

Notwithstanding what I have already said, I would like to point out that since the dead body of Shri Sanjoy Ghosh has not been recovered so far, in the strict legal sense, we cannot declare that he is dead.

[English]

SHRI KASHI RANA (Surat) : Sir, it is very important. All the non-MPs from Gujarat(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, is it Bihar hour or is it Zero Hour.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Please see to it that Zero Hour is there.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We want no more of Bihar. We have had enough of Bihar.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We want Zero Hour. Every day, we are talking only about Bihar. How long would we fight for Bihar?

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : The Home Minister is present here. He should direct the State Government that injustice being meted out to Phoolan Devi be stopped. She is Member of the Lok Sabha. All the past cases standing against were withdrawn when Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister. Despite that, even today she is being harassed. The people of the constituency from where she has been elected have given a clear mandate in her favour. Despite this, injustice is being meted out to her. She is sitting outside the Gate. At present the Home Minister is present here. You should ask him to give such direction so as to see that injustice is not meted out to her.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : When in distress, there is no one to come to your rescue. Phoolan Devi is sitting outside the door to express her grievances. It is our duty because on the one hand we talk of women's reservation and are celebrating fiftieth anniversary of Independence and on the other hand atrocities are being committed against women. When dacoits surrendered in 1962 and 1972, the Government stated that their cases would be settled in eight years. Cases of several dacoits who surrendered in 1962 and 1972 have been settled but her case could not be settled. Whatever she committed that time, Mayawati ji wants to raise those crimes afresh.

[English]

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

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I want to say that we should hear her. If somebody wants to become a good citizen then he should be accepted.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Phoolan Devi is an honourable member of this House. She is sitting outside, she must come inside. When Mulayam Singhji was the Chief Minister, he had withdrawn the cases filed against Phoolan Devi. As far as I know, as per law if Chief Minister or Home Minister withdraws a case and a Court refuses to withdraw it, then, no Government can do anything in such a situation. The Court has opposed this withdrawal. B.S.P. and BJP Governments have nothing to do with it....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have made it clear.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Pramod Mahajanji has mentioned my name in the context of Phoolan Devi. We withdrew all cases and being a woman, on humanitarian ground.....(Interruptions) We are also not weak....(Interruptions) What is this?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to the hon. Minister.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If they do(Interruptions) What will you do?....(Interruptions) What do you think? We are not such people who.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why can you not listen?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why you cannot listen?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You need not have to do like this.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want to say that we released Phoolan Devi on humanitarian grounds. Before this, several notorious dacoits of India have been released. They were totally acquitted in 3-5 years. Phoolan Devi remained imprisoned for eleven years continuously, she is a poor backward and weak woman and whatever has happened to her cannot be narrated here. The day these incidents occurred,

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 your 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 is 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 close 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)