

tre for Social Science Research of his Ministry;

(b) whether despite dowry having been made a cognizable offence, the giving and taking of dowry persists and there has been a rising trend in the humiliation and victimisation of women in all possible forms ranging from beating, throwing out of their husband's house after harassment and torture and even murdering or ultimately driving them to commit suicide;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to check this rising trend in the light of the revelations made in the above study; and

(d) the discipline Government propose to enforce in the case of Central Government servants indulging in such crimes against their spouses for the latter's failure to bring the demanded dowry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Dowry Prohibition Act was again amended in 1986 this time comprehensively-with a view to making penal provisions more stringent and effective by widening their scope. Consequential amendments have been made in the criminal laws in keeping with these amendments. Mass media campaigns against social evils have also been stepped up. The Minister of State for Women and Child Development has addressed letters to all the Chief Ministers of the States/UTs requesting them to have the law and order machinery geared up in order to effectively carry-out the amended laws. For this purpose, training and orientation of police officers is essential. The Chief Ministers have accordingly been requested to give serious thought to this suggestion so that

the police machinery is in step with the new laws.

(d) There is already a provision in the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules 1964 (Rule 13 A) prohibiting Government Servants from giving or taking dowry. On 22nd June, 1987 the Department of Personnel & Training issued instructions to the effect that the Government Servants involved in cases of Dowry Deaths may be placed under suspension where disciplinary proceedings against them are contemplated or are pending or where cases against them in respect of any criminal offences are under investigation, inquiry or trial.

#### **Electrification of railway lines**

3795. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount required for electrification of railway lines and the actual amount spent and going to be spent during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan; and

(b) the names of States where electrification work is proposed to be taken up during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) An outlay of Rs. 830 crores (at 84-85 prices) has been provided for electrification works in the 7th Five Year Plan. Rs. 344.95 crores have already been spent during the first two years upto 31.3.1987. Balance will be provided during the remaining period of the 7th Plan.

(b) Electrification works are in progress in the following States:—

Bihar  
Madhya Pradesh  
Maharashtra  
Rajasthan  
Andhra Pradesh  
Tamil Nadu  
Uttar Pradesh  
Karnataka  
Orissa.