

25-08-2005 - Further discussion on Resolution regarding reservation of one third of seats for women in all the state Legislatures and Parliament moved by Shri C. K. Chandrappan on the 6th May, 2005. (PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL)

(Shri. Chandrappan withdrawing the resolution after heated debates)

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Hence, unless a consensus is arrived at, it may not be possible to finalize the proposal. This will take some more time.

Therefore, in the circumstances, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Resolution...
(Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): You said that in view of something, I should withdraw the Resolution. But on what basis, should I withdraw it? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, please be brief.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I should hear from the Minister.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government is trying their best to come to a consensus, and then they will come with legislation.

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: I have stated that in the circumstances, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Resolution.... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Do you want me to withdraw?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, he wants you to withdraw the Resolution.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: I have got very good appreciation for this and our hon. Members have expressed their views and opinions. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will you bring the Bill in a stipulated time?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The consensus will definitely be arrived at. I sincerely hope....
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you kindly be brief.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Only the Mover may kindly withdraw the Resolution.

(Interruptions) ...

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have to reply. It is my right.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am requesting you to withdraw.

I am really disappointed by the reply of the Minister. Thirty-five Members of this august House have participated and spoken on this Resolution. I think, an overwhelming majority, except a very few, was in full support of a legislation providing one-third representation to women. We are asking you for this because it is a part of the National Common Minimum Programme. If you are telling that you will do it only after the consensus is arrived at, then I will say that the consensus will never arrive. We have seen how they have tried consensus for five years, and it did not come. I do not want this Government to do that exercise. They should have more serious commitment to the promise that has been made to the country, and they should also take a firm position because you are a Party claiming to have Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's heritage and Shrimati Indira Gandhi's heritage. There was no consensus arrived at whenever important Constitutional amendments were brought forward. In the of Constitutional Amendment to overcome the *Golak Nath* Case verdict, you did not go for consensus. It was voted and decided. What is lacking is a political will. If political will is not there, this is never going to happen. This is all trying an attempt to dupe the people of this country and saying that we are for this or that.

I have a word for BJP about the kind of acrobatic exercise that they have done. It is a perfect acrobatic feat. You were the people who promised the blank cheque.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (BHAGALPUR): We have given the blank cheque. We have not withdrawn it.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you please address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Still you have a blank cheque! (*Interruptions*) No, it was withdrawn yesterday.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: No, we have not withdrawn. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: This is another blank cheque.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, you may address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What I am saying is that they have switched over to another suggestion

... (*Interruptions*)

There are two blank cheques now; earlier, there was one blank cheque from them. The point now is that we want this Bill to come. It is not a charity. It is a matter of doing social justice. It is in the spirit of the Constitution which promises in the preamble that it would not discriminate on the basis of sex. Now, women are being discriminated against. So, we want this legislation to come up. I am sorry that the Government is not coming forth with a statement that it would bring in legislation. ... (*Interruptions*)

They want me to withdraw my Resolution. Is it out of friendship that I should withdraw it?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The UPA is committed to introduce a Bill. There is no doubt about it. ...
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. The hon. Minister is replying now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the UPA is committed to introduce a Bill. There is no doubt about it. There is also no doubt about the fact that we want to empower women politically, socially, economically and in all spheres but we are discussing matters with the political parties and we want to arrive at a consensus.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: If consensus is not available, what would you do?

SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY: The very fact that all the hon. Members is participating in this discussion with avowed interest and zeal would disclose the fact that we are all interested in the matter. So, we have to take the House into confidence. Definitely, the Bill would be introduced after we arrive at a consensus. That is all I would say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chandrappan, are you accepting the request of the hon. Minister?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Yes. In view of the fact that the Chair is also saying that they have made a commitment to bring forward a Bill and taking into account the fact that the people of this country would not spare anybody who would betray women, I withdraw the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri C.K. Chandrappan be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.