

12.25 hrs.

RULES COMMITTEE

Fourth Report

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-rule (1) of rule 331 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rules Committee.

Sir, with you permission I express my appreciation to those Members from a number of States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab etc, who have had the courage...

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to lay the Report. No speech.

(Interruptions)

12.25 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.26 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1989-90

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1989-90.

12.26 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(I) Need to prevent abuse of Provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE (Chandrapur): Sir, Section 3 (2) of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as it stands today, permits termination of pregnancy on the grounds that (a) that there is a grave injury to the physical and mental health of the pregnant woman, and (b) if the child is born, it would suffer from such physical and mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

12.27 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Further, in the Explanation under Section 3 of the Act, it is provided that there where any pregnancy occurs as a result of failure of any device or method used by any married woman or her husband for the purpose of limiting the number of children, the anguish caused by such unwanted pregnancy may be presumed to constitute a grave injury to the mental health of the pregnant women. A study of the cases of female foeticide recently made has revealed that the above provisions in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act are being abused for abortion of female fetuses. However, legally under the present law, no action can be taken as it can reasonably be argued that birth of a third female child to a woman already having two female children can cause mental injury to the woman and on that ground, the case may fall under Section 3 of