

and solve all the outstanding problems of the farmers.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: As the hon. Deputy Prime Minister has given an assurance in this regard, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn

17.45 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE. PLACES OF
RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move...

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that a resolution is going to be moved in the House, but there is no quorum. Therefore, my submission is that let there be quorum first and then only the resolution may be moved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Let the quorum bell be rung.

[English]

The bell is being rung.....

Now there is quorum. Shri Mitra Sen Yadav may move the resolution.

SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: I beg to move:

"This House urges upon the

Government to bring forward suitable legislation for protection of Status of and title of places of religious significance as on 15 August, 1947."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to speak on it, you may do so.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Sir, I hope, you understand the importance of this resolution and so do the hon. Members of this House. Necessity is the mother of invention. Today when attempts are being made to break the unity and integrity of our country by raising disputes on the places of worship, such a legislation and resolution has become very necessary in the interest of our country, society and the system as a whole. In a secular country like India where people of different religions, cultures, and languages live together with amity and brotherhood, the objective of bringing this resolution can be none other than to wipe out communalism, strengthen the feelings of tolerance and communal harmony and to safeguard the unity of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the situation that has been created in the country today, the former as well as the present Prime Minister have repeatedly said that the status of places of worship belonging to different religions as existed in 1947 or on 26th January, 1949 would be restored through a legislation so that these disputes could be resolved for all times to come.

Actually I wanted this resolution to be moved not as Private Members' Resolution but as a Government Resolution. It would have been better, had this resolution been moved by the Government and supported by the opposition. Though this resolution has not come from Government side, yet I would request the august House which comprises learned Members, freedom fighters, social workers, poets, literateurs and scientists, to come forward with their valuable suggestions on this important resolution. With this point in view, I have moved this Resolution with your

[Sh. Mitra Sen Yadav]

permission. Last time also, I tried to move this resolution but I am distressed to point out that at that time also some hon. Members did not allow the resolution to be moved by raising the point of quorum. Only those who try to pose as patriots, block such important resolutions. There are people in this very House who are opposed to this resolution, the objective of which is to safeguard the unity of the country and humanity at large. They are the people who are responsible for creating conditions in which we find our country today. I would like to listen to the views of the hon. Members on this issue and, therefore, I would request them to participate in the debate, I do not want to go into the details and take more time of the House. Instead, I want to give opportunity to others to speak. This resolution is very timely as the entire country is in favour of bringing forward a legislation under which all places of worship could be protected so that nobody could play politics in the name of religious places and instigate clashes leading to blood shed. I do not think we have had so much of blood shed and economic loss in the wars that we fought during 44 years of our independence than what we suffered due to communal strife. This has been the result of communal tension. Today when its flames are engulfing the entire country, what is needed is that all our places of worship should be protected through a legislation so that we might not fall prey to this dispute in future. With this end in view, I have moved this resolution. I want that all hon. Members should participate in this discussion and extend their support to it. I want other hon. Members to get an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"That this House urges upon the Government to bring forward suitable legislation for protection of status of and title to places of religious significance as on 15 August, 1947."

Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA (Nagaland): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have a point of submission. BJP is the main opposition party in this House. But there are only two Members present now. One Member has just come and another Member is thinking to go out. They have failed to discharge their duty as the opposition party. How our democracy and Parliament will function without the opposition? It is better that they have not given the status of opposition in the interest of democracy.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: What you are saying is true of your own party as well as ours. You just count how many hon. Members belonging to your party are present in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Mr. Harish Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate my friend Shri Mitra Sen Yadav for bringing this resolution in the House. It is not the language of the resolution and the situations mentioned there in that matter. What matters is the spirit behind moving such a resolution. The objective is to create conditions for communal harmony, brotherhood and fraternity in the country. This resolution has been moved in the House with a view to safeguard the constitutional provisions which we decided to honour on 15th August, 1947—the day on which we achieved freedom. I do not understand why anybody should feel scared of this resolution. Only those who are not clear-hearted will shy away from participating in the discussion on this resolution. Such people have no faith in the traditions and values on which the foundation of our democracy and secularism has been laid and the commitments and

resolve on which our nation stands. I was distressed to note that the Members belonging to the Bhartiya Janata Party tried, not one but thrice, to stall the discussion on this resolution in the House. Why are they making such an attempt after all? Whatever they are doing in and outside the House and the way their entire propoganda machine is at work, they should not run away from the discussion if they think whatever they are doing is right. They should have the courage to face the debate, but theirs is a guilty conscience. They know that whatever they are doing is against the Constitution to which they have taken an oath and under which their party has been recognised as a political party. They are trying to incite the feelings of the people and hence, their conduct is against the spirit of the Constitution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from Uttar Pradesh. The situation that prevails in Uttar Pradesh today is a matter of concern for all. It does not matter who is in power in Delhi and who is ruling in Lucknow. The question is of our democracy, our secularism, our faith and our values. But they are giving blows to our faith and our values in the State time and again.

Just now, the condition of farmers was being discussed. The hon. Members asked questions as to what the farmer, the worker and the entrepreneur will do in such conditions. 50 cities of Uttar Pradesh are under curfew. Half of the State is affected by curfew in one way or the other. Whosoever party may be in power, it would have faced the same situation, because a particular political party and many of its supporting religious organisations are bent upon creating unrest and communal frenzy in Uttar Pradesh, come what may. They think that if they succeed in their attempts in U.P., it will have its impact in the neighbouring States and gradually the entire country would be on communal flames. They also think that perhaps they would be able to achieve the objective which they failed to achieve in 1947, but they forget that... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Our

party was not even born in 1947... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am not talking about the Bhartiya Janata Party. I am referring to those who follow the ideology of parties like the B.J.P. So far as the question of birth is concerned, I must say that I am proud of being born in India where thousands of people sacrificed their lives to protect the spirit of religious brotherhood... (*Interruptions*) I am also proud of my association with a party which had people like Mahatma Gandhi—whom you call father of the nation—as its leader who laid down his life for maintaining communal brotherhood in the country...

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): They are proud of the fact that they were instrumental in carrying thousands of people to Ayodhya and getting them killed.

SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA (Madhubani): Mahatma Gandhi did not have even four anna membership of the Congress Party.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: The people of the country will decide it and you will see that your dreams will be shattered within three months.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: I have been elected from Rajasthan by defeating the candidate of your party who lost his security deposit.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: We shall meet there once again after three months and then you will come to know. Have courage to go there.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: You want to get votes in the name of Rama and yet you argue with us. Your party was wiped out in 1984 when you gave the slogan, "Desh ka neta kaisa ho, Atal Behari jaisa ho". You do not feel the pulse of the people, you are always in the air.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: I throw a challenge on you. You tender your

[Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria]

resignation today itself and seek re-election.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR:
Yes, I am ready for that. I challenge you to contest from Bikaner. I am ready to resign, you also resign and come to the election arena. You are under illusion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Makkasar, the entire House wants to listen to your submission, why are you addressing him alone. You will be given time and then

you can make your submission.

[*English*]

Mr. Rawat, you can continue next time please. The House stands adjourned to reassemble on Monday, the 7th January, 1991 at 11 A.M.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 7th January, 1991/Pausa 17, 1912 (Saka)