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Title: Regarding the medical condition of Aruna Ramchandra Shanbugh and the question of passive Euthanasia.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (LUDHIANA): Madam Chairperson, I rise to draw the attention of this House to a very serious and a sensitive matter which has been engaging the attention of the country for the past one week, that is, the tragic plight of Aruna Shanbugh, who has been in a hospital in Mumbai since 1973.

The petition which was filed in the Supreme court by the next of kin pleading for passive euthanasia which has been rightly and correctly dismissed by the Supreme Court today does raise certain very important questions which merits the consideration of not only the Government but also merits the consideration of the House. The issue is with regard to the ethicality of continuing or withdrawing life support systems.

There are two sides of the argument. One side of the argument is that allegations have repeatedly been made, correctly or erroneously, that patients who are clinically dead are continued on life support systems by hospitals essentially to get the relatives to pay more.

The other side of the argument is that, the hospitals submit that, if they were to withdraw a patient from a life support system, this would open them up to an entire body of criminal culpability and subsequent litigation. It is possible that both sides of the argument may be correct.

Therefore, it is important that the Government constitutes a multi-disciplinary Committee consisting of doctors, lawyers, civil society activists, relatives of patients who have unfortunately gone through this trauma, to really come out with a code of ethics on continuing or the withdrawal of life support systems. It is because, as we go forth, I think these are areas of medicine which need to be now regulated by a proper body of law because the constitutional mandate is very clear. Article 21 states that nobody can be deprived of his life or liberty except by the due process of law. In this particular instance, I think, the time, possibly, has come for Parliament and Government to really lay down a code of conduct which can then be translated into a statutory law. Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Madam Chairman, I said, compensation may be treated as *ex gratia*.

**सभापति महोदया :** स्युवंश प्रसाद सिंह जी। स्युवंश जी आपसे रिक्वेस्ट है कि आपने अपने अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय के बारे में जो नोटिस दिया है, उसमें जाति सूचक शब्द का प्रयोग किया है, उस शब्द को अपने वक्तव्य में इस्तेमाल न करें।