

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND)
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Government have no such proposal under consideration.

Proposal for Women's Organisation Regarding Distress Cause to Married Women

5004. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from Women's Organisations in India regarding the distress caused to married women due to dowry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):
(a) Suggestions have been received from time to time from Women's organisations regarding the hardships arising from the practice of dowry.

(b) and (c). The theme of these suggestions is to so amend the dowry prohibition law as to make it more effective through realistic definition of dowry, declaration of fence as cognisable and compoundable, ensuring speed trial of offenders and deterrent penalty, as well as social action to discourage and deglamorize dowry, to discourage display and conspicuous expenditure and to wean away the younger generation from dowry. These suggestions are receiving Government's attention and the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 is proposed to be amended with a view to making it more effective.

Request for Central Aid for Cashew Plantation in Kerala

5005. SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the State Government of Kerala for financial assistance to extend the area under Cashew Plantations in the Public Sector;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to evolve a uniform wage policy applicable to all the Southern States, so far as the cashew industry is concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. however, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Cashewnut Development, subsidy is provided at Rs. 500 per hectare phased over two years for raising new cashewnut plantations in Department Sector. An outlay of Rs. 2.60 lakh has been earmarked for 1980-81 to be shared equally between the Centre and the State.

(c) and (d). The problem of disparity in the rates of minimum wages in Cashew Industry was last discussed in the Southern Regional Labour Ministers' Conference held at Trivandrum on 27th January, 1978, when it was agreed that the question should be looked into by Committee. Accordingly, a Committee was set up. The Committee in its report has made certain recommendations with a view to reducing disparities in the minimum rates of wages in Cashew Industry in Kerala and the neighbouring States. The Government of India (Ministry of Labour) is pursuing the matter with the concerned State Governments for early implementation of recommendations of the Cashew Committee.