

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 badly 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 something that expectations of the women have increased so much and now it is not a matter to be raised 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 issue 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 (Balia) : 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 have decided to include in their manifestos. And if all the major political parties made it the part of their manifestos, 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 pass 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 suggestion 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

the next Government will give women's their right. Therefore instead of fighting on roads if you pass the proposal of withdrawing your support to Government only then we will be able to get reservation and riddance from this useless Government.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Sir, I would like to say through you that when this Bill was brought in this House...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Keep in mind the Zero hour is upto one O'Clock. There are other important issues also. Now you may speak.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : At that time this thing was said in the manifestoes of all the parties, at that time we also talked about reservation for women, as we believe in reservation. Reservation for backwards and minorities was also in mind at that time and when this Bill was referred to the Select Committee, debate was held on it and after that we fail to understand this attitude. I would like to say to my mothers and sisters that when things are being discussed for reservation, backwards and minorities should also covered in it. Backward women who want to come forward should also be covered. I would like to say to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, if a question by a women against saying 'Talaq' three times can be made a issue to raise here; then reservation should also be given to divorced ladies so that the women who come here may fight for women. We would like that reservation for women should be taken seriously but backward women and women of minorities should be included in it. This is the only justice. This is the only truth and trust should be brought here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please see that one member from this side and one from the other side speaks.

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, We have discussed this matter at length. I do not think we have reached a stage from where we must go back. I only want to know the Government's stand on this issue. The Leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are here. It seems both of them are busy. I would like to draw their attention to this issue. It is too late. The Government should come out with a statement making their stand clear as to whether they are going to bring this Bill for consideration and passing within this Session, i.e. today. If they are not going to do that, then they should state clearly as to what is their stand on this issue. Again I request the Government to make a statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that this is a very serious issue and some people made it the issue exclusively related to men and women.

[English]

The opinion is gaining ground that it is an issue between men and women. But it is not so.

[Translation]

Neither all women are in favour of this Bill nor the all men are opposing it. The issue which is being raised from that side is that reservation should be given to backward women and muslim women. I would like to know from them who is opposing it. Debate on the whole Bill will not take more than one or two days time. It is very sad that excuse is being given to postpone the Bill in the name of backward women, muslim women. Otherwise there is no other reason of it. It has been said about muslim women that divorce takes place. Saying the word 'Divorce' three times, for it you may bring Uniform Civil Code, who opposed it? You do not want to give differ this Bill by giving this argument. I am very much agree with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and would like to request Dr. Girija Vyas and Shrimati Gita Mukherjee that they may not do more than needed. Every time you raise such issues that the Government is not able to bring the Bill and today you are supporting the same Government. You may withdraw the support...(Interruptions) If you are really serious about it and in favour of women, leave aside the issue minoritizing women and Muslim Women, and withdraw your support to Government, this Government will fall down by the evening today...(Interruptions) Otherwise, there is no use of standing here again and again. It is better to withdraw the support to Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, what is it that he is saying? Is it not an insult to her?...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I do not think, that word would be allowed to go on record...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, that word should not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will remove that. That will be removed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, on the very first day of this Session, thousands and thousands of women from all over the country have assembled in Delhi; they have demonstrated and demanded that the Bill which could not be passed in the last Session of Lok Sabha and which was referred to the Joint Committee, should be passed by the Parliament in this Session.

Not Recorded.

Now, the Joint Committee deliberated on the Bill. There had been detailed discussions; the Joint Committee scrutinised the Bill and the comments of the Law Ministry were also detained when the clause by clause consideration of the Bill was taken up ...*(Interruptions)* The Joint Committee presented its report on the 9th December and we were told by the hon. Speaker that two days' time would be required to study the report presented by the Joint Committee ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, what are you telling, is on old story. Nothing is new in it.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAMESH CHANDRA TOMAR (Hapur) : We are waiting for Zero-hour from last one week and Hon. Member is always on his legs...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Then, we were told that the Government was seriously considering it. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here in the House. Last week he informed us that the Government was seriously considering it. At that time, our demand was that since there had been enough discussion in the House and in the Joint Committee, there is no need for further discussion and that the Bill should be brought before the House and passed without discussion. That is our demand. The Minister has to inform us now as to what has happened to that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may clarify the position. Shri Jena, you may please clarify the position.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Otherwise, the point will be lost. Please hear the Minister now.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my point in a minute which is very important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can allow you to speak but nothing is new in it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is wrong in Hon. Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, let him speak. I am going to allow only one person now. The rest of the hon. Members may take their seats now. Shri Pappu Yadav.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw of the House attention through you to the fact that on 18th December is Leftist and Socialistic Party called 'Bihar Bandh' raising the issue of corruption in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are you saying. Are you talking on this Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am talking about 'Bihar Bandh' called on the issue of corruption...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No other will be raised.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, fight with lathis had taken place there...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let this issue be closed first.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to speak on women Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on Bandh called by Left Party taking up the issue of corruption in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then you may please sit down. I will allow you later.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me for one minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, please sit down. Except Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reply, nothing will go on record.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be some limit to it. I am sorry. Let the Minister reply now.

*(Interruptions)\**

\* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to lose the Zero Hour? I am sorry. Please take your seats. Enough has been said about this Bill. Let the Minister reply now. That is all. Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing anyone else now except the Minister. That is all.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, right from the beginning and while introducing the Bill, the intention of the Government has been very clear, that is, to give reservations to women. That was the intention on that day and today also.

This Bill was sent to the Joint Committee - I do not want to go into the details now - and that had been discussed many times. The Joint Committee did not recommend unanimously and it also got divided on the issue. In this vital issue, the intention of the Government is that the House should not be divided and there should be unanimity. The Government is trying its best to persuade and bring unanimity. It is trying its best to come to one point where there will be unanimity and this persuasion needs some time. I hope the House will certainly agree with the Government that it needs little time to bring unanimity and see that reservation of women is passed by the House with unanimity.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria may speak now.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing else will go on record except that of Mr. Katheria.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Which subject are you talking about?

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : We will speak on our subject.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Now Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Chair before asking the Government anything. We are now in eleventh Lok Sabha from 10th Lok Sabha. We have come here as elected members. Government

Not Recorded.

have adopted an indifferent attitude. all the Hon. Members are present here, therefore I would like to request the Chair before saying anything to Government. When a Hon. Member writes a letter to the Government, it is Government's responsibility to reply to it. A language has been adopted that your letter has been sent for further necessary action. In reply of second letter again it is the same language, third time again it is same language. Parliament is supreme in this country. It is supreme House. A member of parliament represents 20 lakh people. If he raise some personal point then it can be ignored but Chair should look into it. Hon. Members wants that any point raised in Parliament should be replied after discussing it in Parliament. Many times these things were discussed in this House but Government is not taking them seriously considering this only her responsibility. My submission is that I have raised this point in this session...*(Interruptions)* Listen Mr. Sagen.

I had raised this point in the beginning of this session that there is a glass factory in Sukhabad in district Ferozabad, three thousand labourers are working there, this factory was lock illegally since 2nd August five months have passed. I met to Minister of Labour, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and all other but now three thousand labourers are on road, no body is there to listen to them and from a week labourers are on demonstration at district head-quarter. Today is the question of employment of three thousand labourers, their children are starving and Government is indulged in corruption of crores of rupees. The labourers are starving. Nobody is there to listen to them. Therefore it is my request to the Chair that he may give some orders to Government in this regard, responsibility should be fixed for acting against labourers, it is my request that you may give some directions to the Government. I am raising this matter in the House second or third time. Who will give its reply? It is my request that Government should give its reply, about three thousand labourers are facing starvation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not stop anyone. Government can give statement.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Government can reply. Government is not dumb...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow everybody,  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had your say. As not repeat anything. Please take your seat now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government is not deaf and dumb...*(Interruptions)*