

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, there should be one amendment on reservation for backward classes ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that O.B.C. should be included in that.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given proper notice.

MR. SPEAKER : I had called your name.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We always try to present our point of view by giving proper notice but our views are not listened. This time also notice was given that motion which has been introduced is not proper. Hence it should be ignored.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have called your name also. Please understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You are not understanding me.

MR. SPEAKER : First you sit down.

17.37 hrs.

## VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have come the end of a very short Session, nevertheless a most significant Session. Important business has been transacted in the House. Keeping the interest of the country and the people uppermost in our minds and hearts, we have supported the Government in passing certain legislations. At the same time, we have stood firm wherever we felt that certain proposals were weak. Where these proposals were weak, we suggested certain amendments which were incorporated in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have a most difficult and onerous job to perform. Our democracy is the most vibrant one as has been demonstrated here in this House on many occasions. There have been occasions, especially in the last two days, where some Members have crossed the *Lakshman Rekha*. However, you have dealt with the Members with patience and kindness. We are grateful to you for dealing with all of us in such a manner.

We are now about to enter a new millennium. Let us all renew our pledge to those who have supported us, who have voted for us, those whom we represent and again to work in great earnest for their upliftment, for their well-being, their welfare and their safety.

I would like to thank you, Sir, once again.

I would like to extend to you and through you to the hon. Prime Minister, to his Government and to each one of you in the House, all the Members in the House all my good wishes and also the good wishes on behalf of my Party for a very happy New Year and for a wonderful new millennium.

[Translation]

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present session is going to conclude. So far as enactment of legislations is concerned, we have enacted several laws in this session. Perhaps this is first time that we have received so much cooperation particularly the co-operation of the opposition. We have got no majority in the other House and some very important Bills have been passed with the cooperation of the opposition for which the Government are grateful to them. Our approach had been constructive when we were in the opposition. What happened in the House for the last two days if that could have been avoided and a way had been adopted to make the points in a proper manner, I think it would have been good for protecting the dignity of the House and democracy would have emerged stronger. I had assured the House at the beginning of the session of the Parliament that we would introduce the women reservation Bill in this session itself and that it would then be circulated for consideration. The word of the Bill is not the last word but it was also our responsibility to fulfill our promise made to the people of the country and by introducing this Bill in the House we have fulfilled our promise ... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : It has not been introduced ... (Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : It has not been introduced ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHAR VAJPAYEE : It would have been better had the Bill been introduced in a cordial atmosphere.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, please try to make the atmosphere cordial. The Bill has not been introduced. You should not say this. Please create cordial atmosphere.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You also do not ... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Rumour is being spread by the ruling benches that it is being done ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This is being said by the people of R.S.S. rumour spreading society ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Interruption is not an indication of broad-mindedness.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, you are passing remarks, we were expecting that you will try to make the atmosphere cordial.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there could be controversy on Bills and we can find a way out thereof. I had talked about consensus and we have tried to evolve consensus. Just now, I was being alleged to be an adamant person but during the last two days it has been proved that who is adamant and who is not willing to co-operate ... *(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, nobody is against the reservation for women in principle. The difference of opinion is about the extent of reservation whether it should be 33, 20 or 15 per cent.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There is no difference on ten percent.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The difference of opinion is over as to what should be the procedure of election and whether there should be exchange of seats or it should be on rotation basis. Our male members are apprehensive that if reservation is made for women they would not be able to contest the election from the seats they have been elected from. A solution should be found to avoid such situation. Recently the Election Commission has suggested one more solution to this problem. Shri Mulayam Singhji has been giving good suggestions and if he continues making efforts in this direction more people will accept his good suggestions. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, if people will not accept his suggestions then he will start accepting the suggestions given by other people. Some way out of this problem will have to be found out and we all can find this way out collectively. Ours is the largest democracy of the world. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am here for the last forty years. The incidents which took place in the House during the last two days have never taken place and such incidents should not be repeated in future. If we indulge in physical pushing in the House we will have no face in the public. This is really regrettable. But now this is coming to an end. All is well that ends well ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government is responsible for this. The Government

remained adamant on its stand that it will only introduce the Bill which have already been drafted. It is like saying that we will listen to the suggestions of the hon'ble members but we will do whatever we want to do. The faultlies with the attitude of the Government. The Government is responsible for all this ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Not only the Government but barring you the entire opposition is also involved in it... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji why are you speaking so loudly. Please sit down.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we really want to thank you for the profundity you have shown as a 'Balyogi' which is really commendable. We feel concerned that if you become a "Purnayogi" instead of a 'Balyogi' what will be the fate of the common people. You have conducted the proceedings of the House very efficiently. The House is going to be adjourned on a happy note. I have already expressed my gratitude to the opposition. I express my gratitude to the leader of opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the leaders of other political parties. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has to do additional work and it has faced difficult situation. I thank the staff members of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you are worthy of our thanks. I wish to you and to the entire House a very happy new year and best wishes for the new millennium. I hope that we will meet again in a very cordial atmosphere and we will forget the incidents that took place during the last two days.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, please see rule 5, 221, 243 and 245 ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji there is no need to say anything at this moment. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Shri Rajesh Rajan alias Papu Yadav has contested and won the election despite being lodged in jail but the House has not been informed about this. This is not good. There are three chargesheeted ministers in this Government, then why Shri Pappu Yadavji is in jail ? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*