

19.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT)  
BILL — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Law Minister, what is your proposal on this item No. 30, Women Reservation Bill.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I am for consideration of the Bill. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : You give chance to all. We should also be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : You get a chance to sit here.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Please speak later on after me. Mr. Speaker Sir, my submission is that this question was raised in the morning also and there was much hue and cry. At that time, the hon. Prime Minister wanted to speak but could not speak as he had to go for some urgent work. It seems that there are doubts in the minds of the people on this issue. I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister is not present here so the House can wait for him and in between we should find out such a way that there should not be any obstacle in the motion of Constitutional Amendment. This much is my submission to you. It is neither been adding to the dignity of the House nor the people would accept what we want to do. If you accept my submission, I think that the disputed hour can be averted.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am also to say something. If the suggestion of Chandra Shekhar ji is accepted, then a wrong tradition would be set up in the House. The difference of opinion in a democracy are but natural. There can be separate opinions on the motion moved by the Government for Constitutional Amendment and for enacting a law. That opinion should be expressed forcefully in the House. But the House has accepted such a resolution on which the Hon. Prime Minister can not speak. Now, the hon. Law Minister is being stopped to speak. The unfortunate situation is that the ruling party, has been stopping him

to speak. Such a thing has never happened on democracy . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, we do not want to listen. . . .(Interruptions) I am not worried at all about the passing of the Bill on women but the Bill was referred to the Select Committee. It has returned from there. Chandra Shekhar ji is giving the suggestion but the discussion and suggestion on it is over. If more discussion is needed for it, it can be done. The method for it is that the ruling party should call on its meeting separately but should not play with the House, which is being done today. No such behaviour should be done with us. You have differences with the hon. Prime Minister, You have differences with your Government, then raise that in your own house. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to warn that . . .(Interruptions) if only some people are allowed to stop the functioning of the House, as is being allowed today, then this House would not run. The democracy would be in danger . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI TASLIMUDDIN (Kishanganj) : This Bill has been introduced only for a few people . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I substantially agree with what the Leader of Opposition has said. This is not a Bill which is being introduced today. The Bill has been introduced long time back. The whole country has, at times, to debate on this. This was referred to the Select Committee. Many Select Committees' reports have come with minutes of dissent. There are also minutes of dissent so far as this Select Committee's Report is concerned. Then what happens ? This is the floor of the House which will ultimately decide. But today with great pain, we are all witnessing what is happening here. We cannot discuss the minutes in this House which is the biggest, greatest representative body. The Prime Minister cannot utter one word. The Minister is almost physically being prevented.

Sir, we can certainly express our views. You have been kind enough to make it very clear, if at all any clarification was needed, that every Member will have a right to submit

amendments. Let there be discussion. Let the Bill be defeated on merits. But let us not behave in a manner which puts everybody in a light which is certainly not a glowing light.

If this House will have any meaning, if there is any parliamentary democracy to survive in this country, my appeal to everybody here including my friends in the Janata Dal – I need not express here my respect and affection for them – that you can decide whatever you like. But let the House function in a manner which will not affect our credibility and our prestige as a nation. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : People of various parties are in it . . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Maybe, I am saying to every party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You have mentioned the name of the Janata Dal. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is because, you know, what happened in the morning.

What has happened here in the morning ? . . . .(Interruptions). Even in B.J.P. also there are some . . . .(Interruptions). Let them say that. . . .(Interruptions). Therefore, what Shri Chandra Shekhar has said is also out of agony. . . .(Interruptions). Shri Chandra Shekhar, you have also said it out of anguish that this is not the thing which should be done. . . .(Interruptions).

It has to be done on a party level. You come and express your views. During the discussion, everybody said, 'No'. Even then the Government had two meetings. The hon. Prime Minister had called two meetings with all the Leaders of different political parties on this very issue. The views were expressed in those meetings. Ultimately, the hon. Prime Minister said that the Bill will be brought as it is. And then you are obviously throwing it open for discussion, throwing it open for amendments and changes. It may be passed or it may not be passed.

Therefore, Sir, I am appealing to all sections of the House. This is Parliament of India. This is Lok Sabha. Let us discuss. May it be a controversial measure, but we can

discuss it in a manner which is befitting us and the standing of this House and thereafter, you can do it. . . .(Interruptions). Why today ? 'Yes' because we all insisted. . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : This decision was taken at the eleventh hour . . . .(Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, what will happen ? Everybody knows that after the hon. Prime Minister's initial statement, it has to go to the next session. Heavens would not have fallen. This would have at least shown the commitment of the Government. We have been pressurising this Government to bring this Bill. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee talks about it every day in B.A.C. and everywhere and she is saying that she is representing and articulating the views of our women colleagues here, our sisters.

Therefore, this has happened every day. We are also seeing on television our sisters from all political parties standing on the steps of the Parliament and demanding taking up of this Bill. Shall we also not pay respect to their views ? Then, at least let it be discussed and decided.

I do not know why this is happening and why there should be such feelings of anger and mistrust. Let us do it in a manner. Let it be defeated, if it is to be defeated. But let us discuss it in a manner as we should do that.

Sir, you have expressed many times and that is our view. I am appealing to all sections of the House; 'You defeat it, if you do not want it; try to change it.' We will have the entire inter-session period for this. You can discuss it among the political parties. Nothing final is being decided today; not a single clause is being passed today. I do not know what is this urgency that you must stifle it here and now. Therefore, this is my appeal to all sections and I am sure, Sir, you will provide that leadership to us. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. At last you have given me an opportunity to express my views. Sir, be it the Government or the House, justice can not be done with the resolution moved in the House to provide reservation to the women. As Somnath ji was saying right now that had the discussion on it been initiated today, heaven would not have fallen and the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Law Minister could have an opportunity to speak.

Sir, I would like to urge upon through you that heaven

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

would not fall, if it is taken up in the next session and the period in between is utilised for solving the disputed issues. Sir, I would like to put forth a few points very honestly. If this Bill intends to give one third reservation to the women in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, then justice is not being done with the women. Those who are moving it do not have clear intentions. The Select Committee has been set up. After much efforts, the Select Committee has been set up in the House. The way in which the question hour was suspended and it was stated that we want to give a signal and message to the entire world that this Bill has been passed without discussion and also the Constitutional Amendment Bill has been passed. We would give the signal to the world that nowhere in any big democracy it has happened but we want to do it in our democracy. We would not like to give any signal to the world for other problems. We do not want to make progress and give any signal in any other matter to the world but we want to give signal in this regard. Anyway, we do not have any objection on it but the next day the discussion was held and at last it was decided that the matter should be referred to the Select Committee.

Now, I would not like to say any thing with regard to the composition of the Select Committee but I was among those who raised the disputed issues. I had also given my remarks. I do not take it as a remark of dissent. But as per the Parliamentary traditions, the remark of dissent is considered as the remark of approval but our remark is of approval. We would like to have a vast scope of that Bill. We have said that the women should get reservation. We have cited this example that today out of the 39 lady Members only four belong to O.B.Cs. We have said that there is no harm if reservation is made for O.B.Cs. Women in the reservation for women.

I would like to submit that the commission on women is there but there is no provision for O.B.Cs. in it. There is no provision that one Member would be of O.B.C. There is not even a single woman belonging to OBC in the National Women Commission and here the people claim that they represent all the women. The population of women is 50 percent and there are 60 percent O.B.C. people but is anyone speaking for the O.B.C. women out of those 50 percent women. When we urge upon those who run institutions in the name of women that they do not pay heed towards that. They claim that the rest of the things would be decided by them. Who are they to decide the rest of the things. It would be decided by the House,

but what is our attitude towards it ? We want that the women should be given reservation and arrangement should be made for the women of O.B.C. also in it. The Ministry of Law has sent a note that without providing reservation for the men or without giving verticle reservation, generally it is not possible. The Government had called on a meeting of the leaders. The President of our party, Shri George Fernandes had attended it. In that meeting he said that he would write in five sentences. The amendment would be done at a time. I would like to know the reasons of objections to it. If the other sections of the Constitution are amended and the women of O.B.Cs. get justice then what would be wrong. But when we demand for it, it is said that we are against the women. There is none to hear. We do not get verticle reservation. We want that when reservation is being given to women, then the interests of the O.B.Cs. women should be safeguarded. But that was not taken into a right direction.

Today when I met the hon. Law Minister, the effect of it was or him also but I failed to understand it. Perhaps it was in his mind that we want reservation in the entire Lok Sabha for the O.B.Cs. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we just want reservation for the women belonging to O.B.Cs in the reservation you are providing. We do not want that doors should be closed for them also. I would like to know that who will get tickets. The women who would be on the front line, would get tickets. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. Unless we provide reservation within reservation to the backward class women, they would not get a proper place.

This is not the way to decide the contentious issues that they will accept the decision of the jury but will not budge from their position. No efforts have been made to solve the contentious issues with an open heart, I would say so. This Message is being given across one country that those who are demanding reservation out of proposed reservation for women, they are opposing women. But we are not against the reservation for women. They say today that let this bill be passed as it is, women from the O.B.C. would be included in this at a later stage.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would not accept such things. The Mandal Commission report was implemented and as a result of that the turmoil which gripped the entire country, we know well about that. If sometimes there will be reservation separately for the women of the O.B.C., will the country be not put on fire ? All other questions will be left out and this single question will shake the entire country. We, therefore, want that this provision should also be made at the same time. So that an understanding

should emerge and there is no such thing through which we want to divide the society.

Finally, I want to say that this bill is a revolutionary one. The basic concept of it is very radical. Therefore, the House should not be divided on such issues. We have had adjustment on many issues earlier also. Take the case of the Panchayati Raj Bill and the Constitution (Amendment) Bill which was brought in, they are saying today that note of dissent was not given by the people of the C.P.M. we were demanding direct election that direct election should be held at least at the primary secondary level. The people of the C.P.M. were not in its favour. But finally when the report of the Select Committee was presented, they started lobbying. We said that direct election should be held and people at lower rung should also come up but the people of the Marxist Party then again started lobbying. It was decided in the meeting of the leaders that there should be no differences on such a issue. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Have patience to listen to hard facts.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I now want to conclude. The contentious issues were settled and the Panchayati Raj Amendment Bill was passed in the same form with consensus. The then Prime Minister of that time is present here. So, there is nothing like that we are giving sermons to other people. There are contentious issues. These should be resolved. These should be passed in the house with consensus and this is my only submission.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In a matter like this, it is not my intention to treat it as a mere or gratuitous advice. All the hon. Members can decide for themselves. I am only appealing that let us proceed according to the rules and norms of the game. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am still expressing my views and meanwhile he has interrupted me. Now they want to force it by way of a legislation and they say that they will consider it that way only. They do not want to go along with consensus amending rules in some way. They want to bring this Bill on the hope that the B.J.P. will issue a whip and the Congress will also issue a whip and they will get it passed. I want to make an appeal to you that this is a radical Bill. You should give a free hand to all on this issue. You have made many points which have

had far reaching consequences. We would like to appeal to you that it should be decided in such a situation that no whip will be issued and members should be allowed to vote according to voice of their conscience. They will be forced to vote once the whip is issued. The issues which are hidden under this Bill, should be disclosed before this House so that nothing remains untold. Because this house is the Supreme institution. And do whatever you want and we will accept that.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make one thing clear about 33 percent reservation for women. I am in favour of providing them 50 per cent reservation. You may increase it to 55 percent. It is written in the constitution of this country under the Poona act about the people who are backward and most backward socially and economically that the society would be run by the male community only, there would be caste system. Caste survives through marriage institution. The Hindu community of India is male dominated. The greatest ill of this country is caste system and this is survived by woman. A man passes his life in Slavery right from childhood to old age. If there is any movement for the development and emancipation of women in this country, they will have to be liberated from the caste system. This house never paid attention towards this. When I say so, people from all quarters make a fun of me. If you want this country to make really great, a revolutionary proposal should be brought in for the elimination of caste system. This would ensure freedom to the women of India. I have said time and again that we were not at all against this Bill, we are rather in its favour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg your pardon. I spoke out of grief in the morning, I really apologise for that. I was speaking in a good vein because we got our due of the Mandal Commission after 50 years. We constitute 52 percent of population but we have got only 27 per cent reservation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the occasions of marriage, death and rituals performed at the time of birth and death, we served the people of the Hindu Community wholeheartedly, it was not a sikh, muslim or christian who served them but in return they treated us savagely. This country is testimony to that. This House is aware of that. Our Dada Somnath Babu is quite a gentleman. I know that poke fun at him or at Shri Atalji is very painful to us. Shri Chandra Shekar has also given a suggestion. Our democracy has become 50 years old. I never raised the issue of Mandal Commission in this House after its implementation. If democracy will be saved, our country will be saved. This House stands a testimony that we were not against this

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

reservation. I urge upon you to increase this reservation upto 50 per cent. But I do not agree with Nitish Ji. This country consists of four sections of people. First are downtrodden and scheduled caste, Second are the farmers community and people of the scheduled caste who work for them, third are people belonging to higher castes and fourth are people of minority communities such as Sikh, Muslim and Christian. You first conduct a census of these sections of people and conduct a survey and then provide reservation for women in proportion to their population, if you really want to provide reservation to women and to do justice with them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this Lok Sabha, we have 200 members from the farmers community whereas this number was only 13 in 1952, in the first Lok Sabha. we do not come here with the help of reservation. Dr. Lohia, Chowdhary Charan Singh and Jai Prakash did not belong to a poor family and a lower caste. It is because of the public, our strength has increased in the Lok Sabha because they have given us a chance. The people of farmer's community have been toiling for the thousands of years.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Dalits are also coming here by contesting elections.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am also making the same point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sharad Yadav, if you can shorten it, it would be better. I do not think we can go on debating like this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I accept that constitution should be amended suitably. I will not stretch it further.

MR. SPEAKER : If you could, you must do.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It will be better, if you can.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We will have to do so.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, We will have to prolong this issue. We want to express our views

in this House honestly. People belonging to upper castes are working in the highest institutions of the country. Whether they are magistrate or judge or officer or in any capacity . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Whether it is C.B.I.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Leave all these things they are prevailing upon in the Courts, Clubs, decisions and lawyers. If Jethmalani ji had not taken the case of Mandal Commission they would have not get any Lawyers for it.

It is a good thing that Atalji has made him minister. He has protected us otherwise Mandal Commission has not been into existence. The fate of our 33 percent population depends on them. He would hurt our interest by tampering the papers. Therefore we want that representation should be given to our Women even at the cost of our life. Are we committing any Crime ? Do you understand the difference between our women and their women ? Our women can work in the fields, they can cut grass, they can do hard work and go to the jungles in the night bravely. Our life is full of hard work and courage but it has no self respect. The women belonging to higher castes are clever, wise and they have sense of self respect They play Sitar, Guitar and sing songs. We sing Birha, Alaha while the people of higher castes sing Dheem Palasi and Rag Darbari. These people play all the instruments whether it is sitar, guitar or Sarangi. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as such we do not want that our interests be hurt by them. Due to this doubt, we are opposing this bill. Atal Ji, it has not happened once, it has been repeated many times. The same thing has happened in matter of Bofors and other cases. When the matters related to corruption were raised here, we did not support them. We did not ask for reservation in fifty years and then we came here for six times. We did not ask for reservation. You tell me if we have asked for reservation in the elections for the people of backward classes. We never created controversy over it. You have opened this Pandora's box. I tell you if you touch the issue of casteism, it would have dangerous consequences in India. Buddhism has gone to overseas while Hinduism is still prevailing here. Do not open this Pandora's box and if you want to open it, do justice with it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you hold the highest office of the House, therefore, no one else can gauge the intensity of pain better than you. In India, highest concern should be shown to the Adivasis. The female dominated culture is prevalent in Adivasi Society while Hindu society is male



dominated one. This dominance needs to be broken. The Government should introduce a bill in this regard. The people are likely to resort to revolution. Harmony will be shattered and Atalji's bid to unite the Hindu Society does not seem possible. I would just like the reservation to be increased to 50 per cent and everyone should enjoy his right in accordance with the population. I do not want to put hurdle in its way but it is not for the first time that the efforts in this regard are being hampered. This time, it is a constitution amendment. This matter is not an ordinary issue but it is related to our future. We would not let the struggle done by our ancestors from Kabir to till date, go in vain and will continue to struggle. If we go on requesting in a humble and polite manner under the existing rules and regulations, decency and decorum and you always turn down our requests then there is no other option left for us than to do this. I beg pardon if my utterances hurt anybody's feelings but I have explained the point just to show that after fifty years of independence, the hornett's nest should not be disturbed by torching the issue otherwise the country's future will be bleak. The women from all over the world, in an assembly, had rejected this bid. Reservation exists nowhere in the world. . . .  
(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : You could not express your views in your own party but here you are speaking uninterrupted. . . .(Interruptions) Please, raise your points in your own party. They find themselves unable to decide. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please stop this topic now. How far do you want to drag it ? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever he is saying, we had raised the topic in the party and in steering committee also. Shri Mulayam Singh is present here alongwith the hon. Members of D.M.K. and I am also present here. I also told not to raise this issue, it is not that I have not said and this is not the issue concerned with the Government only. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I was told that I would be given an opportunity to speak. Let me speak for five minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will have to take a decision now. Whether two more hon. Members speak or 50 more hon. Members speak, I do not think it is going to make and

difference on my decision.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, at least let one of those speak with whom this bill is concerned. Would not you give me five minutes. He has been speaking for 20 minutes. Let me also express my views. I would like to conclude within five minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I can assure you that it will not make any difference to my decision. If you want to speak, you can speak, I can go on listening, but my decision is the same.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir atleast let me speak. This bill is concerned with us. Please give me five minutes. You have allowed the people to speak for 20 minutes each.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that we are being painted in wrong colours. It's political reason is quite clear. [English] We are being painted in wrong colours. [Translation] It is a reality which is before us, we did not stand up to stop the hon. Prime Minister. We did not even stand up to stop the hon. Law Minister. No one should think that there is some one to favour and protect the democratic norms. We also know the democratic norms but we have said that the hon. Prime Minister should say something which should be the final words but prior to it we must be heard and there after the Government should decide the manner in which it wants to run because this is not the way that suddenly the Bill is brought at the end of the session. We do not know if you have stood up to express few words to move the motion. We do not know if you have risen to pass the Bill. We do not know for how long the session would be prolonged today. We do not know if you have unanimity over increasing the session for two days or more. I had risen to know whether I would be allowed to speak or not. It is not the way of democracy that you bring and introduce the bill in this way and when we wanted to say it, we were not allowed to say it. Today when I am saying it, when I want to know it, it is being given the political colours as if we are violating any democratic norms.

[English]

Let nobody think that he is the repository of the democratic norms.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say only this that we want that this bill should be discussed. We want that when it would be considered over, when it would be discussed, we would also be able to say that reservation should be given to OBCs and minorities. Without it, there is no social justice. I don't know why you are going ahead with only one issue and not prepared to take the social justice in proper way. After all we wanted to say it. I don't want to say this thing regarding women quota, but the fact is that a conference of world Inter-parliamentary Union was held in our country. World conference in regard to empowerment of women was held in February recently. The world respects the world body and the quota for women is being resisted by IPU. The world body is saying that there should not be such quota but you say that we want to send the message.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are we discussing the Bill already ? Please Conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I want to say that this bill should be discussed in detail. If you want to give any message by saying a few sentences, it means nothing except political game.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be limited to this you are not going into the merits of the Bill now. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Why am I saying that this bill should be introduced in the next session ? There are two reasons for that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can these things come when we are going into the merits of the Bill ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We should take this up not now, but in the next session.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood your point.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : One reason is that a note

was circulated on behalf of the Government in leaders meeting yesterday.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You could have finished your speech in one sentence by saying 'why not in the next session ?' That is all.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is the point that people say that we do not know democratic norms. The note which was circulated in the leaders meeting yesterday, it was mentioned therein that the welfare ministry would consider about the O.B.Cs. but there is not even a single word about the minorities. When the Government are considering about the O.B.Cs., they should continue it and when they make up their mind on all points, then a discussion should be initiated in this House. Not even a single word has been uttered now about minorities. No unanimity was arrived at yesterday. The members of the muslim league, Etahadhe Musalmin and the D.M.K. are present here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point, Shri Banatwalla.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We understand that it has been presented in a wrong manner and it has been tried to gain political mileage. We want that there should be a discussion on this Bill in a straight forward manner and not in the manner we have started today. We don't know-

[English]

I do not know whether 50 per cent of the total membership is today present or not.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not going into that issue. But you are going beyond the issue.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The manner in which this issue has been presented here, is only a political gimmick. In the next session, there should be a detailed discussion on that. This is the point which we want to put up before the Government through you because we were not allowed to express our views. We should not present it in that manner before the people and the country.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, we are not discussing the bill. We want your ruling now.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today with very heavy heart I rise here to express my views. The Bill which was brought here as a revolutionary initiative has become a matter of force not only in India but in the entire world. . . (Interruptions) When you are not bothered about it only then it became the matter of force because you have made it like this.

This Parliament is functioning in this country for the last 45 years and you are here in various capacities but prior to this perhaps you must have not seen such scene ever before which has been today in this House. Today the Prime Minister could not present this Bill due to the opposition of the people from his own party. The Prime Minister, who claim to run this government on the basis of consensus could not reach at any unanimity on this Bill.

Just now I was listening to the views of Nitish ji and Sharad ji. From that it can be concluded that this Bill be moved for consideration. In this regard my only suggestion and appeal is that when this Bill was sent to Joint Select Committee so that some improvement can be brought in it. Perhaps all improvements, solutions could not be brought in it. After that as per the rules of this House, as reported by the Select Committee, today it has to be placed for consideration of the House. You are not presenting this Bill today for voting. The people, who are talking about the next session. This Bill will certainly come up in the next session, today it has to be moved only for consideration, I stood here to say only this. Precisely I stood here any to say this must. . . (Interruptions). Banatwalla ji please listen to me. . . (Interruptions). I stood here to say only this that all the modalities of congress outside this House has been completed. Meetings of Joint Select Committee and all party leaders took place, but in these meetings it became clear that neither in the joint Select Committee nor in the all party leaders Meeting, the matter of entire house was discussed. Therefore, it was decided that decision must be taken in the House. My request is that if the matter is taken outside the House and is decided by the Joint Select Committee or in the all Party Leaders meeting, then the views of all will not be known. Now, if you really want that the solution is acceptable to all or the objections raised are solved, then

there is only one solution that the discussion on this Bill must be done only in the House.

That's why we wanted that once this bill should be moved for consideration. Whatever Mr. Nitish Kumar has said in five minutes, it is to hamper the introduction of this bill and actually this should be taken up at the consideration stage. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you give him 25 minutes time instead of five minutes so that he could express his views in detail. Give 20 minutes time to Shri Sharad Yadav to express his views on all the communities. You allow three-four days time for holding discussions on it. The members sitting opposite to me too want that their views should be conveyed to the Prime Minister and since this bill is being brought in its original form, I would like to say that if any change in the form of the bill takes place, it will take place only after discussions are held in this House and only then it will be acceptable to all. All the modes outside this House have become redundant. These have failed to solve the remaining problems at so. Let this bill be moved for consideration. The discussions will be held in the next session and then Shri Banatwalla, Shri Owaisi and Shri Fatmi can say all what they want to say and then if the Government wants to bring in an amendment after the discussions are over, it can bring in amendments. After the Government amendments are brought, the bill should be passed in its original form. But to stop consideration is not a solution. This bill be moved for consideration Discussions should be held in detail only then the problem will be solved.

So, I would like to make an appeal to you to accept this fact. let the bill be moved today for consideration. The discussion will be held in the next session and the bill will be passed with the amendments, acceptable to the Government.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : With a heavy heart I want to make an appeal to all my colleagues. What is happening here today in this House is being observed by the whole world. That has not raised our prestige. What is happening is really discussion. If that be so, then why not put it for discussion ? This is my first point.

My second point is, everybody is free to give any amendment that he or she likes. Therefore to keep our prestige I would appeal that let the formal consideration of the Bill be taken up and then in the next session it can be resumed.



[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that more than 30 crores of Muslim are living in this country and they have many problems but if any issue is discussed in the select Committee without taking Muslims into confidence, then what will happen to the Muslims ? I would like to say that atleast 20 percent reservation should be provided to the Muslim population and then this issue should be considered. The OBC issue is also a complicated one. If reservation for women is implemented in this way then it will do not benefit the women belonging to poor and backward classes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : The Muslim population will be at loss and representation of Muslim population in the country will get a set back.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is Okay, enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : That's why I would like that this issue should be considered seriously.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made your point.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : This Bill should not be brought at present. It should be postponed for next session.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I do not know why you want to speak on this.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : The entire House and all the parties be taken into confidence. The Muslims should also be taken into confidence. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you so worried ?

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Thereafter decision may be taken on this issue because injustice has been done to us so far in this country and if it is repeated then the history and the House will not forgive any one.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. It is enough.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : I would recite two couplets then I will conclude my speech.

Sutune daag par Rakhte chalo sitam ke chirag  
Jahan talak yah Sitam ki syah Raat chale.

Please listen to one more couplet. I am reciting this couplet particularly for the attention of the entire House.

Khurach-Khurach ke na mitao in nishanon ko  
Hamare naam se, shayad tumhara naam chale.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please listen to me now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no end to it.

I will be very fair and the rule is very clear. There are two aspects. One is the right of a Member to move the Motion and the second is the consideration of the Motion. As far as consideration of the Motion is concerned, I have the right to defer it. The House can decide to defer it. Therefore, discussion on the Bill or consideration of the Bill can be deferred and it will be deferred. But as far as the right of a Member to move the Motion is concerned, I do not think that the Speaker has the right to deny that right. Therefore, the Minister will move the Motion for consideration and the consideration of the Bill will be taken up in the next Session. Now, the Minister may just move the Motion for consideration.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, as directed by you, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

19.53 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members may kindly rise in their seats for Vande Mataram.

*The National Song was played.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

19.54 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die*

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