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SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter of urgent public importance. The recent Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons on a doctor in Delhi reminds us once again the gravity of the problem of Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons in the country.

As per the Home Ministry, nearly 400 Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons are reported every month in the country. These are only the reported cases, but there are many more unreported cases as well. The long-term consequences of these attacks may include blindness as well as permanent scarring of the face and body.

In spite of taking the slew of measures like regulating the sale of acids, increasing penal provisions, bringing awareness among the people, etc., this menace is not coming down; and in many cases, the perpetrators either go scot-free or escape with minor penalty.

According to the Law Commission Report, Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons is an extremely violent crime to which the perpetrator seeks to inflict severe physical and mental suffering on the victim. This kind of violence is often motivated by a deep-seated jealousy or feelings of revenge against women.

So, I request the Government of India to categorize Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons as heinous crime and make necessary amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code, ensure time-bound investigation and speedy trial of such cases.

Secondly, I also request the Government of India to take steps to include Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons victims under physically challenged category which will allow them some benefit in reservation like getting loans etc. and help them to come out of this trauma and stand on their own legs.

Madam, the Supreme Court, just ten to twelve days ago, ruled that all Need to declare acid attack as a heinous crime and to include the victims of acid attack in the list of differently abled persons victims should be treated free of cost even in private hospitals. So, I would request the Government to expedite this and issue instructions to all hospitals to please include this. Thank you Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Kumari Shobha Karandlaje is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.