

deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

13.21 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

RE: ATROCITIES ON WOMEN

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Papers Laid. We shall take up the Zero Hour afterwards.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): The ruling of the hon. Speaker is that after the Prime Minister's speech there will be a Zero Hour.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today you might have come to know from the newspapers that a 13 years old girl named Nirmala who was working as a bonded labour in a house in Sarita Vihar, Delhi for six months was beaten so mercilessly that she has been admitted to the Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan (LNJP). Hospital Doctors have said that there is hardly any part of her body left which has not been subjected to burn or torture. The only fault of the girl was that she was working at the house of a big man on a monthly salary of Rs. 300. Her father was never allowed to meet her. Whenever she asked for pay-

ment of her wages, she was told that her money was kept deposited there. Once she was brutally beaten because a cup and saucer had been broken by her. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, today is the International Women's Day. The atrocities on women are increasing day by day in several parts of the country. So, I request the Government to view the matter seriously, so that these types of atrocities may be stopped immediately.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, such atrocities on women are being committed. The Government should make a statement on it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Even now when Delhi has its own Legislative Assembly, the subject of police continues to be under the charge of the Central Government. When the girl and her father went to lodge an FIR at the police station it was not lodged by the police. I think the Government of India has lost its moral right to continue in power even for a minute. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I support it but I would also like to submit that this issue should not be politicised. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This incident should be condemned strongly. Shri Vidyacharan Shukla is sitting here. This news has appeared in all the newspapers. The Government should, there-

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

fore, hold an inquiry into it and make a statement in the House in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): I had also given a notice with regard to this incident which Shri Paswan has referred. Today all the main dailies have given prominence to this news. Such type of incident is taking place in Delhi. That girl was not only beaten for seven days just for breaking a cup and a saucer, but she was also given electric shock and branded with hot iron rods. The Legislative Assembly of Delhi was unanimous on this issue...*(Interruptions)* No action has been taken so far on this incident. Since law and order is not the charge of the Government of Delhi it is not the responsibility of the Central Minister of Home Affairs. Shri Vidyacharan Shukla is sitting here. Today is international women's day and the hon. Prime Minister has announced that the practice of child labour will be abolished in five years. In view of the condition of both the lady and the 13-year old girl, stern action should be taken in this case of injustice and atrocity. The Government should also categorically announce that action will be taken against those police officials who did not register the FIR on this case.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Why is the Government keeping mum on this issue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are others also who want to speak on this issue. Once an issue is raised, others also should be allowed to speak on that subject. In the absence of it, it amounts to discrimination.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today is the International Women's Day. We all give respect to the women in our country. But the atrocities on women are increasing every day. As you know, a 13 year old girl child was beaten up yesterday and also women are being paraded naked in our country. And in every 53 minutes one rape takes place in our country. That is the finding of today. So, I think it would be appropriate if the Government reacts to this in such a way that we respect our women. I want the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to respond to it and also on the atrocities including Puri Sankaracharya's denying the women the right to recite mantras. All these incidents should be condemned by the Government and the Government should take strong steps to stop all these things in future. The Government should also pay homage and give respect to the womanhood in our country and our women Members who are present here should also be felicitated by our hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANARJEE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today is the International Women's Day. We are all really shocked about what had happened in Delhi. I think the Government should view this matter seriously and also whatever had happened in Bengal, Bihar and other parts of the country. The atrocities on women is increasing day by day.

Sir, as you know, in the case of Ms. Alpona Banerjee the West Bengal Mahila Commission have submitted a report to the Chief Minister. I have seen the report and they have said in their report that the police is totally responsible for this incident. I have got a copy of the report with me. Yesterday, I had gone to the Gayshpur area in Nadia district and I had seen

two girls, one is 13 years and another is 15 years.

One is Madhyamik student and the other is higher secondary student. They are not able to go to school because of the culprits. They have been raped by the culprits. They are not from my political party or from the common people. They are from the Leftist Party. They invited me. I have seen what atrocities are going on. The same thing is going on in U.P., Bihar, Bengal and in other parts of the country. In Delhi, you know what has happened.

I urge the Minister that the Government should take up the matter with all the State Governments so that this type of atrocities should be stopped immediately. Today is the International Women Day. I request you to please allow on exclusive discussion for this subject. It is the development of women which should take place in the country and not atrocities.

I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is here to intervene in the matter and see that this subject should be discussed in the House and measures are taken to stop atrocities on women and respect the women in this country
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): The Railway Minister is present here.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The entire Delhi Assembly was agitated yesterday. It has come prominently in all the newspapers. Where is the response from the Government?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are hearing it. Please sit down. On the same

subject of atrocity, which has taken place in Delhi, she is also going to raise so that there is continuity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): I would like to submit that you have given opportunity to speak to the Members of all parties whereas no BJP Members has been allowed to speak on the subject. I request that one of our Members may be allowed to speak. Only then the Hon. Minister should give reply.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a valid objection that Shri Ram Naik has raised. At the same time, Telugu Desam has also raised the same objection. Shri-mati Malini has also raised the same objection.

So, we should do justice to everybody.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you know, today is the International Women's day. The way the atrocities are being committed on women in Delhi, nothing is being done in this regard. This is yet another example of it. I fully agree with Ms. Mamtaji and Shri Ram Vilasji who raised this issue. Shri Vidyacharan Shukla is sitting there. He should make a statement on the subject.

There is one thing more. The Government has not been able to trace out Rajkumari Jadeja who is the daughter of former Minister of Gujarat. Shri Vidyacharan is sitting here. He should also

[Shrimati Bhavana Chikhliā]

speak in this regard. A wrong message is being conveyed as Delhi Police or for that matter any other police of States is not carrying out its task. Owing to it we are very much distressed, something should be told to us about the where-abouts of Rajkumari Jadeja where is she and in what condition she is surviving?

[English]

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): The atrocities on women are increasing every day and every year, especially in Delhi and in Bombay. Recently in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, women were made naked and paraded before public. If this is the state of affairs in this country, what would happen to womanhood and its respect in the country?

It is not only the duty of the Government to protect. It is also the duty of the society and there should be punishment. A proper arrangement must be made (*Interruptions*)

I suggest to the Government to have a full discussion at least on the occasion of this celebration of International Womens' Day today.

Secondly, recruitment of women police should be increased because many times when women go to Police Station for lodging FIR, it is not being entertained. Therefore, Women Police Force should be more in number so that women will have confidence that they have got protection.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): The case of the 13 year old Nirmala which has been reported in various newspapers today is just a tip of the ice-berg. When we are talking on

the President's Address, I had regretted the fact that there is not a single line in the Address regarding eradication of child labour. So long as this structural adjustment goes on, it is very likely that women and children in the unorganised sector will continue to be exploited in this manner. The case of Nirmala is just one case among millions. (*Interruptions*)

It is a case of bonded labour and this is not a particular case where a Scheduled Caste girl has been treated in this manner but whatever the caste of the girl, I think it is more the economic helplessness which allows people to fall into such a trap.

So, I would suggest to the Government that immediately without any politicisation of such particular issues, there should be an over-all discussion of this matter, not only as a question of atrocities on women but also on the issue of child labour.

The issue of child labour and means of eradicating is as important as the issue of atrocities on women. I demand that the Government should immediately arrange for a full-scale discussion on atrocities against both women and children. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): There is no politicisation on this question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, inhuman act perpetrated against Nirmala on International Women's Day has been reported today by all the daily news-papers. It is a blot on the face of law and order system of the country.

Sir, the inhuman act committed against Nirmala shows the extent of exploitation of child labour in our country. The Government should take stern action against the persons who committed this inhuman act against a 13 year old girl. Just now Shrimati Malini made a demand that the Government should check such type of atrocities on and exploitation of women and ban indecent display of women by media. A serious discussion should be held in this House and a strict action should be taken so that atrocities could be checked.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the way the atrocity has been committed on a minor girl is really a shameful act. It is not a minor issue. It is an issue of atrocity being committed on child labour. We talk of education and organise big seminars on education. We have also been organising international seminars in which we have discussed to have separate system for girls' education. In such a situation we should pay attention towards small children who cannot go to schools and who do not have any source of livelihood. Not only this, the way the case of Nirmala has come to light, I would say that such type of physical assaults on girls are common feature.

Exploitation of child labour due to non-availability of proper facilities has been continuing in the country. We have to give attention to this problem. Issue of atrocity on women is raised in the House time and again. But the Government has not paid as much attention as it should have. No discussion is being made on this particular problem. I do agree with all the hon. Members that the discussion on the

subject should be made at length and the Government should respond to it, because such type of incidents are taking place everywhere be it Uttar Pradesh or West Bengal.

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Gujarat a large number of women workers were harassed and cheated by the private factory entrepreneurs. In my constituency in Kerala, Achen Koil is a backward and tribal area. A large number of unemployed scheduled caste and scheduled tribes women have gone to Gujarat. They have joined various types of private factories like the prawn factory. The private factory owners denied the workers their salaries, medical facilities and other facilities. Recently, one women worker who belongs to my constituency, who was working in one prawn factory at Porbandar in Gujarat died because of not getting proper medical aid. I would like to say that the factory owners do not allow the workers to receive the letters posted by their close relatives. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to immediately, contact the Gujarat Government and assure the women workers the protection and help them to return to their homes.

SHRI LAETA UMBREY (Arunachal East): Sir, I support whatever the hon. Members of this House have expressed regarding atrocities on women. Specially, I'm wanting the support from the Lady Members. But unfortunately before the hon. Minister responded, they have all gone. However, I would like to draw the attention of the House to another incident of atrocities on women which has the same magnitude. There is one girl name Ms. Vijayatha Bala, a freelance journalist

[Shri Laeta Umbrey]

working in All-India Radio and Doordarshan. One of the DCPs of the Armed Battallion of Delhi Police has been threatening this girl and her parents that she should marry him; otherwise he will abduct her and kill her.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not go into the details. Please tell what has happened. Please put it in a nutshell. There is no time to go into all these details.

SHRI LAETA UMBREY: I am citing an example how the atrocities are being perpetually committed. This girl and her parents have been threatened. Day before yesterday also, the same DCP rang up to her house and threatened to throw acid on her face unless she agrees to marry him. This is not the only isolated case. There are so many cases pending against this DCP. But nothing has been done. So many articles have come up in the daily newspapers of Delhi. But no action has been taken. Further, the wife of the DCP has stated that her husband is mad. When the wife has stated this, I think we should not keep that DCP in service any more. So, he should be immediately dismissed from service and put under the Psychiatric Doctors for treatment. This is what I wanted to say.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there are any allegations against a particular individual. Please pass on them to the hon. Home Minister so that he can take action.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): There cannot be any stronger use of words to condemn the heinous offence that has taken place in

Delhi yesterday about the girl-child Nirmala. I assure the House that we shall see that the Delhi Administration takes the strongest possible action inlaw against the defaulting people who are responsible for this kind of an atrocity.

I would like to suggest to the hon. House that we should really hold a discussion on this matter because we have been proposing to hold a discussion on this for many years. There should be an exclusive discussion in this session, may be during this week and then we can put our heads together and see how we can check and control various such incidents happening in the country. We can also see how the strongest possible punishment can be given to those people who are responsible for this. After having said this, I would request the hon. Members of the opposition and the leaders of the opposition parties and say that we are probably sitting today in the Buisness Advisory Committee meeting and we will find some time to have a full scale discussion on this matter so that all of us have a chance to express our views and find out a common method because there is no difference of opinion in any section of the House about this. We all strongly condemn this. We should take all possible steps to check this immediately. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words before the Hon. Minister speaks. I have given you a notice in connection with the problem of women. I therefore, want to draw the attention of Shrimati Basava Rajeswari, particularly on this issue. Today all Anganwadi women workers have come to Delhi and are staging a demonstration in

front of Parliament. They have come here with many of their problems. We have discussed one of their problems just now in an agitated mood. I am happy that the hon. Minister has promised to hold a special discussion in this regard. Two types of injustice are being meted out to 6 lakhs women working in Anganwadis. One of them is that they have to work for 4 to 8 hours for a meagre amount of Rs.200 to Rs.400 only. Secondly, if these workers make any demand or try to make any complaint then the officials try to suppress them through all the possible ways. If these workers do not carry out the orders of these officials then they face a danger of removal from the job. Nearly 6 lakhs women are being meted out such treatment. The Government should itself take initiative in this regard. This is not graceful either for the Government or for the country. Would the hon. Minister like to say something about the problems of these women on the occasion of the women's day? (*Interruptions*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): Sir, I am very glad that during this International Year for Women, many Members have brought to the notice of this august House, matters relating to the atrocities and rape and also sale of children etc. Our hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs was kind enough to say that sufficient time should be given for discussion on this subject.

I am very sorry to say that none of the questions relating to women and chil-

dren have been answered in this House. And this time, at least, if you can discuss these issues, I will be glad to reply to them.

You are all aware that we had constituted the National Commission for Women, especially to look into the atrocities being committed against women. There are two things that I wish to mention. With regard to individual cases, which you have referred to, all those cases can be brought to the notice of the Police Department. In general, if such incidents take place, you can bring it to the notice of the National Commission for Women and they will take up these cases with the police officers and the State Government concerned and see what best they can do and also to see that due relief is given to such ladies.

Another thing is, very recently, the State Governments also have constituted State Commissions for Women and some of the States have already legislated such laws. And we are requesting other States also to come forward to legislate such laws to establish this Commission for Women. By doing that, I think, the atrocities against women and children and rapes will be reduced.

Regarding the other question which the hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes raised, I am glad to say that this is the biggest work which the WCD Department is doing. Being Women's Day today, I have made an announcement in the papers that 3.2 millions mothers are being treated in our *anganwadis* and 6.3 million children are getting primary and fromal education, nutrition and immunisation and along with that, they are also getting good drinking water.

[Shrimati Basava Rajeshwari]

Almost all *anganwadi* teachers are being recruited from the local areas and they are being treated as honorary workers; and even non-matriculates are being appointed. Very recently, as Shri George has put it, we have increased their salaries from Rs. 350 to Rs.450. The amount being paid varies between the non-matriculates and the matriculates. Those who have put in 10 years of service are getting a salary of Rs.450 per month. As an incentive, very recently, I thought of giving promotions to the *anganwadi* teachers who have completed 10 years of service and who have worked very well. They will be promoted as Supervisors and from there they will be promoted to CD posts. This is the incentive which I have given for these honorary teachers. As at present, I do not have any proposals for increasing their salaries or their honorarium.

Regarding leave and other concessions, which he has raised, this is a suggestion which he has made. I will look into this suggestion and do what best I can for these *anganwadi* teachers.

There is one more question which he has raised that there is an apprehension in the minds of the *anganwadi* teachers that we are going to hand over these projects to the private sector. I can assure you on the floor of the House that we are not handing over any old projects to the private sector. As far as new projects which have been sanctioned during the year 1992-93 are concerned, we may think of giving 10 percent of it to the private sector because we want to experiment with it. And it is a matter which does not lie with us. We are asking the State Governments if they are giving it to any good institutions which can take up these projects and run them effectively. Let us experiment with them and see how best

they are going to run it. It is exclusively for the State Governments concerned to look into this proposal. We are only giving salaries to the persons concerned with these projects. As far as other things are concerned, it is for the State Government concerned to look after them.

Last year, I had sanctioned 300 projects; this year, I sanctioned 200 more projects and I am going to sanction another 100 projects. By the end of the year 2,000 I want to universalise this programme. It is going to be a very good programme as far as the pregnant women and children are concerned.

Regarding other matters, when it comes up for discussion, I will be replying to them in detail.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The whole House is satisfied.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Railway Minister....(Interruptions).... At Badlapur in my constituency there is a gruesome rail accident. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I call three or four persons and request them to speak simultaneously? If that is the system, certainly I have no objection.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: In a gruesome rail accident at Badlapur in my constituency seven persons were killed. They were on the road outside the track near level crossing. The speeding goods train derailed. Train accidents killing people have become very common on Bombay Suburban Railways for the last two years. This Badlapur spot has become very dangerous. The train was heavily loaded