

the Government was prepared to accept the principle and said that they themselves would bring a Bill to the same effect, the discussion was adjourned *sine die* so that they may be taken up along with the Bill which the Government would bring.

Shri Datar: I have no objection.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That further discussion on this Bill be adjourned *sine die*."

The motion was adopted.

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S
INSTITUTIONS LICENSING
BILL

Shrimati Uma Nehru (Sitapur Distt. cum Kheri Distt.-West): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to regulate and licence institutions caring for women and children, be taken into consideration."

यह बिल पहले भी इस हाउस में आ चुका है। यह बिल जो मेरे नाम से आया मैं सोच में पड़ गयी कि यह बिल जो मेरी बहिण मणिबेन के नाम से भी आया था और इसके लिए गवर्नमेंट ने कहा भी था कि हम बहुत जल्द हाउस में ऐसा बिल लायेंगे।

मुझे इस बिल के बारे में ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना है क्योंकि मैं जानती हूँ कि मैं जो यह बिल लायी हूँ यह उस अत्याचार को रोकने के लिए है जो कि समाज में हो रहा है। और सब लोग भी इस बात को समझते हैं। इस बिल को लाने में मेरा यह विचार था कि इससे गवर्नमेंट बहुत जल्द इन इंस्टीट्यूशन्स को अपने हाथ में ले लेगी और उनमें कुछ परिवर्तन होगा। लेकिन मैं यह ईश्वर गृही हूँ कि जब मणिबेन का बिल आया था तो उनसे कहा गया था...

The Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Pataskar): May I intervene for five minutes? A Bill almost identical...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let her finish her speech.

Shri Pataskar: She referred to it and, therefore, I wanted to intervene.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: After the motion is placed before the House, the hon. Minister say what he likes.

[SHRIMATI KHONGMEN in the Chair]

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू : आठ महीने हुए जब वह बिल इस हाउस में आया था और उस पर चर्चा हुई थी। आज जो हमारी औरताँ और बच्चाँ की हालत हैं और जो हमारे आरफनेजब की हालत हैं उसको देखते हुए यह जरूरी है कि ऐसा बिल लाया जाय और इसी लिए मैं यह बिल लायी हूँ।

असल बात यह है कि यह जो संस्थाएँ होती हैं यह सरकार की होनी चाहिएँ। मैं इस बिल को इस लिए लायी हूँ कि इस पर अच्छी तरह से चर्चा हो और यहाँ इस विषय पर व्याख्यान भी हो।

इसके पहले भी डावरी बिल मेरे नाम से आया था और मैंने उसको बड़े दुःख के साथ वापस लिया था जब कि मुझे यकीन दिलाया गया कि सरकार बहुत जल्द डावरी बिल लावेगी। लेकिन एक असा हो गया उसका नामां निशान भी नहीं दिखायी देता। न मालूम उसका क्या हुआ। उसी के साथ ही एक सप्रेशन आफ इम्मारल ट्रीफिक बिल भी आया था। उसकी भी वही गति हुई है। न मालूम उसमें क्या हो रहा है।

मैं ज्यादा न कहकर अपने भाई और बहिनों से कहूँगी कि वे इस पर बोलें। आज हमको समाज में परिवर्तन करने की बहुत जरूरत है और ये चीजें जो यहाँ आती हैं इसी लिए लायी जाती हैं। हम इसी लिए इन चीजों को गवर्नमेंट से सामने रखते हैं कि समाज में परिवर्तन किया जाय। मैं और ज्यादा न कह कर इस बिल को पेश करती हूँ और मैं समझती हूँ कि इस पर परे भाई और बहिनें बोलेंगी।

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate and licence institutions caring for women and children; be taken into consideration."

Shri Pataskar: I might intervene at this stage to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House certain facts. A Bill identical to the Bill now moved was discussed at the instance of Shrimati Maniben Patel. I think it was discussed on the 3rd April and 3rd September 1954 for about three hours, and the Home Minister then intervened and explained as to what the position was, which I will again clarify as the matter stands at present. That Bill was adjourned *sine die* after discussion for about three hours. The position at the present moment is that with respect to children—the Bill relates to children and women—a Bill was already introduced by Government in the Rajya Sabha and has been passed by them. I think it has come to this House, but it has not been discussed so far as this House is concerned, I think that was also the state of things at the time when the Home Minister intervened last time on the 3rd September 1954.

As regards the other Bill for suppression of immoral traffic in women and girls,—these are the two counterparts—it has been sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat. It was sent some time back for being published, but on enquiry, I learn today that it is not yet published for the technical reason that when the House is in session, they would not like to publish it without the permission of the House. Therefore, I propose that Government—either myself or the Home Minister—will introduce a Bill before the end of this session with respect to the other part of this measure. It is desirable, therefore, that when these two Bills are brought forward in the House, that is, both for children as well as for women, I think the matter would be in a better position than it stands at present.

As stated, one Bill is now being brought. Because there are so many technical questions involved, I think when these two Bills are before the House, it is much better so that the whole thing can be discussed in a proper perspective. The Government is in full sympathy with the object underlying it, and if there has been delay, I may say that it has been due to the fact that probably there was some doubt as to whether such a legislation comes in the Concurrent List or the State List. But so far as the Government is concerned, it has taken a decision and now that Bill also will be introduced in this House. The opinions of the various State Governments were invited. In fact, with regard to children, in Bombay there is some provision already made. In view of these things and the fact that already the Bill relating to children has been passed by the other House, I assure the House that the Bill will be introduced in this House before the end of this session. The Bill is already there, it has been even sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, but now that the House is in session, naturally the Speaker would not like to publish it without leave being granted for that purpose. That Bill, I have ascertained the intention of the Government, will be introduced in this House before the end of this session.

Mr. Chairman: In view of what the hon. Minister has said, what does the hon. Mover of the motion want to say?

Shrimati Uma Nehru: I would like it to continue, and I do not intend to withdraw the Bill.

Shri Pataskar: There is one more thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members. Many of the lady Members have given notice of certain Bills. The Children's Bill only relates to Part C States, and as I said, it was thought at one time that the Central Government, or, rather, the Union Parliament can legislate only for Part C States and not to other States. It was doubtful

whether this subject was in the concurrent list. Now, so far as this Government is concerned, when that Bill comes before us, we will examine it. I think the Government is now inclined the view that Parliament can make legislation on that subject. They have ascertained the views of several States, and with the exception of one or two perhaps, most of the States have agreed, that the Centre could legislate. The present view, as I find, appears to be that we can legislate. Therefore, as I said, at the time when the Children's Bill comes before this House, suitable amendments can be moved and Government can examine the question. We also want that there must be one uniform law applicable to women and children throughout India.

Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South): I had introduced the Children's Protection Bill, and it was accepted by the Education Ministry, but after that, I find that it has been absolutely shelved. The Bill that was brought forward by Government was meant only for part C States it will not apply to other States. This Bill which has been brought up now, is really somewhat like my Bill, and it seeks to regulate and license children's homes, etc. So, I do not see why the private Members' Bills should not be taken into consideration. Each time a private Member's Bill comes up, it is shelved. I have a bit of complaint regarding this procedure. I say that private Members' Bill should be considered and my Bill about protection for children should also come in.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): The ballot has been favourable to the other lady Member and not to you.

Shrimati Jayashri (Bombay-Suburban): Last time I had an opportunity to express my views on this Bill. At that time also, I had said that the Children's Bill should have included in its scope the other children also, besides delinquents. But it has restricted its scope only to delinquents. This Bill which is now before the House intends to ask the Government

to give licence to those Homes which are genuine. We want to protect the children from being exploited by bogus Homes. This Bill includes the children of other description, besides the delinquent children, while the Children's Bill is restricted and gives protection only to those children who are delinquents and who will be brought before the juvenile courts. So, I would like to ask the Minister to make it clear. While speaking on that Bill in the Rajya Sabha, I think it was Mrs. Sita Paramanand who had drawn the attention of the Minister to this fact. But I do not think that this question was discussed in the Rajya Sabha. So, I would like the Minister to make it clear whether the scope will be widened in the Children's Bill and whether the licensing of other Homes also will be included in the Children's Bill.

Shri Pataskar, in the circumstances, I have no desire that discussion should be avoided. It can go on.

Mr. Chairman: I think the Mover as well as other Members are very keen that there should be discussion. So, I think we could discuss the Bill.

Shrimati A. Kale (Nagpur): I would like to say a few words with regard to the Bill that has been sponsored by Shrimati Uma Nehru. This Bill seems to license the institutions which are meant for women and children. I would like to go a step further and suggest that all such institutions should be taken over by Government and properly conducted because, there was a bad case in my State where to all intents and purposes, in the House which was run for the protection of destitute women the women were freely being used for immoral purposes. The police found it out and now the institution is under Government care. But why should we wait till such cases are found out. In order that the Homes are run properly, my suggestion is that wherever those Homes are situated, they should all be controlled and conducted by Government so that there will be

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regular supervision and these poor women will not be made use of for immoral purposes.

So is the case for children's institutions also. Many of the elder children that infest the streets and all sorts of localities are sent as agents by some people who regularly trade in this business, and those people are making huge tons of money while they do not afford any facilities for the education and improvement of children. So, if Government takes over all these institutions, I think law and order could be more secure and this longstanding blot on our society will also be removed. After all, in the Constitution, we have our fundamental rights guaranteed. It is guaranteed to all the citizens, and the citizens include women and children, but the destitute women have no freedom of action or behaviour and they lead a life of shame and misery. The Homes do not take any care of them and they do not see that they get education so that they may improve in the years to come. Therefore, all these inequalities that obtain in society have got to be removed. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Law to be more sympathetic and be more prone to improve the lot of these people for whom there is nobody to speak. I would request the Minister not to indulge in dilly-dally measures as, I am afraid, he is indulging in, and allow this measure to be passed. The Homes should be immediately taken over by Government so that the lot of the women can be improved.

Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South): I should like to say a few words. When this Bill is brought forward in this House, the Government have come forward to say that they are bringing in such Bills very soon and so we should take back this Bill. But I would like to point out that in Delhi there is a institution of moral and social hygiene and on behalf of that institution Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru is trying for a very long time to persuade the Government to do

something to improve that institution. When she found it impossible to move Government further, she just asked us to move in this matter here. The House will see that almost all the women Members of this House have taken up the same Bill to impress upon the Government that this disease of society is a very serious one and it has been there for a very long time. So, it is the duty of the Government to do something in the matter as women and children are very important assets to society. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to look into this matter as early as possible. The Law Minister said just now that in Bombay State a law of this nature has already been passed for children; but it does not cover the whole of the State, it only relates to some big cities. And the reason shown that Government has not got enough funds to apply it to all the small places in the Bombay State. What I feel is that Government should first give money to such things as are most important and then bring their attention to other things which are less necessary in the State.

Shrimati Kale just now pointed out that there are so many institutions which pretend that they are doing some social work in the society but which actually exploit the women and children in the society and use them for immoral purposes. It will not be possible for Government to take over all such institutions but at least Government should license these institutions so that they cannot carry on such immoral activities.

I feel therefore that in this case at least the Government should give the privilege to a non-official Member to move this Bill and get it passed.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: I would like to point out the very great necessity of the Women's and Children's Institutions Licensing Bill to come up before the Government, because, as we have just now heard from Shrimati

Kale and also from the last speaker, women are at a very great disadvantage and we do need some sort of licensing of children's and women's institutions in order to give them their rightful place and in order that they should have more facilities regarding their welfare. As regards children I can say that it is of the greatest necessity at the present moment to have something for this purpose for looking after their welfare.

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): On a point of order, Madam. There seems to be no quorum in the House.

Mr. Chairman: We have almost come to the end of the day. Let the bell be rung.

Shrimati Sushama Sen: So I fully support this Bill and I do think that Government should consider that this sort of Bill brought up by private Members should have some place and should be passed by the whole House.

Shri KeshavaIengar (Bangalore North): I do not think it is in any way out of place for me also to participate in the debate on this Bill. (Some Hon. Members: Not at all). I am one of those who feel that the children and the youth of our country are a sacred trust, and anything that we do by way of taking care of that trust is weighed by the manner in which we ensure the freedom that we have acquired at very great cost. I am sure if only we take particular care of the children and women in particular, it will speak very nicely of us, and we will not be doing anything extraordinary but only discharging an obligatory duty cast upon us.

I congratulate my colleague who has been pleased to place before the House this Bill, and I really cannot understand the unwillingness or the hesitancy of the Government in accepting the principles of this Bill and in placing before the House at the earliest possible stage if they so desire, another Bill incorporating the same reliefs that are sought for in this Bill. If the relief that is sought for in this Bill is the issuing of

licences for the institutions that care for women and children, if the issue of licences will get a thorough control over all these institutions, it is very necessary in the present conditions of our country that we should bring these institutions under our control. As such it is very necessary that this House gives its wholehearted consent to this Bill.

Shrimati Ua Palchoudhury (Nabadwip): I am warmly in accord with this Bill which has been brought by Shrimati Uma Nehru. That some such Bill should come into force quickly is certainly very desirable. It is a great shame that a private Member should have had to bring forward such a Bill or bring this matter to the notice of the Government. There should have been such an Act working a long time ago. That is my opinion, because it is vitally important that children and women must be cared for above all things. Children are the citizens of the future and anything that can be done for them is not too much; any trouble taken for them is an investment for the future.

There are one or two points that this Bill has not perhaps considered. That is, once you license these homes or institutions that are going to take care of women and children there should be scope for the inmates to be able to communicate with such relatives as they want to. Of course that is a two-edged thing. When you bring them, the inmates should have facility to communicate with such relatives as they may have. On the other hand, when you have these licensed institutions, the inspection and the looking after of them must be very thorough. Anybody coming to these institutions and claiming a child saying "I am the child's uncle or aunt, I want to take the child away" should not be allowed to do so, until there has been very careful investigation. If one only knew in towns what happens to hundreds of unfortunate children! It does not bear thinking about! There are various communities of beggars who go around, who deform children, people with such warped minds that

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nothing is too obnoxious for them to do, when they take the children away from these homes. What happens to girls and women can well be imagined! These institutions very often, because they have not enough funds, are willing to let their inmates go! It is one less mouth to feed—one less to clothe and look after!

So the first object of Government must be to give aid to these institutions, license them, look after them properly so that the requirement of the Constitution in regard to children is carried out. According to our Constitution "the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment". In Free India this requirement of the Constitution should be carried out to the full, and all children should get the love and care in a welfare State which is their birth-right. I hope Government will bring a Bill like this soon and not leave it only to private Members to consider the welfare of the children of India.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I think there are two reasons why I rise to speak this afternoon on this Bill. The first is the reason prompted by my sense of chivalry. This Bill had been put forward by my respected sister Shrimati Uma Nehru.

Mr. Chairman: I think the hon. Member should take it as a responsibility.

Shri D. C. Sharma: First I am chivalrous, then I am responsible.

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Meerut Dist.—South): He is chivalrously responsible.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have found that most of the persons who have supported this Bill are ladies. Only one gentleman came forward to support this Bill. I therefore think that we should try to support this Bill which is very necessary.

Shrimati Uma Nehru has done something which is in keeping with the directive principles of our State policy which say that children and young men and young ladies should not be exploited. It is also said that they will be looked after in the material field as well as in the moral field. I am very sorry that our State which, in terms of years, is very young, has not had the time to implement this directive principle of State policy as it has not been able to implement many other necessary and indispensable principles of the State policy. For instance, we have not been able to give the people free and compulsory education which is also one of the directive principles of the Constitution. But, the fact of the matter is that our talk about the Welfare State will sound almost hollow unless we do something in both these fields, in the field of education and in the field to which Shrimati Uma Nehru has referred in her Bill. Of course, when we progress further, we will have Homes for old men, Poor Houses, Houses for beggars, Houses for labour, To begin with, I think that this is a thing which is most needed.

Why is this most needed? It is for this reason. In our country you find orphanages all over; in small towns, in big towns, you find what are called Children's Homes or orphanages. At the same time, you find in these big towns institutions which are called Women's Homes. What do they mean? I remember the wife of the Director General of Police in Delhi once made a surprise inspection of these so-called Homes for women. It was done some time back. She took with her a large number of policemen. What did she find? Hundreds of girls were being forced into an immoral life by the so-called managers, governors of these women's institutions. These girls were interrogated. It was discovered that most of them wanted to go back to a respectable life. They had been enticed into these Homes under false promises and false pretences. They had been made to lead a life of degradation and humiliation under lure of

one kind or other. If that could happen in the city of Delhi, which is the capital of India, under the very nose of the biggest officials, police and others, who assemble here, you can understand what could happen in big towns and small towns. This condition is not peculiar to Delhi. Every town in India has a similar tale to tell. Banaras has got a tale to tell. Our holy places, I am sorry to say, have a bad name, for this kind of thing. There are so many places in this country where this kind of thing is going on. Our women are driven into, if I may use that expression, moral slavery. I think that is a stigma upon our society and upon our social system. That is a blot on our social structure. I think Shrimati Uma Nehru has done the right thing by focussing our attention upon this point.

It is not only the women that want relief. Reference was also made to Children's Houses and orphanages. These orphanages are homes of sweated labour, I should say. These orphanages are training grounds for beggars. Some time back, I read a novel of Dickens. I forget the name of that novel. In that, we are told how a young boy is taken to a Home like this, a Children's Home and how he is trained in the glorious art of pick-pocketing. I do not know whether these Homes train these young children in that art: God forbid that they should do so. I can tell you that they train them to be parasites on society, to be genteel beggars, beggars of a kind, which I think is not desirable to a society, that has had such glorious traditions in the past. Some time back, I saw a picture. In that picture we were told about Children's Homes. When a child goes to that Home, what does he get there? Does he get education? Does he get any civic training? Does he get any kind of moral instruction? Nothing of the kind. He is given a uniform and he is asked to parade in the streets. He sings a hymn. What is that hymn about? He asks in that hymn of the passersby, "give me one pice, or two pice or one anna". We are living in

free India. We tolerated all these things in those days when we were not free. Just now, a lady Member said that the children are the sacred trust of a nation. I agree with her. Children are the most precious treasure of a nation. I agree with her. I say that if the State cannot undertake to look after all the children of this description and all the women of this description, at least the State should see to it that the Homes and institutions are properly regulated, properly inspected and properly looked after. I hope you won't mind if I refer to my experience in Turkey. At Istanbul, we were taken to a Children's home. It was three or four miles away from Istanbul. We saw children from three months and six months to 5 years, 10 years and 12 years. We saw that that home was very well built and it had all the modern conveniences. It was being looked after by highly educated ladies. One of them spoke French and some of us did not know that language. It was being looked after by the whole State. The State has taken upon itself to look after those children who are left destitute. I would therefore say that something should be done in this direction.

Of course, the hon. Minister has said that he is in sympathy with this Bill. He has said also that he is also bringing another Bill. Now, I may tell you I have yet to find a Bill with which our Government is not in sympathy, and yet, I must say in all humility and with due respect, that mere sympathy cannot carry us very far. Legislation, especially social legislation, I am sorry to say, is very slow in coming and very slow in maturing. I do not say other kinds of legislation should not come forward. I am not comparing one type of legislation with another type of legislation. There are some types of legislation which are necessitated by the exigencies of our State's needs, I do not deny that. But I say that the history of social legislation in this Parliament is a very sorry tale. Our Government does not show that kind of eagerness to tackle social problems which it should, because, after all, the Government has

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got to be the social conscience of the whole people of India. And here, Shrimati Uma Nehru has done something which is in consonance with the social conscience of the entire country, and I do not see any reason why this Bill should not be accepted by the Government here and now. Of course, you may say that the Bill will have to be re-drafted. Well, it can be re-drafted. But, I would say that there is nothing in this Bill—I have read this Bill from beginning to end—to which any objection can be taken. The definitions are all right. They do not raise any problems, unless my learned friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava finds some defects in them. The terms for licensing are perfectly clear. Even a layman like me can understand them. And the machinery for inspection and other things are made perfectly clear. So, I would say that this Bill should be accepted by Government here and now, so that this piece of social legislation can be put on the statute-book as early as possible.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar (Tiruppur): I have great pleasure in expressing my fullest sympathies with the objects of this Bill.

We who are conversant with social institutions in this country know how many of these children's Homes are abused. I know, I have read them in stories and I have heard of experiences where children are taken to Homes where they are deformed, want only deformed for purposes of exciting the sympathies of people, so that they can be developed as means of earning a livelihood, earning money through begging. We also know of lots of Homes—they are called Homes—where women, adolescent girls, are brought and kept and they are used as brothels. Nobody can prevent them, because under the Brothel Act you know how difficult it is to prove these things. So, it is very necessary that some sort of licensing authority may be established in all States so that

the people who run these Homes may be approved in a way.

We know that even in the establishment of elementary schools, of high schools and day schools in which the responsibility that is shouldered by the management is small, even in these we—at least in the State which I have the honour to come from—insist upon registered managements. We refuse individuals to take up the running of the schools. We also insist upon endowments to be provided so that there will be security and continuity in the running of these institutions. If that can be so even for day schools, these homes which are supposed to shelter them, which are supposed to provide boarding for them, which are supposed to give them all the training that is necessary for human life, it is much more necessary that we must go into the facts as to who manages these Homes and as to how they are managed. I think there cannot be any two opinions on this matter that we should have regulations to guide these Homes, regulations which will provide for the better management of these homes.

In this matter I have got only two or three points to say, and one of them is this, that constitutionally it may be objected to. Item No. 4 in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution reads as follows:

“Prisons, reformatory, Borstal institutions and other institutions of alike nature, and persons detained therein; arrangements with other States for the use of prisons and other institutions.”

These come under the State List. It may be argued that, with this subject coming under the State List, a Bill like this can be brought in only for Part C States for which we have the right to legislate, that for the other States for which we have no right to legislate under Lists which are particularly their own, it may

not be possible for us under the Constitution to enact a legislation like this.

Shri Pataskar: May I tell the hon. Member that it is exactly for this reason that the Children's Bill which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha was confined only to children's and such institutions in Part C States? Was the hon. Member not here?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): We have not been able to follow what fell from the hon. Minister.

Shri Pataskar: I will explain that. When I intervened at an earlier stage, I said that there was a Children's Bill which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha which has been passed by them, and which will come here. Now, it relates only to Part C States because it was thought that so far as this House, or Parliament, was concerned, it was competent to enact such legislation for such institutions only in Part C States. With regard to A and B States, that ought to be done, in view of the provision in article 4 of the Constitution, by the States themselves, and I take this opportunity of explaining any misunderstanding that may exist. We also approached the State Governments and most of them have agreed that after this Bill is passed, they would introduce in their own State Legislatures uniform Bills so that any constitutional difficulty will not remain and there will be uniform provision for all children throughout all States. It is not a question of any desire on the part of the Government to evade the issue, but there is a constitutional difficulty which they will try to overcome by the proposed measure. That is what they are doing.

Shri Tek Chand (Ambala-Simla): When?

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I point out another provision in the same Seventh Schedule under the Concurrent List? That is item No. 28 which says that charities and charitable

institutions, charitable and religious endowments and religious institutions are in the Concurrent List. I think it is a matter for legal opinion whether all these Homes that are being run and that are proposed to be run are not charitable institutions.

Shri Pataskar: They may or may not be charitable.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: I believe all these Homes are run as charitable institutions. And if they are charitable institutions, they come under the Concurrent List under the item which I just now read out. I do not think that things are very clear that because of item No. 4 in the State List in the Seventh Schedule, these things are entirely barred from Central direction and management. I think it is up to the Government of India to take legal opinion in this matter and see whether it does not come under 28 of the concurrent list which I read just now—Charities and Charitable Institutions.

I would like to say one thing more. Even presuming that Government finds a constitutional difficulty in this matter, I think there may not be any difficulty in accepting it at least so far as Part C States are concerned. In this matter I think we will be doing well in giving the lead to the State Governments, knowing the evils as we do, knowing the abuses as we do and knowing that in every big city, the so-called homes are the most abused institutions except where they are managed by enlightened people.

Somebody said here that "the children of the nation are a sacred trust of this House and of this country". There is no truer statement than that. The future of the nation lies in the children of this great country. I see many of them going about in the streets without self-respect and without any semblance of decency. Many of them are put in 'Homes' and they are exploited and abused, and there is no kind of regulation existing for them. I am very unhappy about this.

[Shri T. S. A. Chettiar]

We know that wherever people want to get Government grants, some sort of control is there. In the State from which I come, there is considerable control over institutions which want to get Government grants— orphanages and the like. I do not refer to these institutions. These institutions which want to get Government aid are under control; they are under inspection and some sort of enquiry by Government. But I want to refer to the numerous institutions which do not come under this category, which are not recognised by Government, and which do not get Government grant. Still many of them are run in the country and are being abused by exploiters. This, I think, is a matter which must be taken up.

I do believe that Government will give a sympathetic hearing and a sympathetic reception to this suggestion. I do not know whether there are any other objections to this Bill. But certainly there cannot be any objection to the suggestions underlying this Bill. I would like Government to take up the matter of bringing about a comprehensive Bill, if necessary, which will involve the application of the principles involved in this Bill. So that that will begin a new chapter in our national life, and we can take care of the children of this great country.

श्री धुलेकर (विजला भांसी दक्षिण) : यह जो बिल आपके सामने उपस्थित किया गया है, इसका मैं अनुमोदन करता हूँ। अभी जब हमारा विधि मंत्री ने यह बात कही कि एक बिल पार्ट 'सी' स्टेट्स के लिये राज्य सभा में पास हो गया है और वह यहाँ पर आने वाला है और उसके बाद हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंटों से बातचीत करेंगे और उनको हम न कहें कि वह इस प्रकार का एक बिल लावें। तो यह तो एक बहुत लम्बी सी बात हुई कि पहले वह बिल यहाँ पर पेश होगा, पास होगा फिर तमाम जितनी स्टेट्स हैं उनको लिसा जायगा। सारी स्टेट्स इस बात को

कहेंगी। कोई कहेंगे कि हमारा पास फाइनेंस नहीं है, कोई कहेंगे कि हम ने यह बात ठीक समझी नहीं और कोई स्टेट कहेंगी कि हमारा यहाँ इसकी जरूरत नहीं है। हम इस बात को देखते हैं कि जितने इस प्रकार के बिल जो कि प्राइवेट मेंबरस रखते हैं यहाँ पर इस सदन में, वह किसी न किसी बहाने से गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा हमेशा यहाँ से टाल दिये जाते हैं। अभी कुछ समय पहले सेठ गोविन्द दास का एक बिल आया था जिसमें उन्होंने एक मामूली बात रखी थी कि भारतवर्ष के लोग इस बात को चाहते हैं कि गाय और दूसरे दूध देने वाले जो पशु हैं उनकी रक्षा की जाय, उसके लिये भी यह कहा गया कि आप इसको थोड़ा हटा लें, आगे इस विषय में एक बिल सरकार लाने वाली है। जो चीज तब कही गयी वही चीज इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में भी कही जाती है। इसी प्रकार से इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में भी कहा जाता है। मुझे नहीं मालूम है कि इस के लिये कितना समय लिया जायेगा और कितना विचार इस पर किया जायेगा। मैं इस बात को जानता हूँ, और हमारा जितने साथी हैं वह इस बात को जानते हैं कि हर एक शहर में बहुत से स्वार्थी लोग, कुछ लोग तो स्वयम् और कुछ संस्थायें बनाये हुए ऐसे हैं जो कि उन बच्चों और स्त्रियों के जरिये हजारों रुपये कमा रहे हैं। संस्था का नाम अनाथालय या वनिताश्रम होता है जो कि उस के दरवाजे पर लिखा रहता है, किन्तु उस में जो बातें की जाती हैं और दंडी जाती हैं, उस से हमारा समाज बहुत कलंकित होता है।

श्रीमती जी, आप इस बात को जानती होंगी कि बड़े बड़े शहरों में वनिताश्रम के नाम पर सैकड़ों स्त्रियाँ रात दिन भगाई जाती हैं। जिलों में इन वनिताश्रमों के एजेंट फिसा करते हैं, स्त्रियाँ फिसा करती हैं, चूड़ी बालियाँ फिसा करती हैं और जिस समय पुरुष लोग दफ्तर चल जाते हैं उस समय १० और ४ बजे के बीच में बहुत सी स्त्रियाँ गोटा बेचने आती हैं, कोई और

जें बचने आती हैं, कोई बरतन बचने आती हैं, कोई औरतें कपड़े ले कर उन स्त्रियों को बरतन देती हैं और इस के जरिये से वह घरों में घुस जाती हैं और स्त्रियों को बहकाती हैं और इस तरह से बहुत सी दहात की स्त्रियां भगाई जाती हैं। फिर वनिताश्रम में दो, चार, दस दिन रक्खी जाती हैं, उस के बाद बहुत से दलाल लगे रहते हैं जिन के जरिये से वह स्त्रियां दूसरी दूसरी जगहों पर रुपया ले कर के बेची जाती हैं।

इसी प्रकार से, श्रीमती जी, आप देखिये कि इकों पर बच्चे अनाथालय के नाम पर धूम मारते हैं, पैसे मांगते हुए घरों में घुस जाते हैं, दिव्यों में चलते हैं, कहीं पर बांसुरी बजाते हैं कहीं ढोल बजाते हैं, यहां पर भी आप देखिये कि जो पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों के बंगले हैं वहां अक्सर इस तरह के बच्चे और स्त्रियां आती हैं और कोई खत दिखा कर के कहती हैं, बच्चे खत दिखा कर कहते हैं, उस पर मांहर भी गी होती हैं, वह कहते हैं कि हम अनाथालय आये हैं और इस प्रकार से वह सहायता मांगते हैं। यह चीजें आज इतनी स्पष्ट हैं कि मैं उन को दोहराना नहीं चाहता, किन्तु अपने ला मनिस्टर साहब से मैं इस बात की प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूं कि जिस प्रकार से अभी उन्होंने एक नोट पेश किया है कि हम ने एसा एसा काम किया है। मैं समझता हूं कि वह इस नोट को दोहरावेंगे और फिर उस के बाद अपनी राय को कायम करेंगे। मैं तो यही प्रार्थना करूंगा कि उन्होंने अपनी जो राय पेश की है उस को जरूर दोहराने की कोशिश करें और एसा कि हमारे मित्र ने बताया कि वह बिल

कान्करन्ट लिस्ट में आता है और जितने इस प्रकार के चैरिटेबल इन्स्टिट्यूशन्स हैं उन के लिये इस प्रकार का कायदा यहां बनाया जा सकता है। मैं तो यह कहने वाला था कि गवर्नमेंट को इस में कोई बाधा नहीं होनी चाहिये थी कि जिस समय यह बिल आया उसी वक्त गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से एक सुभाव आता कि हम इस के बारे में दोनों हाउसेज की एक ज्वाइंट कमिटी बनाते हैं और इस में जो कुछ खामियां हैं उन को दूर करते हैं।

5 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member can continue the next day.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL

(Amendment of section 77 etc.)

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: I introduce the Bill.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 11th December, 1954.