bringing Hyderabad into India cannot be ignored. At the same time, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the leading torch bearer of the destiny of the nation at that hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Just one minute, please.

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough,

....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The name 'Mahatma' was given to Gandhiji. The name 'Netaji' was given to Subhas Chandra Bose.....(Interruptions) Who gave the name Mahatma? Who gave the name Netaji? Who gave the National Song?....(Interruptions) I am surprised that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's name is missing. This is something ridiculous. He left the Knighthood....(Interruptions) You cannot ignore the names of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Gurudev Robindranath Tagore.....(Interruptions) There are many names. I appeal to the Government to consider it with great respect.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : This Government is forgetting the eminent freedom fighters. The Government should say something in this regard.....(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is a matter of regret that though the Government of India is celebrating 50th Year of the Independence but it is not giving the rightful recognition to Shri Sardar Patel. The Government should admit this lapse and seek apology. In future whenever there is any celebration Sardar Patel should get a place immediately after Mahatma Gandhi. Besides the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Asaf Ali should also get their rightful place.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Sir, I have also to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Sir the Government should respond in this regard.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Shri Rajgopalachari, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Shri Jayprakash Narayan have played a vital role in our freedom movement and(Interruptions) therefore, their names should also be included. I would request you to take the opinion of the House in this matter and then decide.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, how shamelessly you are laughing when I am going to reply. There is a limit to it.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I fully respect the sentiments expressed here. The factual position is this.

We have a National Celebration committee headed by the Prime Minister. The working President of this Committee, I think, is the Minister of Human Resource Development and the whole matter, as to how it should be celebrated, was discussed in the National Committees. I do not have the list of all the Members of the Committee but I believe, if not all, quite a few Chief Ministers are also there as Members of this Committee. Everything was discussed there.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, somebody should go and tell that the people in the Lobby should not laugh that loud.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please I am telling you the fact.

I was not present in the meeting. I was only reported that after a lot of discussion in the National Celebration Committee it was decided that while we acknowledge, we respect all those leaders who were responsible for achieving Independence we have a galaxy of patriotic leaders of the national movement, like Sardar Patel, Dr. Ambedkar, Maulana Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and their names taken.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI T. NAGARATNAM (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, the name of the late C. Rajagopalachari, Subramaniam Bhartiya.(Interruptions) Kamraj and others were not mentioned(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Can you not listen to me?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It seems that you do not want an explanation.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the Speaker of the House cannot speak in this Parliament, then where are we?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Where are we sitting? Even the Speaker in not allowed to speak then you do whatever you want.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Please listen to the Chair.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : We know how to behave in the Parliament(Interruptions) Please do not teach us ethics.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.N. SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Sir, we do not want anything; at least their names should be taken.....(Interruptions) Nobody has mentioned the names of Subramaniam Siva, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramaniam Bhartiya.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We respect all the leaders, It is not possible for me to take the names of all of them. I am just giving an illustration and that does not mean that I am not recognising them or the country is not recognising them. As an illustration, I am saying as to what has been discussed in the National Celebration Committee.

I was reported that after a lot of discussion, the decision of the National Committee was that the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru would be played for four minutes each or something like that. That was the final decision.

Then the matter was raised in this very House saying that why the speeches of only two leaders, why should the speech of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose also not be included? If you remember, the whole House welcome that suggestion. At that time nobody gave any other name.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please bear with me. So, taking the sentiments of the whole House into consideration, I very sincerely called a meeting to discuss about the decision of the National Committee. I said that this is the decision of the National Committee but then the whole House has expressed their views on this.

In the first meeting - it was not an official meeting of the National Committee, I called relevant people- they said that it would not be possible to include it as it was too late. I conveyed it to Mrs. Krishna Bose and, of course, she was upset. Then, in one of the meetings, I think it was the first of the meetings with the political parties that I had in this Session, the question was raised again. The Prime Minister himself was present in that meeting. I conveyed that the National Committee felt that it would not be feasible at that stage to include a third speech because everything had been set and programmes had been printed. Then, in that meeting, everybody said with all sincerity, including the hon. Prime Minister, that the sentiments of the whole House should be respected and, if possible, it should be done. I summoned the Minister of Human Resource Development to the meeting. I suggested that we should take up some other business and wait till the Minister of Human Resource Development came. He came to the meeting. There, it was the decision of all political parties.

This is the actual and factual position of the case. While I respect everybody's sentiments, I am afraid, at this last

moment, he may not be able to make a change and I apologise for that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me apologise for that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have reported as it had happened.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, We have been in those Committees and meetings which you referred just now and we agree with the decisions taken in those meetings. It is true that many eminent persons have been born in this country and it is very difficult to include all of them within a time frame. But it does not mean that we are ignoring some of them and it also does not mean that we are neglecting a particular State. These eminent persons do not belong to any State. If we say that they belong to a State, it would amount to making them pigmy. They are illustrious and eminent men of India. In spite of difference of opinion, we accept them as national leaders. They have bravely fought for the freedom of the country and sacrificed everything and if we create such a controversy today when we are celebrating our Independence it would in no way boost our prestige and would serve no purpose.

Mr Speaker, Sir, so far as the name of Sardar Patel is concerned no body can level any charge against us. I would like to remind my friends in the Congress that when there was difference of opinion within the Congress over giving recognition to the services of Sardar Patel, we were organising function in his honour on the Anniversary of Sardar Patel.....(Interruptions) Hence let us not see him as a leader confined to State of Gujarat alone. Mr. Speaker, Sir you leave already clarified the position.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have said what I had to say, I do not have anything to say beyond this.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a humble submission to my friends. I would also request the Members of my Party that we have high regard for Sardar Patel and we have repeatedly said this that if Sardar Patel would have been the Prime Minister of this country, the destiny of our nation would have been different. I do not mean to say that on this solemn occasion when we are celebrating our Independence, we should reduce the significance of Nehruji. Whose Place is first and whose is second is not of much importance.(Interruptions)

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : We are not talking about reducing their significance. They have integrated the country.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have already clarified the position.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should have patience to listen.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If he wants to speak, we have no objection.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should allow me to speak on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sanat Mehta, you are a very senior Member.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to you
.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am apologising.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that you should prolong the discussion because even if you prolong the discussion, we will come back to the same position that I have stated.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to associate with what you have said and what the Leader of the Opposition has said. I appeal to all sections of the House that to raise names of great political leaders from particular States only does not look nice. Let us not belittle them.....(Interruptions) We highly respect them. Let us, therefore(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is final.

.....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sardar Patel was a national leader
.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT SEHTA : Sardar Patel was a national leader of a particular State.. (Interruptions) This shows lack of your understanding....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not. But, I think.

.....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : You understand our feelings....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have very sincerely, very honestly placed the whole matter before the House. Let us not discuss it any more.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subbarami Reddy on textiles.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One by one

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Kindly do not shout.

12.51 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give chance to everybody.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, now I am bringing the bad situation of the textile industry to the notice of the entire House, entire country and the Government of India. The textile industry contributes to 20 per cent of the country's industrial production. We have 15,000 mills; 14 lakh handlooms and 17 lakh power looms. It contributes to about 7.5 per cent of GDP. Today, it is also contributing to 30 per cent of the total exports and the foreign exchange.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Today thousands of poor workers have lost their jobs because of the sickness in the textile industry. Mills are closed and a strike is going on in the textile industry I would like to bring the sufferings of these people to the notice of Shri Jalappa, the Minister for Textiles. What is the reason for this sorry state of affairs? What is the solution? The solution, according to me, is money. Working capital is not there. So modernisation is not possible. They are not able to get cotton at a less price and in the process the manufacturing cost is going up. Everybody knows as how to bell the cat and as to how to solve the problem. There is every possibility of solving this issue. Government should take personal interest in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Be brief.

MR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Today all the banks and financial institutions are having surplus funds. But they are refusing to give any finance to the textile industry.

Secondly, surplus land is available in the textile industry, If they sell the surplus land and if that money is used as working capital for modernisation, it would be useful. But the practical difficulty is that surplus land is misused for their own purposes. The Government can control this trend by taking away the surplus land and auction the same and give the money for the purpose of working capital and for modernisation of equipment of the textile industry.