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Title: Need to treat orphans as a special category and provide 2% of reservation for them in education and employment.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Thank you, Chairman Sir. Our founding fathers Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, have provided reservation in the fields of education and employment for the weaker sections of the society especially those who are socially and economically weak. They have been categorized as SC, ST and OBCs. But day in and day out, we came across that so many orphans have been omitted from these categories. They do not get any sort of reservation.

Our request is that the Government has to come out with a comprehensive legislation where they try to classify them. There are more than 20 to 30 million orphans in this country who are destitute; who have been abandoned; they are without parenthood; and brought up in various orphanages which are run by NGOs and other missionaries.

We want the Government to come out with legislation and categories them either as SC, ST or within special category; provide them reservation in proportion to their population. As of now, it is more than 2 to 3 per cent. Along with that – of course, the Government of India is supporting the orphanages – but we came across various orphanages where they are asked to pay property tax; where they are asked to pay gas price at commercial rate; and pay electricity at commercial rate. In fact, the orphanages, which are running on charity, are being burdened with various charges.

We want the Government to come out with a comprehensive law for both orphanages and orphans and try to see that we take their responsibility. We cannot say that they are burden on the society. We have the responsibility to ensure that all the orphans are brought up well. They cannot compete with the open category; with other forward castes; and those who are economically forward. We need to have a special category for them and provide them full reservation both in education and also in employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri L. Rajagopal.