

which is putting a lot of financial and physical strain on the farmers because if some delay takes place the quality of cocoons goes down.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide marketing facilities in Andhra Pradesh so that the interests of Sericultural farmers are safeguarded. I would also urge upon the Government to set up a Silk Reeling Unit near Vijayawada. I request the Government to extend all incentives for taking up the Sericulture in a much bigger way.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Sir, yesterday in the House there was a question about grounding of the aged aircrafts but my question is about the aging of human resource aboard aircrafts. The Minister in reply to one question said that 20 years old aircrafts need not be grounded. Then, Sir, on what logic are 45 year old woman employee—Air-hostesses in Air India aircrafts—considered fit to be grounded? Not only that, once grounded, Air India instructs such senior employees to be allotted the lowest clerical jobs. If it was thought that people beyond the age of 45 years acquire a certain condition of physical and mental debility then most of us would not be here. Moreover, male employees can serve in the aircrafts till they are 58.

Therefore, I would like to know why there is a different rule for women and why they are subjected to physical fitness examination every year after they attain 35 years of age. It may also be pointed out that this is being done in defiance of a Government directive issued on 16th October, 1989 which followed a report of the Petitions Committee on the basis of a petition filed by 700 Air-hostesses.

In 1990 the then Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, also met a delegation of Air-hostesses and cabin crew and assured them that this discrimination would be removed. But even after this, one senior Air-Hostess, Dawn Biladwala, having reached the age of 45 has been served a

notice to the effect that she is shifted to a ground job. So, it has become an urgent matter.

Now, the Minister has consented to meet me and some other lady MPs. on this matter today and I hope that he will take action. But I am bringing this up before the House because women M.Ps are here and women Ministers are here. I think that all the women will agree, and I hope that all the men will also agree, that this is not only a discrimination but it is discrimination of the most insulting and most humiliating kind (*Interruptions*). So everyone irrespective of sex and party affiliations should speak up against this violation of constitutional rights.

SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI (Tripura-East): We support you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, the Minister should have a tender heart to respond. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): Sir, you yourself have been the Civil Aviation Minister. So, you are well seized of the problems. I am meeting the hon. member after Zero Hour is over and we will discuss the issue. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They have full faith in you.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: I think Shri Nirmal Chatterjee being a bachelor is more exuberant to the cause of the women!

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Who told you? I am not a bachelor. I am thinking of re-marrying!

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Spea-

ker, Sir, in any case, I think your hint that for the rest of the matter, we should depend on the chivalry of the hon. Minister is very apt. (*Interruptions*)

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of this august House relating to political and social victimisation, which is now going on in Orissa. Yesterday, a news item was published in several newspapers, especially in *The Hindustan Times* and *The Times of India* that two former Congress Ministers of Orissa have been arrested and then released. This sort of practice of raids in the houses and arrests have been going on in Orissa since March, 1990. The houses of the ex-Chief Minister, ex-Ministers and some leaders of Congress Party have been raided out of political vindictiveness. Even, during the time of last Parliament election, the house of a Congress candidate was raided in order to defame and demoralise the candidate, only two days before the polling. This is a most unfortunate thing. This has violated the conduct, rules and norms of the election procedure. But no such raids are being conducted in the houses of other leaders who have amassed wealth by unfair means. No Prevention of Corruption Act is applied to them. A number of cases have occurred but only the houses of Congress leaders who are popular and who have got some prestige, their houses are being raided just to vilify them.

MR. SPEAKER: This is becoming a long statement

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, by this, the fundamental rights have been snatched away. Even, the concerned persons have not been called for explanation. This will create a bad precedent for all in future.

In our country, there are no many people who have amassed vast wealth in the shape of vast landed property, buildings and investments. This practice of defaming and demoralising politically and socially is going on in

Orissa. This does seriously damage the fundamental rights envisaged in our Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not read it out entirely. You just give the gist of it.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, you help me.

MR. SPEAKER: I am helping you. You please give the gist of it.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Article 13(1) of the Constitution provides:

"All laws in force in the territory of India, immediately before the commencement of this Constitution in so far as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Part, shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void.

The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by this Part and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of the contravention, be void."

MR. SPEAKER: Now, whatever Shri Patra is saying will not go on record. You please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMANNA MANDAYYA SADUL (Solapur). Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government towards an important issue.

The handloom industry in the country is next only in importance to agriculture and it employs crores of people. Unfortunately, the price of cotton yarn has been steadily increasing since last month, as a result of which this industry is in doldrums. Many units have already been closed

*Not recorded.