

15.42 Hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT

SHRI A. M. CHELLACHAMI (Tenkasi):
I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd April, 1975."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd April, 1975."

The motion was adopted.

15.45 Hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO
REMOVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IN-
JUSTICES TO WOMEN—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we take Private Members' business and resume discussion on the Resolution of Shri Indrajit Gupta, I should like to go on record with regard to the Order of Business here. A very unusual thing has taken place; these are unusual times and perhaps we also sometimes behave unusually. There are two Resolutions under discussion; it has never happened before. (*Interruption*). It is my duty and the duty of the Chair to point out if any irregularity had been committed so that we save ourselves trouble in the future. It happened this way. The resolution of Shri Indrajit Gupta was under discussion. It is quite in order to say that the discussion on that Resolution should be adjourned. But on that day, we not only decided to adjourn that discussion on that Resolution but we also

suspended the rule in order to see that Shri Indrajit Gupta's Resolution must be taken up the next day; it should not have happened. Another motion was allowed that another resolution should be discussed while the first was under discussion. The result is: we have two resolutions under discussion, a thing that has never happened before.

I would like to say that this will hold for today, but it should not be repeated, even to say that it is not a precedent. If somebody else would say, "That has been a precedent, but this will not be a precedent" time and again, where will we land ourselves? I would like to go on record that this sort of thing should not happen again.

The Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF SPACE, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI). Sir, I am not intervening as Prime Minister but as a member of the biggest oppressed minority in the world.

An Hon. Member: Minority?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I believe the female population is just a little less than the male population.

Some philosophers, poets and hon. Members of Parliament also have spoken soft words and said good things about women but these are outweighed by those who have maligned women through the ages. Women have been and are the most exploited of any section. If a woman is called 'able', as she is in our country, it is not because she is weak in herself but because she is so handicapped from birth by customs and social attitudes that she has no chance of developing her innate strength. If Harijans are persecuted who suffers the most? It is their womenfolk.

If there is poverty or shortage, it is the women who go without, in order to be able to feed their children, their husbands and the other menfolk in the family. If there