

Central Forensic Science Laboratory at Chandigarh, Calcutta and Hyderabad for verification.

### Dowry Deaths

[English]

#### Reservation of Women in Dealership of Petrol Pumps

5055. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide reservation to the women in allotment of dealership of petrol pumps and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) As per existing policy, following reservation is provided for different categories in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of various petroleum products w.e.f. 1.4.97:

(i)	Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	-	25%
(ii)	Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	-	5%
(iii)	Defence Personnel (DC)	-	8%
(iv)	Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	-	8%
(v)	Freedom Fighters (FF)	-	2%
(vi)	Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	-	2%
(vii)	Open Category (O)	-	50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all categories mentioned above will be reserved for women belonging to that category effective from the Marketing Plan approved from 1996-98. Other things being equal, widows and unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents will be given priority over others in all categories.

5056. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of dowry deaths and sexual harassment to women has been increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to take stringent steps to check these inhuman act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Review of Crimes

5057. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE : Will the minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ankdon mein apradh kum dikhana behad khatarnak; Advani Adhikari mamla darj na kare isse bada koi apradh Nahi, Police Janta Ka Vishwas Prapt Kare" appearing in *The Rashtriya Sahara* dated May 31, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The reported statement was made while addressing the police personnel at Police Training School, Jharoda Kalan in order to highlight that it was the basic duty cast on members of police force to promptly respond to the complaints lodged by the public and avoid any tendency not to register such complaints. Delhi Police have since issued specific instructions to their officers to ensure free and fair registration of complaints.