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**12.31 hrs.**

**Title:** Regarding alleged irregularities in conducting Panchayat Elections in West Bengal.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, I would like to raise the Bengal issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Mamata, please cooperate with me. I am going to ask them to keep quiet because this is not the way in which 'Zero Hour' can be conducted. There are 23 important subjects to be raised during 'Zero Hour'. Let me take one after the other.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not talk in the House. Please keep quiet. Please keep silence inside the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: एक एक विषय यहाँ आ जायेगा।

**श्री राज बब्बर (आगरा) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, पावरलूम इन लोगों ने जला दिये हैं तो 7000 पावरलूम कैसे चलने देंगे? उन लोगों का भिंडी से क्या ताल्लुक है?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप बैठिये प्लीज।

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, Shri Madan Lal Khurana should sit with us. I know that he is not comfortable there! ...(*Interruptions*)

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** श्री मदन लाल खुराना जी के बारे में हम लोग बैठ कर बात करेंगे। आप बैठिये और ममता जी को उनका विषय मुझे सुनने दें।

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi is also from Bengal. He knows everything. When they are fighting against the CPM, as they said in Bengal, they should fight out this issue and support us. I appeal to the Opposition Party here, including the NDA allies.

Candidates for more than 20,000 seats are not allowed to contest the Panchayat elections which will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> of May. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): Who has not allowed? ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The State Government along with the CPM cadres did not allow the Scheduled Caste *mahila*, the Scheduled Tribe *mahila*, the minorities and others to file the nominations. Not only am I saying this, but other party members like the Left Front partners are also complaining about this. In response to that, the West Bengal Chief Minister confessed saying that, "Yes, I appeal to my workers, my cadres". ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It is absolutely false. He has never said like that. He only stated that if there is any such case, bring it to my notice. This is what he said. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If they go to the police station, they could see that the CPM cadres are running the police station. We have got democratic rights. Out of 58,000 panchayat seats in 20,000 seats, people are not allowed to file the nominations and they are made to pay penalty. Rs.1 lakh from each family is taken as penalty. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Sir, I want to know whether this issue can be discussed here. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is not a matter pertaining to the State. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, if you allow her, you have to allow us also. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are not being allowed to contest the elections. This is against our Constitution and it is atrocity. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, you have to allow us also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one of the Members of your Party to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, many allegations have been made on the Floor of the House.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not disturb her, then I will allow one Member from your Party to speak. But every minute you are disturbing her and I may not be in a position to allow you. If you do not disturb, then I will allow one Member to speak to refute the charges.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to speak, I will allow you to speak. Then, I am not going to permit you to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is totally against democracy. People do not have democratic rights and fundamental rights; they cannot contest the elections. They are saying that we were not able to put up our candidates. If it is true, then why do they not allow the candidates to file nominations and contest elections?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : We are not to provide the candidates for them....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : For 20,000 seats, which also include our *Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti* and *Gram Sabha*, nominations could not be filed....(Interruptions) Those were winning seat. It is most unfortunate. So, I appeal to the Central Government to interveneâ€¦ (Interruptions) This is the position. A parallel economy is running in the State. Parallel administration is going on there....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In one sentence I deny and repudiate all that she has said....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The situation is just right for invoking article 356 in the State. I would request the Central Government to come out with a statement. As per Article 356, the Central Government should intervene and direct the State Government to maintain a safe and sound democracy in the State....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let them do it. We challenge you to invoke Article 356....(Interruptions) They are instigating the people....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : To save the democracy and humanity, the Central Government should intervene and direct the State Governmentâ€¦ (Interruptions) It is a jungle *raj* in the State. There is no democracy in the State. सर, लोकतंत्र में डेमोक्रेसी नहीं चलेगी तो क्या हिटलरिज्म चलेगा! क्या लोकतंत्र की कोई इम्पोर्टेन्स नहीं है?â€¦ (व्यवधान) It is not a State matter. It is a Central matter. All sorts of Constitutional violations are taking place there. They are killing the people...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you, if you will not disturb her I will allow you to speak. But you are continuously disturbing her.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Red terrorism is there. They are killing people....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee has refuted the charges made by her. He has said that whatever she has said is not true and it has gone on record.

कुमारी ममता बनर्जी : अगर कोई कंटेस्ट करने जाता है तो उससे पैनल्टी लेते हैं, उसका घर जला देते हैं, पीने का पानी बंद कर देते हैं।â€¦ (व्यवधान) महिलाओं के साथ दुर्व्यवहार करते हैं।â€¦ (व्यवधान) It is a matter of shame. The Government should come out with a statement.â€¦ (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Chikhalia, would you like to say something on this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Kindly allow me to speak, Sir.â€¦ (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, the Leader of Opposition, a Trinamool Congress MP, in Hooghly Zila Parishad has reportedly stated in the electronic media that there is no terror and these things are happening only because of infighting in the Trinamool Congress....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Minister to reply to your point. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : A Trinamool Congress MP has made a statement that it is not a question of terror....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mamata ji, you have made your point. I am interested in knowing what the Government has to say on this. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have also made your point.

Shri Bandyopadhyay, you have given me a notice, so you are allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice on this issue only from Shri Bandyopadhyay, so only he will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, kindly allow me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu, I have permitted you and you have spoken also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, it is a question regarding protecting the parliamentary and democratic system in the State.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me protect it in the House first.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, Kumari Mamata Banerjee has raised a basic question in the House. The Panchayat elections are going to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> of May in the State of West Bengal. The Trinamool Congress and the BJP have formed a front there. The Left Parties and the Congress Party are on the other side.

Now, what should be a proper election? The proper elections should be that for each and every seat, the candidates would put up their nominations and there will be a free and fair election. But what happened in West Bengal only God knows. In this particular year, 20,000 candidates have failed to submit their nomination papers which is about 40 per cent.â€¦ (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Why do you not tell their names? The Chief Minister had also asked the names of the candidates who could not file their nominations. They could not provide the names....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, it is our allegation that the parliamentary system...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, every time when there are elections in the State, they talk of imposing article 356....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Our allegation is that the parliamentary system is totally under threat....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, in every election they could not find the candidates. In my area, out of two tiers, they could not find candidates for one tier. But they are alleging that they are not allowed to file the nominations....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, we demand that in the 20,000 seats where election process is taking place...(Interruptions). Sir, they are talking about Zila Parishad but our allegation is mainly regarding Gram Panchayat elections. Sir, we demand that the Central Government should send a team to the areas where elections are to be held...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Let the other issues also be discussed in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I would request that the last date for filing the nominations should be extended to give them a chance to file their nominations. I hope that this red terrorism would be ended in the interest of parliamentary democracy.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the hon. Member, Kumari Mamata Banerjee took my name at the outset saying that I am from West Bengal and I am also here. Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by Kumari Mamata Banerjee. But I would also tell you that as far as the State of West Bengal is concerned, the whole world knows that the ruling establishment and the Opposition Parties, whether it is the Congress in the earlier days or now the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, we all are fighting and scoring points sometimes for the right cause and sometimes, maybe, for the wrong cause....(Interruptions). Why are you laughing? Let me submit.

Sir, as regards the reported incidents which are taking place in the State of West Bengal, and which have been narrated by Kumari Mamata Banerjee also, I do share her concern. I do associate myself with her concern. But I would like to say that the entire problem would have been resolved with the enthusiasm of the masses to provide an alternative to the ruling establishment with a secular democratic front. We did that experiment during the last Assembly elections by deserting the BJP. Still I would appeal to Kumari Mamata Banerjee that the aspirations of the people of West Bengal could well be fulfilled once again if she deserts BJP and joins hands with us for providing a genuine democratic alternative.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We are with BJP but you are supporting CPI(M)....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I feel in the State of West Bengal the only solution is a secular alternative....(Interruptions). We cannot remotely join hands with BJP in the State of West Bengal.

That is our stand. I fought against them even before she was born...(Interruptions) Our struggle against the Left Front Rule in West Bengal is known to all...(Interruptions) But we do not want to strengthen the BJP in the State...(Interruptions) That is very clear. We cannot remotely join hands with the BJP...(Interruptions) We are opposed to them. We cannot remotely join hands with the BJP...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, now the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, if the hon. Minister makes a commitment on behalf of the Government here, then I would have to speakâ€¦ (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How do I know about that before she speaks?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, sometimes we have obliging Ministers when questions are raised in the 'Zero Hour'. But they hardly rise when the entire House raise the question about the problems being faced by the powerloom industry and the readymade garments industry. Not a single Minister then stood up to respond to that. Where were they? How could they keep quiet then?... (Interruptions) Sir, we are here for a long time and we know how these things happen...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me first hear as to what she wants to say.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, kindly allow me to speak...(Interruptions) Sir, I would just like to reiterate what the leader of the Opposition in the Hoogly Zila Parishad had said...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, sitting MPs are opposing them in a manner that you cannot imagine...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, the leader of the Opposition in the Hoogly Zila Parishad, Shri Shailen Singh has openly stated in the Electronic media that all these things are happening because of infighting in the Trinamool Congress and also because of the worthless leadership...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now let me listen to what the hon. Minister has to say.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard you enough and I have given you enough chance to speak. Please sit down now.

Nothing, except what the hon. Minister is saying, would go on record.

(Interruptions) \*

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन और संस्कृति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती भावनाबेन देवराजभाई चीखलीया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय ममता जी और श्री बंदोपाध्याय जी ने जो कहा है, उस विषय को मैं संबंधित मंत्री के ध्यान में लाऊंगी और उनसे इस बारे में बात करूंगी। (व्यवधान)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I could not understand what she has said...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you what she has said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, kindly help us to understand.

MR. SPEAKER: I will tell you what she has said. My interest is to keep the House calm and quiet. She has said that she would take every issue raised to the concerned Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is no Minister for Panchayats in Delhi...(Interruptions) There is no Central Minister to deal with this subject.

श्रीमती भावनाबेन देवराजभाई चीखलीया: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बारे में माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से बात करूंगी। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister can take up this issue.

श्रीमती भावनाबेन देवराजभाई चीखलीया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बारे में गृह मंत्री एवं विधि मंत्री, दोनों से बात करूंगी।

(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister can look into it.

...(Interruptions)

**12.48 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay came  
and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bandopadhyay, what has happened to you today?

**12.48-1/4 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay  
went back to his seat.)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is the right of the Home Minister on this...(Interruptions) Sir, this is an unconstitutional interference in the affairs of the State. He has no right. I request the Minister not to spoil her career....(Interruptions)

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