

[Translation]

SHRIMATI LOVELY ANAND (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is International Women's day and our elder sister Smt. Pratibha Patil has spoken a lot about it. The other women members have also expressed their views. I have also been given an opportunity to speak. I am very happy for the same.

I want that women should get their rights and not reservation. Women have made more sacrifices by displaying their heroic deeds than their male counterparts to save the country. When needed they have given a befitting reply to enemies with sword in their hands. It is possible only for women to discharge the dual responsibilities of maintaining their household and looking after the national affairs. Therefore, they do not require reservation, they have not come for alms with a begging bowl, rather they should be given their right due and 50 per cent participation.

I would like to say again through you that when girls are born, they are made slaves in their houses no matter whether they are with their parents or brothers. They do not get full rights in the house of their husbands after their marriage unless they become widows. Therefore, I want that they should be given full right in their in-laws' houses before they become widows and during the life time of their husbands.

With these words I conclude.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. I should also be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, if you all agree to the Resolution which has been moved, you can say that you endorse it and that would be okay.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI : They should also be asked to speak something about women. Please, ask Atal jee also to speak on it. The Prime Minister should also be asked to speak on it. Our male colleagues should also be asked to speak on it.

[English]

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO)** : Sir, on behalf of the Government I would like to assure the House that we are entirely in agreement with the spirit of the Resolution. Steps have been taken for years and years. And every year, we are taking new steps in order to empower women, starting with education, going into property relations. And now starting with the Panchayats and other bodies, wherein politically their rights have been recognized by giving reservation and I hope that this reservation will extend to other bodies in course of time. I cannot say just now, but I think it could happen. So, I would like to say that we are entirely in agreement with the Resolution. And whatever the lady Members and other Members, those who are thinking on the subject deeply for years and years, whatever, they suggest, those suggestions will receive very earnest consideration by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Devdasi system is not discussed today, then it will be a matter of shame. Date of interview had been announced for the recruitment of Devdasis in Orissa in the month of September and Orissa's.....(Interruptions)\*

If we go through the history of Devdasi system, it is full of tears....(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Women were called for interview for working as Devdasis. Mr. Prime Minister, I urge upon you to take steps to root out the Devdasi system and make women self-reliant. More powers should be given to Women Commission. Women Commission should instil fear among men folk it should work as a helpful institution only then its purpose will be served. More constitution of Women Commission and holding meetings in camera will not yield results. The reservation issue is now over due, it should be announced so that 30 per cent women could be seen here in coming days.

\*Not Recorded