

diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities of certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for matters connected thereto with or incidental thereto, *vice* Shri K.R. Narayanan resigned."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do appoint Dr. (Shrimati) Padma to the Joint committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities of certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for matters connected thereto with or incidental thereto, *vice* Shri K.R. Narayanan resigned."

The motion was adopted

18.03 hrs.

RE. SERVICE DOCTORS

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I am very sorry to interrupt. But with your kind permission, I would like to raise the issue regarding doctors. You may kindly recall that there was a categorical statement from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and we accepted it. We thought that at least for once some good sense has dawned on them, when they said

that it has been passed at the highest level... (*Interruptions*) But somewhere else, the hon. Health Minister has said that nothing has been decided. The doctors have gone on hunger strike. Today is the last day of the Session. A categorical assurance was given that before the end of the Session, a decision would be taken. It seems the Members of Parliament have also been taken for a ride. Why were we associated on that day for the purpose of persuading the striking doctors to withdraw the strike? Members from all sides - Congress Members, Members from our party, Members from BJP, Janata Dal, Muslim League - everybody was there. We made a common request to the doctors to withdraw the strike in view of the fact that the patients were suffering and also in view of the categorical assurance given by the hon. Health Minister that he would consider their demand sympathetically and with an open mind. Sir, a categorical assurance was given that before the end of this Session, which is ending today the Minister will take a decision. But even the question regarding how to adjust the strike period has not been taken. Not a single issue has been determined. Therefore, Sir, I would like to know what is the response of the Government. Is Mr. Kumaramangalam going back upon what he had said on the floor of the House? Or, he has been misled by somebody else. It is a matter where the Cabinet Minister had involved the Members of Parliament from all political parties including the ruling party for the purpose of giving the assurance to those doctors saying, "Do not worry. Your matter will be looked into sympathetically. We are all here with you." On this basis we requested them to please withdraw the strike. It also came on the T.V. But what has happened now?

These doctors are coming to us. Two doctors are already on hunger strike. I think the number will increase. Now, will the Government take advantage of the absence of the Parliament sitting since there will be no one to raise the issue on the floor of the House? I do not know what will Mr.

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

Kumaramangalam do. I think he will take a nice sleep. This is a very very serious matter. I earnestly beseech you. We know the credibility of this Government is zero but kindly see what is the credibility of this House. At least we have some credibility and we do not wish to lose it by associating with them. So, in future there will be no cooperation with them if the Government treat us like this.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA(South Delhi): Some days back, Shri Kumaramangalam had said something. What about that...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: A lot of business is there. I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU(Barasat): sir, on the basis of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, we advised them to withdraw their strike. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: what is the response of the Government on this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum dum): Did he or did he not say that the matter will be decided at the highest level? Let us go through the proceedings of that day. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the feelings that have been voiced by the senior Members from the Opposition as well as my dear colleagues from the other side,

including Shri Madan Lal Khurana, have been taken note of. I am sure I will communicate it equally strongly to the Minister of Health and bring it to his notice that the Members feel very perturbed as they feel that according to them an assurance was given.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): He said that sympathetic consideration will be given with an open mind.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: He has not gone back upon his assurance of giving the matter a sympathetic consideration with an open mind.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We will now have to decide whether he has a mind or not. Or, he has an empty mind.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: His mind is not empty. He still has an open mind.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is the hon. Minister going back upon the statement made on the floor of the House?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: No, sir.

18.10 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (1) *Inclusion of the History of post independent India in academic curriculum*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): A few years from now, the nation will be celebrating the golden jubilee of its independence. These years have been full of trials and tribulations, tumult and sometimes turmoil, but in this crucible of time, the