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Title: Need to bring a legislative intervention regarding Sabrimala Temple Issue.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, actually, being a Member of Parliament from Kerala, it is very saddened to inform the House, through you, about the incident which happened in Kerala in the last two-three days. Two young women activists entered into the Sabarimala Temple day before yesterday, early morning escorted by Kerala Police.

HON. SPEAKER: Actually, the State Government has to take action, not us.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: In entire Kerala, the minds of people – the devotees of Sabarimala – have become very much upset. There is a lot of apprehension among the people of Kerala especially among the believers of the Sabarimala Temple and religious people also. After that, a lot of incidents have happened. Yesterday, BJP had announced *hartal*. All the shops have been damaged. Hundreds of buildings have been damaged. All the media people have been injured....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Whom are you supporting?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Madam, my request is only this. We want peace in the State. We want a solution for that issue. Atrocities and violence are not the solution....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Therefore, the Government should come forward for a legislative intervention to overcome this situation; otherwise the Government is promoting violence in the State. Therefore, it is not good. We are appealing for a legislative intervention....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you also.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Respected Madam, the hon. Supreme Court has given a historical verdict. The words 'historical verdict' have come in the official website of the Congress Party itself. It is a historical verdict because the verdict is to protect the right of the citizens especially the rights of women to go to the temple. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, do not do like this. I will allow your people also.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : According to our Constitution, each and every citizen has a right to go to the temple or to any other place. The Supreme Court has given that verdict and we are upholding that. Not only we, Uma Bharati, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Maneka Gandhi and many other BJP persons and Congress persons have upheld this verdict.

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not take the names.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : So, the Government of Kerala has to protect and uphold the verdict. There is no other way for the Chief Minister of the Government of Kerala. What have they done? You see that 55 lakh women have formed a “Women’s Wall” from Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not a subject of discussion here.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): This conversation and this narrative is coming from people who neither understand Hinduism nor do they know the practices of rituals. From Kamakhya to Chenguluru, the Goddesses is worshipped as rajaswala in the menstruating form. That is what Hinduism is. So, we have a space for everything and one such ritual in a small temple like Sabarimala has its own ritualistic practices. ...(*Interruptions*) We agree to the extent that rituals of a particular sect need to be kept in that form but I feel a certain kind of narrative is being set in this country where men are made to feel small and anti-feminist if they pass any order which is logically correct, though religion cannot be seen from any logical angle. Will the Supreme Court decide how the birth of Jesus took place? ...(*Interruptions*) Will the Supreme Court decide which body should be buried and which body should be burnt? The Supreme Court has to act in accordance with law and Article 25 says it all. A Government which is refusing to maintain law and order in that State is acting in a manner where it transports two women in an ambulance and surreptitiously takes them as a transgender.

One person has died because of stone-pelting. The State Government is squarely responsible for their deaths. ...(*Interruptions*) Guruswamy, one among four of those worshippers, had committed suicide. You are actually doing things to provoke community. You are leading to a particular anarchical form. Ritualistic practices practised by certain religious groups need to be left alone and this is what tolerance is all about. This is not the question of civil right. ...(*Interruptions*)

I have a small example to cite. I treat God as my friend. If a friend of mine is observing fast and he is not speaking or he is not having food, will I go to his residence and say, 'No, I have come for a cup of coffee; please serve me; please give me food?' Now here is a form of God which is celibate in nature. Should women impose themselves? It is about spiritually and physically training men. It is because for 41 days, they have to observe abstinence. Will the Court decide that 41 days of period should be reduced to 28 days or 30 days or 20 days? It is not the court's business. It is not court's business. ...(*Interruptions*) These are people, who, in the name of feminist rights, are actually transgressing. They are transgressing. They are not followers of Ayyappa. They are anti-religious people. They have a right to be anti-religious but they have no right to transgress. I may have personally any belief but I am not going to judge others for their belief. That is what the theory of Constitutional morality is.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri G. M. Siddeshwara, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Dushyant Singh and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi.

...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: जीरो ऑवर जो बाकी बचा है, समय मिलने के बाद बाद में लेंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

HON. SPEAKER: What is it?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Two people have already spoken on the issue of Kerala.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sushmita, you first sit down.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You are not my director.

...(Interruptions).

HON. SPEAKER: We will start discussion on 193. After that, we will see as to when to take 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Dharmendra Yadav.