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Title: Need to take steps to ensure civil rights to orphans in the country.

SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA : As this august House knows, the living condition of orphans is very pathetic. As we know, there are two categories of orphans. One category is of those who do not know the parents. This comes under 'no parent' category. The second one is of abandoned families, this incarceration by families due to poverty and all. That comes under 'social orphans'. The first category is of true orphans. If you look at the figures of the orphans in the country, we are shocked to know that about four per cent of our population is under orphan category. This is as per the UNICEF Survey and the SOS survey. This figure is more than that of the population of Delhi. We are astonished to know this. In recent official surveys, the figure is about four to six per cent. About 20 million population is under orphan category. The innocent and ignorant children are looking at our country, looking at our Government and the society with broken hearts. What is their caste? What is their religion? What is their nationality? Who are their parents? What is their date of birth? What is their identity? After so many years of our Independence, this country does not have any answer to them. So, there is a dire necessity for the country and the State to bring such a legislation to provide protection and give them equal rights and equal recognition to this particular group of people. So, there is every necessity. There is no access to them to go even to school; there is no access to them to get into a train without the identity certificate. So, there is a dire necessity to bring legislation as an institutional protection. For this, we must think of this one issue, whether we know it or not, whether we accept it or not.

This society is a hierarchical society with a strong caste base. Every caste is being imbibed with an impermeable iron wall. If they are to be given education, in which caste they must be included. There is a necessity for that. This august House may think of this. A separate class category has to be created, that is, 'no caste category'. The survey may be done of their population. According to their population, a proportionate representation and equal opportunity should be given to them, as has been ensured and guaranteed by the Indian Constitution under 'no caste category'. There is every necessity to issue a card to them. We are issuing cards like Aadhar Card, Voter Identity card and several other cards. But these people do not have any Identity card. There is need that these children may be categorized as 'needy children'. They are risky people. There should be one card given to them called the 'Needy Children Card' so that their morale gets boosted. They will get a due recognition in the society. Without their fault, without the identity cards, they are being ignored by the society. So, there must be some legislation to provide protection to them. The Government has taken up several programmes under ICDS. There also, this need is not being properly addressed. Therefore, I would request the august House to think of formulating a plan and having an appropriate legislation to uphold the dignity and identity of these children.

MADAM SPEAKER:

Shri P.L. Punia and

Shri Kamal Kishor 'Commando' are allowed to associate with Shri Siricilla Rajaiah on this issue.

13.05 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Five Minutes

past Fourteen of the Clock.
