

कहते हैं तो यह आप के लिए और जरूरी है कि 18 वर्ष की आयु वालों के लिए जो माननीय सदस्य ने विधेयक रखा है उस को मंजूर कीजिए और संविधान में ऐसा संशोधन कीजिए जिस में 18 वर्ष में उन्हें मत देने का अधिकार प्राप्त हो। जब नौजवानों को 18 वर्ष की आयु में नमाम बातों के लिए बालिग मान लिया है तो इस सवाल पर न मानने की कोई वजह नहीं है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह आप के लिए बहुत ही जरूरी है क्योंकि यह एक राष्ट्रीय मांग बन गई है, नमाम छान्न सगठन जितने है उन की मांग बन गई है। इसलिए, इसमें एक रूपता लाई जाए और हर आदमी जो बालिग हो गया है उस को वोट देने का अधिकार दिया जाए। इस विधेयक को मंजूर करने में आप को कोई दिक्कत नहीं होनी चाहिए। अगर इस बात में कोई दिक्कत है कि यह विधेयक बिरोधी पक्ष से लाया गया है तो हम कैसे उसे मंजूर कर ले तो हमारा अनुरोध है और मेरा खयाल है इस सदन से तामम लोग इससे सहमत होंगे, सिद्धांत रूप में आप इसे कबूल कर लीजिए और अपनी ओर से ऐसा एक विधेयक लाइए जिस के जरिए तमाम नौजवानों को जिन की अठारह वर्ष की आयु हो गई है वोट देने का अधिकार प्राप्त हो। इतना ही नहीं, मैं तो यह भी चाहता हूँ कि जहां 18 वर्ष की आयु में उन्हें वोट देने का अधिकार आप दें वहां 21 वर्ष की आयु में उन को प्रतिनिधि के रूप में खड़े होने और चुनाव सडने का अधिकार भी देना चाहिए। इस प्रकार से एक पूरा विधेयक सम्यक रूप में सदन के सामने लाइए जिस में इन दोनों बातों का समावेश हो और सदन उसे स्वीकार करेगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं यह निवेदन करंगा, कि इस विधेयक को जिन में कोई विवाद का विषय नहीं है इस को अपनी प्रतिष्ठा का सवाल न बनाकर या तो स्वीकार करें या अपने ओर से ऐसा बिल लावे। यदि आप ऐसा बिल लाएंगे तो मेरा खयाल है कि सर्वसम्मति में यह सदन उसे स्वीकार करेगा। मैं माननीय सदस्य व इस विधेयक का समर्थन करना हूँ।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN (Tellicherry): Sir, I am very happy to extend support to the Bill introduced by Shri Pandeya. This right to vote at the age of 18 being granted to the young people has been discussed in this House several times before. Further, it is not as if the young people of only our country are demanding it. This is a demand raised by the young people all over the world

This demand has been conceded in the recent past by several Governments of the world. The only argument in favour of this is not that some Governments have accepted it. But it is a strong argument that the Government of United States, that the Government of United Kingdom and, last month, the Government of France had accepted it. I am referring to these three countries because these are the countries which belong to the capitalist world.

This is a right given to the young people by the socialist countries from the very inception of those countries. Maybe, the Government might say that it is a different system altogether which is existing in those countries. That is why I pointed out that the highly advanced capitalist countries have given this right to vote at the age of 18 to their young people.

Another argument might be advanced that these highly advanced coun-

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

tries could afford to experiment by giving a right of vote to young people but we may not be able to do it. I do not think that this will stand as a reasonable argument. If you look around our country, Ceylon which is a country, more or less, similar to that of ours had granted the right only two years back. Bangladesh, a country which was liberated only two years back, and the conditions in that country in so many ways are not as good as that we have our country, has also given that right to vote at the age 18 to their young people. Nothing has happened in those countries that should strike a note of alarm to the Government of India. So, my request is that since there is nothing dangerous, since there is nothing bad involved in it, there is no reason for the Government of India to deny this right to our young people.

Today, the Indian Youth Congress has brought lakhs of people to the capital of our country. I welcome them that they have come to this part of the country, to the capital of our country, to voice certain demands of the people. Maybe, the hon. Minister will also agree that many of those who came to demonstrate against fascism, reaction, black-marketing, hoarding, profiteering and all that, were all below the age of 18. If these young people can take a position in relation to the policies of our Government, while demonstrating their opinion, while voicing their protest, why can't they vote at the time they are called upon to vote?

Another thing is that not a single party in this country, including the ruling party, had opposed this demand in public. More than that, last time, in 1971, when Mrs. Indira Gandhi had caught the imagination of a large number of young people in our country by adopting certain radical policies, at that time, an impression was created in our country that the young people will be allowed to

vote at the age of 18. If I might say, this is a breach of confidence. This is another example of breaking of promise. It will not be denied by the Minister.

Last time, while replying to a Half-an-hour discussion, the Minister himself said that they have no intention to deny the young people the right to vote at the age of 18. But now I have all my doubts that they have no intention to grant this right to the young people in the coming General Elections. The elections are not very far off. At that time, when I raised the question of delimitation of constituencies, the Minister said that not to worry about it, that the delimitation of constituencies will go on and that even if the process of delimitation will go on, the right can be permitted to be granted to the young people and they can be brought into the electorate.

Let me ask a pointed question. There are almost 1½ years to go for the next General Elections. If they do not take a final decision on this matter, does it not mean that this Government is going to deny the right of the young people to vote at the age of 18 in the next General Elections? My fear is that, by gaining time, by postponing the decision, they are virtually going to deny the right of the young people to have a say in the affairs of this country. This is something which is not fully in tune with what has been happening around the world. In this country, as everywhere else in the world, the young people today are not like the young people who were living a decade or a few decades ago; they are more literate more educated. We are living, as people say, in an age of technological revolution and scientific innovations. The young minds are receptive and they are looking forward for new values; they are trying to discard the old ones. In this situation, the young people have every right to demand the right to vote at the age

of 18 which no Government having any sense of democracy should deny in today's situation. But, unfortunately, this Government are not learning lessons from experience. That is my complaint. Last time when this discussion was going on, some friends pointed out that, if they are given the right to vote at the age of 18, our universities and schools would become the hot bed of politics. But what happened in Gujarat? Was it an accident? I may have my own reservations about what happened there. That is a different matter. What is happening in Bihar? I am deadly against the policies of Shri Jayaprakash Narayanan. That is not the point. But the fact remains that today in the universities and colleges there is a crisis. The young people in our country are disgusted with the present system. They want a change. They want to change the basic policies that you are pursuing, the policies which are breeding only unemployment and price rise and are helping the black marketeers and are sheltering the hoarders and profiteers. Where will they have their say? They do not like corruption. Where will they have their say about all these things? These people who are wearing the garb of rulers of the country say that these young people can go and revolt in the street but they will not be given the right to vote. There is a fallacy in this kind of thinking. Those young people who are coming to the streets are not the people who would like to come to the streets. But there is no other opening for the ventilation of their feelings. They would like to contribute positively for the development of the country, they would like to contribute positively for the democratic process in our country to advance. These young people today are more educated, they have better understanding; they are the people who can contribute greatly to see that we live in a democracy. But this policy that is being adopted by the Government will not help. These people who are sitting in the Treasury Benches

speak very nice of the young people; they say, 'Come on; you take up the responsibility for rebuilding the country'. But what is there to rebuild when they have no say in the future? When there are merciless exploitations taking place in the country, when people are exploited to the marrow, the young people who are creating wealth in the country have no say. This is not good. This will not serve the purpose of democracy. This will not serve the purpose for which the country stands dedicated and committed. That is why, Sir, we demand that the Government should not take a position. They should not stand on prestige. They should come out and positively respond to it. This is a Bill moved by a Jana Sangh Member. I know that. But that should not stand as a taboo. This is a noble cause, a cause of the young people to have their say on the future of the country. So, the Government should positively respond to this. If they do not accept it, I can understand. The Government will have its limitations—I accept it. But they may agree that this Bill will be sent to a Select Committee or they say or give an assurance that they will bring another Bill to give this right. Or, at least let them say that they will circulate this Bill and get the opinion from the people and within the life of this Lok Sabha they will bring a Bill and amend the Constitution so that the young people who are 18, the new generation, the post-Independence generation will have a say about our future.

[Shri C. K. Chandrapan]

With these words I fully support the Bill moved by my friend Shri Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

17.82 hrs.

RE.: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call another Member, as per agenda at 5.30 we are expected to take up the Half-an-hour discussion raised by Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh on the package scheme to attract Indian scientists, technologists and engineers working abroad. I want to know the sense of the House—whether to continue with this and postpone the half-an-hour discussion. Only 45 minutes are allotted for this Bill.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छबाय (मुराना) :  
हम को अगली बार के लिये स्थगित कर दीजिए,  
हम समय आधे घण्टे की बहस को ले लीजिये।

SHRI R. R. SHARMA (Banda): Let us take up the Half-an-hour discussion. This can be continued next week.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU-  
RAMAIAH): We have no objection to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because there are quite a number of speakers who want to speak on your important Bill, I think this can be postponed to the next allotted day for private Members' Bills, and we may now take up the Half-an-hour discussion.

Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

17.84 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

PACKAGE SCHEME TO ATTRACT INDIAN  
SCIENTISTS, TECHNOLOGISTS AND ENGI-  
NEERS WORKING ABROAD

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Phulpur): This phenomenon of "brain-drain" is a function of the "wealth-poverty" gap between the countries of the world. And so long as we continue to treat human talent as a commodity, it will seek the market; legitimately or illegitimately and the forces of supply and demand will ruthlessly siphon it wherever their equilibrium may be. Brain will continue to be sold, smuggled and blackmarketed just like gold or uranium. And so long as the underdeveloped countries continue to seek answers within the ambit of the economics of Adam Smith, the answer that they will get is that there is no answer.

We must assess the odds we are pitted against. We are pitted against the mighty wealth of the affluent countries. We cannot hope to match the emoluments of our scientists or the facilities in our laboratories with those of the developed countries. If we are seeking answers in this direction, we are seeking answers which we cannot afford. We have to seek our answers elsewhere. We will have to address ourselves to the human element to the human intellect itself, and understand its sensitivities and susceptibilities and match them to the needs and the demands of the country. Before I come to the solution of this problem I would like to lay before you the dimension of the problem of which we have had a glimpse in the UN Secretary General's report followed by a detailed study by UNCTAD. The UN Secretary General's report says:

"Relatively few advanced nations are now obtaining a valuable resource for which they pay virtually nothing."