

[श्री भीम सिंह]

इनके प्रति श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की जाती रही है इन जुलूसों का, इन मेलों का, इन मंदिरों का कभी भी किसी को सती प्रथा के लिए प्रेरणा देना अथवा सती प्रथा को रिवाइव करना नहीं है। सती शब्द भारत की नारियों के सतीत्व का सम्मानसूचक शब्द है, जैसे सती अनुसूइया, सती सावित्री इत्यादि। अतः "सती" शब्द की महानता व पवित्रता को दूषित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए और "सती" शब्द से चौकना भी नहीं चाहिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : अभी आपने नियम 377 में एक मामला माननीय सदस्य को उठाने की इजाजत दी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक ऐसा पुरुष कोई नहीं निकला, जो अपनी पत्नी की मृत्यु के बाद, सती होकर ऊपर गया हो।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : : वाजपेयी जी, आप तो इन सब बातों से फ्री हैं। वैसे वह "सती" की बात नहीं कर रहे थे "जौहर" की बात कर रहे थे।

(ii) PADDY CULTIVATION BY KERALA FARMERS

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Quilon): A very serious crisis is developing on the food production front in Kerala. The paddy cultivators in the entire Kuttanad area in the State extending over 60,000 hectares of land, known otherwise as the 'rice bowl' of Kerala, have declared their intention to allow their lands to lie fallow for the current season and the sowing operations, which should have commenced about 4 to 6 weeks ago, have not been taken up.

Paddy growing in Kuttanad has long ceased to be a remunerative proposition and in the case of most of the cultivators, numbering over 70,000 they have been carrying it on just because it is their only means of liveli-

hood and it is the only job within their knowledge. Apart from the cost of inputs, which has been rising fast, the cost of the various operations involving manual labour has also risen enormously and this together with unhelpful if not altogether hostile attitude adopted by certain trade unions and their leaders, have further added to their burden. The yield per acre in this area is substantially lower than the yields in the various other producing States.

A new problem was added by the fresh demands put up by the workers for further increase in wages, which are already amongst the highest in the whole country, accompanied by reduction in the hours of work and the daily tasks. At conference recently held, attended by three of the Ministers of the State, a settlement was arrived at in regard to wages. But even before the ink was dry, certain influential groups amongst the workers put up fresh demands for further increase in wages and added other conditions. It is as an immediate result of this that the cultivators have declared their intention not to commence operations.

It is clear, that certain elements are bent upon creating a serious food shortage in the State, which is chronically deficit in the matter of production and has always depended upon supplies from the Centre. Obviously, their object is political and the usual charges of neglect and discrimination are bound to be raised against the Centre. I therefore call upon the Central Government to take appropriate and timely steps to see that the confidence is restored in the minds of the cultivators and they are enabled to take up commencement of cultivation without further loss of time.

(iii) ERADICATION OF THE EVIL PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Mangalore): Sir, I want to invite the attention of the Government of India towards the evil practice prevailing in some areas of Karnataka and Maha-