

Parliamentary Minister to hear what I am saying. I am sure my friend Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya would also be saying on this.

This announcement about the formation of two National Commissions does not spell out as to what had happened to the National Commission on Women Act, 1990, which we all passed here. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is here now. The National Commission on Women Act gave statutory status to the Commission and Statutory rights. We had been fighting for it for a decade. All the parties were committed to that.

Now that being the situation, will these two Commissions have statutory powers? If so, another Act has to be passed. Why are these two things separated? It is difficult to have really one Commission and having two Commissions means, as there is a saying in Bengali, "two many cooks spoil the broth."

I am representing all the women here. All the women were committed to that Act....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : Not just the women but also men.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: So also the men. All of us were committed to that Act. Please Immediately go forward in forming the Commission according to that Act and see how it works, and also take our cooperation in doing that.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I am not reiterating any point made by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. I am only saying that we have been pestering the concerned Minister throughout the last Session to make some kind of a commitment on the National Women Commission Act and we have not been able to get any such commitment. It seems that the Minister was most reluctant to implement the Act. Now we find that the

skies are absolutely pouring with Commissions: We have not got one Commission but we have got two Commissions....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you repeating it?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I feel that these are not Commissions, these are just Committees.

They are not statutory; they are not autonomous. So, let the Government not make a mockery of the term "National Commission on Women". That is my request. Let the Prime Minister make a statement in this House. We want a discussion on this.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Through you I want to draw the attention of the House to a most urgent and important issue concerning Tripura.

In Tripura particularly the tribal heartland of Baramura, Atharamura, Debtamura, Longtarat and Sakhai Tlang, the people there have been suffering from acute food crisis this year. Due to that hundreds of tribal people including children have already died. There is an out break of gastro-entritis. The 'Food for Work' programme has been stopped. The supply of foodstuffs through ration shops is also not there. so people have no use of ration cards. They are selling their ration cards to the moneylenders of the area.

I ask the Central Government to come forward to save these hapless Tribal people. I also urge the Government to send a Parliamentary delegation there to find out the facts for themselves.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Khajuraho) :