

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 ques-
tion of an advance notice.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISH-
NAN: 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 Mem-
ber 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 Atten-
tion notice. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: When the state-
ment 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 obliga-
tory or compulsory that it should
be given in advance. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHN-
AN: I call the attention of the Prime
Minister to the following matter of
urgent public importance and request

that he may make a statement there-
on:—

“The news item appearing in the
Times of India dated the 31st March,
1977 attributing statements alleged
to have been made by him regard-
ing 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 fur-
ther. 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 KRISHN-
AN: 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 JYOTIRMROY BOSU (Dia-
mond Harbour): Sir, I had given a
notice under rule 377 to draw the at-
tention of the House to public burning
and trampling of newspapers in a pub-
lic meeting.....