

it as their religious obligation to give some gifts to the bridegroom and his relatives known as dowry at the time of 'Kanyadan'.

During the past few years dowry has taken an ugly shape which has resulted in apprehension in the mind of the parents about the happy married life of their daughters. After the marriage, the bridegroom party puts pressure on the bride to bring more and more in cash and kind from her parents and when such demands are not met they do not hesitate to immolate the girl or adopt other cruel methods to kill her due to which dowry has become a stigma on the society.

Recently, Government have made provision whereby the bride side as well as the bridegroom side have to give details of the articles given at the time of marriage as dowry. But this provision is not being followed in practice and as a result thereof there is still apprehension in the mind of the people.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to provide for registration of marriages by treating them as contract so that the apprehension in the mind of the parents of the girl could be removed to some extent.

[English]

**(v) Need to provide more financial assistance to the State Government of Maharashtra for solving drinking water problem in the State.**

**SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI :** (Amravati) : The State of Maharashtra is facing acute scarcity of drinking water due to severe drought conditions. As on 22nd February, 1986, there were as many as 872 villages where drinking water was being supplied by tankers/bullock carts as an emergency measure. In the coming summer months it is expected that this number of villages would increase to 11000 which comes to 25 percent villages in the State. Accordingly, a master plan has been prepared and the State Government has undertaken a massive programme on war footing to provide drinking water supply in affected areas of the State and the State Government is spending large amounts on this account. Against the assistance of Rs. 42.77 crores asked by the State for

the period upto 30.6.1987, an assistance of Rs. 9.44 crores has been sanctioned by Government of India. 110 towns in the State are facing acute drinking water scarcity. In order to ensure regular water supply to those towns, Government has already undertaken the work of emergency water supply schemes costing Rs. 1543.33 lakhs. Here also a meagre assistance of Rs. 1.20 crores has been sanctioned by the Government of India. I am requesting the Central Government, through you Sir, to consider the case of Maharashtra sympathetically and release more funds to meet the situation.

**(vi) Demand for taking necessary measures to provide facilities to fishermen at Kasaragod Harbour in Kerala.**

**SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) :** Though our country has a vast potential in Arabian Sea to exploit fishing, development has been hampered because of lack of shore facilities and suitable marketing avenues including facilities for freezing and canning. Kerala has a coast line of 590 kms. Though it is 10% of India's coast line it contributes 40% of the fishery products exported from India. Kasaragod town in Kerala has a natural harbour in the river estuary which is completely neglected due to silting. Though a fishing harbour is recently built on the river side, this is used only for bringing the boat near the road to unload the fish catch. Neither the boats can be parked there nor any repair work can be made to the boats. A deep passage by putting up bunds on either side of the river mouth can provide the boats a safe passage to the existing fish harbour. This can even prevent the natural boat parking place called 'GORE' from silting. Immediate attention has to be given to the natural Port at Kasaragod to remove the difficulties of a large number of fishermen in Kasaragod in the State of Kerala.

**(vii) Demand for intervention of Union Government for lifting lockout in all on-going projects by N.B.C.C. management.**

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) :** A serious situation has been created by declaration of lock out in all on-going projects by the N.B.C.C. management which would irrevocably delay vital projects like Kolaghat Thermal Power Station, Metro Railway etc. affecting the well-being of millions of people. The