

11.33 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**NEWS ITEM IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED THE 31ST MARCH, 1977 RE. ALLEGED REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER IN RESPECT OF WOMEN AS PRIME MINISTERS**

**SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN** (Coimbatore): I would first like to point out that I have not received a copy of the statement to be made by the Prime Minister, as is the usual practice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is no question of an advance notice.

**SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** But to the person who gives the Calling Attention notice it should be given in advance so that he or she will have an opportunity to go through it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has not given anything in advance. He is replying here to the Calling Attention: you can hear him and then put your questions.

**SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM** (Tiruchirapalli): I have been a Member of the House for six years, and the practice so far was that when a Calling Attention is admitted, before it is taken up for answer here, a copy of the statement is made available to all the Members and not only to the Member who gives the Calling Attention notice. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** When the statement is long, that is what is done but in the case of some Calling Attention notices like this, when they want to answer it extempore, it is not obligatory or compulsory that it should be given in advance. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request

that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The news item appearing in the Times of India dated the 31st March, 1977 attributing statements alleged to have been made by him regarding women as Prime Ministers and levelling derogatory and unseemly remarks about them."

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):** May I say that the controversy which has arisen is in respect of something which I said more than two years ago? But I don't wish that that controversy should go on nor do I wish that I should add to it further. It is very unfortunate that this should have happened and I regret very much that I should have been the cause of it. I can only say that in future I shall be careful to see that I don't give scope for such a thing.

**SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:** I am very grateful to the Prime Minister for the statement that he has made. It is the image of our country that is involved also, it is International Women's Decade. That is why we were disturbed. Particularly, he has claimed in that statement that he is a follower of Gandhiji. Gandhiji was the person who taught our country that women have to take their place equally with men in order to ensure salvation for our country.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** May I say that I respect women far more than the hon. Member does.

11.36 hrs.

**RE MATTER UNDER RULE 377**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Biju Patnaik.

**SHRI JYOTIRMAY BOSU** (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I had given a notice under rule 377 to draw the attention of the House to public burning and trampling of newspapers in a public meeting.....

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member, may please sit down. He has given notice, I think, on every subject—call-attention, under rule 377 and all that—and if I accept everything, there will be no other Member doing any work, and time of the whole House will be taken away by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. The next moment after he has given notice, he should not get up like this and start speaking. It is not proper. The State Assembly is there. If somebody has stolen or done something with some newspapers, they can raise it in the State Assembly, not here. I would request him not to raise it like this.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, you have been unkind to me. I had given notice of an Adjournment Motion. You told me that that was not being allowed. Now I have given a notice under rule 377. Newspapers have been trampled upon and burnt publicly—Mr. Chavan was there as an eye witness—by a Minister of the West Bengal Government in Calcutta.

MR. SPEAKER: That is alright. You have had your say now. (*Interruptions*).

There are about 25 notices before me. I cannot answer all the Members. 25 hon. Members have given notices, and if all the 25 Members begin shouting like this, the House cannot proceed in a proper way.

Mr. Biju Patnaik.

11.38 hrs.

# PETROLEUM PIPELINES (ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF USER IN LAND) AMENDMENT BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Petroleum Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.

SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE (Sangli): Sir, under rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I oppose the motion for leave to introduce the Petroleum Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Amendment Bill, 1977, on the following grounds:—

The Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying the said Bill is incomplete, defective and misleading. It makes no reference to the promulgation by the President of the Petroleum Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Amendment Ordinance, 1977.

Secondly, the said Statement does not specify whether the Bill to be introduced seeks to replace the said Ordinance.

The revision of the Statement of Objects and Reasons has, therefore, become absolutely necessary.

We have read today what Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan has said. He has said that those in office were on test daily and if they did not come up to the mark, they should be made to step down; I have pointed out the serious lapse on the part of a Minister and I hope that an impression will not be created in the country that a Janata Minister merely signs on the dotted line.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : In his rhetoric, the hon. Member has quoted what Shri Jayaprakash Narayan has said. We on this side shall obey Shri Jayaprakash Narayan implicitly. But I would request the hon. Member to do a little more home work before giving a notice of this sort to oppose.

If he takes the time to go through the Bill that I have presented to this House....

\*Published in Gazette of India Extra ordinary, Part II, Sec. 2, dated 4-4-77.