

13.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

## Eleventh Report

*[Translation]*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on "Sickness in Public Undertakings."

13.07<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

## Fourth Report

*[English]*

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

13.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST  
AMENDMENT) BILL*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Matters under Rule 377.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, when will the Women's Reservation Bill be taken up for discussion? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we want that the Women's Reservation Bill should be taken up for discussion. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please speak one by one, I'll give a chance to everybody. Please speak one by one. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : This Government is making a mockery of the House. The report of the committee dated 11th and 12th mentions that this Bill would be introduced on 11th *...(Interruptions)* and thereafter it would be passed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have said that I shall give a chance to each member. Please speak one by one. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It reflects the intention of the Government. If this Bill is not introduced for consideration, then discussion cannot be held. The Bill was introduced in the last session also. *...(Interruptions)*

13.09 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is being neglected. How can we see the negligence shown towards this Bill? *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us listen to Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I will come to you. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance. Let us hear Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am referring to the Women's Reservation Bill about which very strong feelings are here in the House. We feel that the discussion should, at least, start. I am not saying that it has to be steam-rolled or that no time should be allowed. Every hon. Member, subject to your kind permission, should be allowed to participate in the discussion. However, has any view to give on the inclusion of the OBCs or the minorities, there is no question of preempting anybody from saying whatever he or she wants to say here. After the reply of the hon. Minister of Railways, and I am told that another one hour or one-and-a-half hour will be taken for passing the Supplementary Demands for Grants of the Finance Ministry, let the matter be taken up today so that, at least, the discussion will start. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, about the inclusion of the OBCs, they can give amendments. The Parliament is meant for discussing these issues. We want to decide through discussion and deliberation.

Sir, the Government is committed, we are committed and you are also committed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him have his say. I will give you a chance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have also been very kind to express your view that the matter should be taken up for discussion. I cannot say whether it can be passed in this Session or not, but the matter should be discussed. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : The entire House is divided on this question. So long as the entire House is not unanimous on this issue, the feelings of the House cannot be understood ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Please be cool and calm. I am not going to decide it quickly. Let us hear what is the view of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : When we are having a function on the occasion of completing 50 years of Independence, we are making a mockery of parliamentary democracy. The Bill has been brought by the Government. The Government has placed it on today's List of Business. Yesterday, in the Leaders' meeting, I assured total support on behalf of my party. At the same time, we wanted the United Front Government to be united on this Bill in this House. But you can see the condition of this Ruling Party. They are divided among themselves. From my Party's side, how do the women members debate? How can you pass a Bill? ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish. I am surprised to see that the CPI(M) is very vocal on this. The man whom they have projected as the future Prime Minister of the country, that gentleman, who is in the Cabinet, was objecting to it in the meeting. Can they not convince that person? This is double thinking. So, let there be a discussion and let them not try to put something.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am very sorry that Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is trying to utilise today's position to refer to something which has no relevance here. Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral, who is the leader of the United Front Government and whom we are supporting, is supporting this as anybody else. My hon. friend, whose Party is supporting from outside, is trying to give us lectures about whom to support or whom not to support. I am not prepared to get lectures from him.

The question is : What is your commitment to this Bill? Let the House decide. Let there be free voting. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be voting.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : In 50 years. ...*(Interruptions)* it is a matter of shame. ...*(Interruptions)* Muslims are used as vote bank ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request Hon'ble Sontosh Mohan Devji that it had never been the tradition to hold discussion on Business Advisory Committee, which is a leader's meeting. This is one thing and you also know. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a Government in the country. There are members of different parties, they are Ministers and leaders too but I don't think it is proper to discuss the matter of the Committee here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not good. Mr. Sontosh Mohan Devji, different statements are given in and outside the House by the members. It is not good to name them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What has he said last time? Let him say what his view is. Everybody is giving advice to us. You have said that during the last Parliament Session. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not be advising. You give your opinion. What is your opinion?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sontosh Mohan Devji, but what you are speaking is not correct. Your members give different statements in and outside the House, don't give contradictory statements. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You please speak. Give your opinion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There cannot be an exchange of words like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Yesterday we discussed this matter in the leaders' meeting. This Women's Reservation Bill has been introduced in the House long before and thereafter we have taken up this Bill for discussion. Earlier also, the House discussed it. What I notice over here is, yesterday we have taken a decision on this, but yet the subject matter of this Bill is taken up here in the House today and all the other Bills are there which are slated. Yet they started insisting on this Women's Reservation Bill as if to say that if this Bill is not passed, the functioning of the entire country would come to a stop. This is wrong. Once we reach some understanding, we should have some respect for that understanding.

Yesterday it is a fact that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was there and Shri Somnath Chatterjee was also present there. Both of them expressed their viewpoints. We expressed our viewpoints. ...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter, we took some decision. What I notice here is—and that is my grievance—that as and when Shri Somnath Chatterjee stands up, he has been allowed to speak on every occasion. It is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* Whenever we stand to speak in this House, we have not been allowed time. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has been allowed the best parliamentary hours of time. But we are not allowed time like that. It does not mean that the discipline of the House should be spoiled like that. It is wrong. We have got certain things to say. If the Government has decided to introduce this Bill and to have a discussion on this Bill, they should come unitedly. The name of the party is United Front Party. Let them come unitedly and thereafter we can have deliberations in this House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears that this occasion is being utilised more for putting the record straight than for examining this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I did not refer to any discussion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I did not even infer that. My very good senior friend, the hon. Member from Bolpur is interrupting me. It is in fact always a pleasure to be interrupted by such a senior Member of the House. It is always a delight.

Sir, I think the matter is very simple. The BJP, as a party, had adopted the plank of reservation for women as long back as the Bangalore Session of the BJP which goes back well before this issue even became a matter of public interest. Thereafter, we included it in our manifesto. We were the first amongst other to say that we stand for women's reservation. We stand for 33 per cent reservation. We will support this measure. But it is very clear that. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Add backward castes also in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is your view to add backwards, minorities in it, it is not our idea. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is the view of the hon'ble Members. When I was speaking, one hon'ble Member tried to express his views, which gave rise to our suggestions, which I submitted in the meeting held yesterday. Normally, I would not have mentioned it in that meeting. Sharadji has rightly said and we mentioned that whoever terms himself as member of United Front, he should bring the Bill collectively because it is the duty of the Government to bring any Bill in the House and get it passed. This Government terms itself United Front but it does not seem to be united. Today it seems that their Front is against women...

*[English]*

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : The OBCs must be included. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Sontosh Mohan Devji and Jaswant Singh have mentioned some points in the House just now. As is the intention of the House, not even a single member of our party is against presenting the report on women's reservation in the House. The main thing is that we are going to celebrate Golden Jubilee and we are not against our friends sitting on the other side; we are in their favour. But today the question of OBCs, minorities, is being raised and concern is being expressed on women reservation. I would like to ask whether any party had made any reservation for them in their party during the last 50 years? If we give 10%, 15% 17% or 33% of tickets to women, what will be the percentage of backward classes, OBCs and minorities among them. Will the women belonging to minority class contest or not? We have no difference of opinion with the Congress or the honourable members sitting on the other side in fact, we are in favour of them. On the one side you say the women will contest election from the general category and on the other, you are providing 33% reservation for them.

Honourable Speaker, Sir, I submit that there is no use to talk on this issue unless any agreement takes place between them... *(Interruptions)* and as Sontosh Mohan Dev has said that half of the members of your party and three fourth members of BJP are against it... *(interruptions)* Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, if BJP or any other party does not issue whip, then you put it to the vote of House and you will come to know the position. We want that parties themselves may reserve seats for women and decide the number of seats they like to give to them and not the Election Commission. If this matter goes to the Election Commission, the intention of the people sitting here will become clear. *(Interruptions)*

[Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav]

All the parties should decide 10% or 15% reservation for women but this Bill should not be passed without giving reservation to OBCs or minorities...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I would like to submit that you will not allow us to submit our point and you will start taking up the matters under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being discussed.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You please let me have my say.

MR. SPEAKER : There will be no use of holding discussion on it unless it is considered by the Government.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You ask the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am asking the Government.

[English]

Have you got anything to say?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : How shall we come to know...*(Interruptions)* The members from the Congress and the CPM said that the Government is divided but the House is not divided ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and Somnath ji and Geeta Mukherji told that Government was divided. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the House is divided on this, let the Government say something.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, before the Government says anything, we should be heard first. Let the Government hear us first. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You are not allowing us to submit our points and are instead taking matters under rule 377 ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The Congress has no concern for Muslims ...*(Interruptions)* It is a big conspiracy ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Geetaji wants to speak. Not even a single woman has spoken on it. You please let us make our point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : *Sarkar* is a part of the House. If the Government is divided, that is why, I say that the House is divided.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Our objection is as to why this item was listed at the end?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, it is not like that. I think, I know the mind of every Member of the House. It is not a question of making submissions here. The point at this stage is that we have a business listed to be transacted by the House. Matters under Rule 377 have to be taken up, Demands for Supplementary Grants have to be taken up and then only this Bill comes. The question is, before we take up other items of the business, whether this matter should be taken up. That is the point which has been raised, Now when there is no unanimity, I cannot take it up.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : This precisely is my objection. Why has this item been listed at the last? This is what I want to ask.

[Translation]

I want to speak on it, please give me two minutes. It has been listed as the last item of the List of Business deliberately. ...*(Interruptions)* We want to speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)* Why it has been listed as item No. 20? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please take the sense of the House whether item No. 20 of the today's List of Business should be taken up first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Please look at Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure & Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It relates to 'Arrangement of Government Business'. There is a proviso which says:

"...Provided that such order of business shall not be varied on the day that business is set down for disposal unless the Speaker is satisfied that there is sufficient ground for such variation."

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not to be satisfied. You have to hear us. ...*(Interruptions)*... You should not be satisfied ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot be satisfied. Not at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the authority to change the arrangement rests with you

...(Interruptions) You please let us submit our point. We object to its being placed at item No. 20 ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not allow me to finish the other business?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us finish the earlier business and then see what can be done.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take Matters Under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only one day is left of this session. Our business is not likely to be completed. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chitta Basu, there is no meaning of it. I have understood the sense of the House. Let us finish the other business quickly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let there be order in the House.

13.32 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to sanction adequate funds for protection and conservation of Archaeological sites at Ghatampur, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI (Ghatampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of cultural, archaeological and historical heritages in my Parliamentary Constituency Ghatampur, Distt. Kanpur (U.P.) But the Central Government has not made any arrangement for their maintenance due to which these cultural and historical heritages are lying neglected in my constituency. These archaeological and historical heritages fall under backward area. Therefore, the Government should allocate funds on priority basis for their maintenance so that this area may become a centre of tourists attraction.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government to conduct a detailed survey of the archaeological and historical heritages falling under my constituency Ghatampur and make sufficient allocation of funds for their maintenance.

(ii) **Need to handover Sambhar Salt Lake to State Government of Rajasthan**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, Sambhar, which is the largest brackish water lake in the country and which was joint property of the erstwhile Jaipur and Jodhpur princely States, has been the main source of salt production since long. It was given to British Government on lease on payment of rent and royalty. After the State of Rajasthan came into being in 1950, it was given to Central Government on lease for 10 years on the basis of an agreement. After the expiry of lease period, the Central Government and the State Government could not reach mutually acceptable agreement in respect of the terms and conditions of the new lease. The Central Government had set up a company, namely, M/s. Hindustan Salt Limited for production of salt from this lake. The performance of this company is not satisfactory. Every year production of salt is declining. It has resulted not only in loss of revenue to the State but has also deprived the people from developing salt-based industries and getting opportunities of employment. No effort was made to increase the production capacity of salt whereas salt industry like Deedwana and Pachpada are earning profit every year and both of these industries are providing employment to thousands of local people.

M/s. Sambhar Salt Ltd. is making efforts to enter the Joint venture with a private firm. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan has also been requesting the Prime Minister to handover this Sambhar Salt area to his State Government. As such, I request the Central Government to handover Sambhar salt lake to the State Government without any delay so that more revenue could be realised.

(iii) **Need to clear proposals of Andhra Pradesh Government for providing drinking water in various parts of the State**

[English]

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore) : The State Government of Andhra Pradesh forwarded to the Union Government for taking up the Drinking Water projects covering the habitations having problems of brackish water in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government submitted 17 projects costing Rs. 599.79 crore. Out of them four projects are in Prakasham, two in Krishna and one each in Mehboobnagar and Cuddapah districts. Again, the State Government submitted proposals for approval of projects by the Government of India at a cost of Rs. 40.17 crore for providing drinking water to 342 rural habitations in Chittoor district. In addition, another project proposal at a cost of Rs. 22 crore was submitted for providing drinking water from Swarnamukhi and Kalinga rivers for 178 brackish water affected habitations in Sullurpet area of Nellore district.