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Title: Need to create awareness among women living in remote areas about various types of contraception.

*SHRIMATI P.K.SREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Madam Speaker, a very shocking and shameful incident took place in the Bilaspur district of Chattisgarh.

Madam, please think a while, as to what value we have for the life and well being of the women in our country.

A private hospital, subjected 82 women, most of whom were below 32 years of age to a sterilization operation. The operation was carried out within 5 hours.

15 women died, and the health of the remaining women has been seriously affected. Has sterilization become a business venture in our country?

Infact, when the Government is conducting such a camp, why were the women taken to a private hospital instead of a government hospital? Please think whether the whole exercise was done with some vested economic interest.

It would be proper, if an enquiry is done to find out whether the private hospital wanted to pocket a share of the incentive amount which the women undergoing sterilization were expected to get.

HON. SPEAKER : There is a judicial inquiry going on.

SHRIMATI P.K.SREEMATHI TEACHER: I am submitting the actual points. All over India, there is a practice of subjecting only women to sterilization. Chattisgarh is only one example. Every where, all over India it happens. Therefore, the action should not be limited to a mere suspension. Such negligence is criminal and hence punishable. The women did not die, it was a murder.

HON. SPEAKER : About that, inquiry is going on. You come to your subject.

*SHRIMATI P.K.SREEMATHI TEACHER : I am coming to that point. Madam, please give me two minutes. In various states, including our state Kerala also, women are subjected to sterilisation.

In earlier times, men too would undergo sterilisation. Now, the mind set has changed. So the poor women are made scape goats.

So, regarding the women, we should ensure that sterilisation is done in healthy environment, without harming or affecting their health.

Without ensuring these, no sterilisation camp should be held. The Health Minister should take a decision that sterilisation should be performed only in government hospital, where the poor women can avail this facility.

Madam, can we take adequate steps? So that such tragic incidents do not occur in the future. Madam, this is the question I want to ask the Government, through you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri P.K. Biju and Adv. Joice George are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.