

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you take your seat, then only he will give a reply.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will discuss the matter raised by Shri Nitish Kumar and other Hon'ble Member with the concerned Ministry.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : When will you discuss this matter?
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be discussed with the concerned Ministry at the earliest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a matter of shame...*(Interruptions)* The reply given by him is even worse than the one given by the Congress Government. Their Government claims that they are committed to social justice. All the members of the House are of the opinion that he should give a clear reply on this point...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down and let him explain his point.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I think this is the consensus of the House and the Government will take it very seriously and will act on this quickly.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Thank you for allowing me, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that backward classes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Excuse me. What is happening? He has called me, Why are you intervening? Let me speak first and then you seek permission.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : For a moment. This is a very important matter.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : No, this is not the way.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : It is an important issue to raise the age limit of five years for backward classes...*(Interruptions)* The Government should consider about the poor sections other than backward classes. They should also be provided one year age relaxation and they should get another extra chances? When this is being considered, the Government should consider about the so called backward classes also. They should

also be given five or six years relaxation. There is no hinderance in it. The Government should consider this aspect also.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Since you have called me, I am raising the matter for which I have given notice. This is about the much talked of and very vexed Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, popularly known as Women Reservation Bill. Today is the last day of the session. I expect that the Government...*(Interruptions)* The Parliamentary Affairs Minister may please lend his ears. Not only the hon. Members here, but women all over the country as well as men of goodwill want to know what has happened to this Bill which was supposed to be passed in this Session. Government must come out with a clear understanding of what they are going to do with the Bill. We are not going to face a situation where we will go back and say nothing can be done, we could not get anything from the Government. Let the Government say what they want to do about it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let this be brought at 4 o'clock and passed without discussion. We will sit and pass this Bill in this Session itself...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let others also to speak. I have called Shrimati Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let this Bill be brought and passed without discussin.

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will I be given a chance to speak or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let them speak. I will allow other later on.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, kindly allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : We should also be heard Sir.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called her to speak. Let her speak. Surely I will call you also. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, we have a right to know.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will surely call you also. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I wanted to know from Government, through you, that what was their intention, of the Government specially when only two days were left? Seeing the Government's intention quite unfavourable. Yesterday a demonstration was staged by the Women Congress but the police ill treated them. They arrested 460 women, beat three ladies so bardly that their bones got fractured and got injured in legs. The police snatched the purse of so many ladies and threw them out and did not allow them to march peacefully. Yesterday we only wanted to know whether the Government is serious about the Bill or wanted appreciation from the people and maximum votes in U.P. election. But the real intention of the Government is clear now that Government is not interested in bringing this Bill.

Today Gitaji asked a very appropriate question that today when it is the last day, what is Government's intention. Today the Hon. Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and even Hon. Prime Minister are giving different versions. Definitely we have not demanded that the Bill for the reservation of 33 per cent seats for women must have been brought in the last session. Today the expectations of women have been raised, not only in India but we have received telegrams from abroad also that they too want to take a lead in this direction like India. At this juncture Government should clearly tell that it does not want to bring the Bill so that we could take this issue in some other way but Government cannot keep us in dark for a long time and we want to clear onething that expectations of the women have increased so much and now it is not a matter to be raise in the Parliament only. Now the women will lead demonstrations on roads for their Demands and we want to caution the Government through you in this regard.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow some more members to speak on this issue.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind you and the House through you that the day while this Bill was being referred to the Select Committee the Hon. Prime Minister had assured that this Bill would be passed on the very first day of the session has already passed and now the last day of the session has also come but the Government instead of passing it gradually showing less and less interest in it. The Bill which was initially expected to be passed without any consideration has been rejected three days before after sessions consideration. You must be remembering that Mr.

Speaker was in the Chair and he had suspended even question hour and introduced this Bill. He had said that this Bill would be passed without any discussion. This day would have become a historical day in the name of Indian Parliament in the whole world, but later this Bill was referred to the select Committee. Some of few days earlier when I raised this issue, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said:

[English]

as expeditiously as possible :

[Translation]

When two days after this issues was raised, he said-

[English]

I can only commit that the Government is seriously considering this Bill.

[Translation]

All these things are unfavourable for moving of this Bill, there is nothing in favour of it. And after that this Bill was not taken. Seriously. That day when I raised this issue Shri Chandrashekhar also termed the whole discussion as on-serious.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balija) : This is indeed a non-serious issue. How can we term it a serious issue?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing that after debate all the major political parties without taking suggestions from their raw and fill and without debating on it hau decided to include in their mani-festo. And if all the major political parties made it the part of their manifesto, then why this Bill is being rejected in the name of consensus, and debate I would like to clear this thing to Dr. Girija Vyas and sister Shrimati Gita Mukherjee and also to Government that this Government brought this as political gimmick because Uttar Pradesh Election was near. To allure the women voters there they are told that they wanted reservation for them and after that they did not passed this Bill. They did not know that it will become a serious issue after it is introduced and expectations of women in whole India will surge up. As Dr. Girija Vyas and sister Shrimati Gita Mukherjee are thinking to fight this battle through demonstrations on roads, I am also with them. This Government is not going to listen, it is totally deaf and dumb. This Government brought this Bill with a bad intention, this bad intention is clear now. Therefore instead we fight on roads, a simple and good suggestions in this regard is that Congress, C.P.I. and C.P.M. may withdraw their support from Government and the Government which we may install jointly, may bring this Bill and pass it on the very first day. Good if this Government falls down with the curse of women and for not serving the cause of women. Then definitely