

[श्री वृद्ध चन्द्र जैन]

राज्य सरकार ने उक्त ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की जनता को पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कुछ ग्रामीण क्षेत्रीय योजनाएं चालू भी की हैं, वे अपर्याप्त है। केन्द्र सरकार ने राजस्थान में 33,305 गांवों में 24,037 ग्राम समस्याप्रद माने है परन्तु जिन ग्रामों में हर साल ट्रकों द्वारा टंकियों से अकाल के दिनों में पानी पहुंचाया जाता है वे सबसे अधिक समस्याप्रद ग्रामों में हैं। अतः केन्द्र सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया जाता है कि वह राज्य सरकार को दूसरे राज्यों के मामले में अधिक राशि क व्यवस्था करे। यह प्रश्न तत्कालिक और स्थायी हल दोनों की ओर आकर्षित करता है।

(IV) SHORTAGE OF COOKING GAS AND KEROSENE IN JAIPUR

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): Sir, through you I would like to invite the attention of the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals to the critical situation that has developed in Jaipur because of acute shortage of cooking gas and kerosene. The situation has come to such a pass that the housewives of Jaipur, breaking age old traditions, would be compelled to come in the streets to demonstrate for their just demand for the supply of these two commodities, unless immediate remedial measures are taken in the matter.

The shortage of cooking gas has been continuing for quite a few months in Jaipur but it has now assumed alarming proportions because the office responsible for the distribution of these two items has chosen to remain indifferent to the difficulties of the consumer. After registering a demand with the dealer for the supply of gas cylinder, a consumer has to wait for at least two months before he can expect to get his supply. Cases have come to my notice where

by making payment to the delivery boy cylinders already booked for a particular customer is diverted to one, whose name does not appear in the register. Yet another method used in such transaction to help the favoured ones is not to attach any sanctity to the orders booked on telephone, because inquiries made subsequently reveal that such orders were never booked. Some customers have come to me to complain that the dealers try to harass a consumer who chooses to put up a row with a dealer and the *modus operandi* used in such cases is to tell the customer that his registration card is missing and it takes the dealer 3 to 4 days to prepare one. The tragedy does not end here because when the card is prepared anew, the dealer refuses to register an order from a retrospective date as claimed by the customer but he registers them with immediate effect and this lengthens the period of waiting for the customer. More often than not, the dealers do not maintain any complain register, nor do they depute any responsible officer to be present in the shop who can deal with the complaints of the customers and offer remedies thereto.

The situation has been further aggravated because of the acute shortage of kerosene in some parts of the city. While the administration takes the position that the dealer are not lifting the supply, the retail suppliers say that the administration gives them the supplies in dribbles and it cause them immense difficulty to go again and again to get their supplies. Thus, while the suppliers and the retailers are engaged in mutual bickerings, the public at large is left high and dry and there seems to be none coming forward to listen to their grievances and needless to mention that the most harassed persons are the housewives of Jaipur.

This being the situation, I would urge upon the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals that he should immediately depute some senior officer

who can rush to Jaipur to investigate into the following aspect of the situation:—

(i) Whether there is any real shortage in supply of gas cylinders to Jaipur as compared to the monthly demand.

(ii) If on investigation it is found that more cylinders need to be sent, the officers concerned should assess the number and make arrangements for their supply,

(iii) The officers must enquire into the pattern of distribution now being followed and the prevalent corruption that has gone into it and take firm action against the dealers who have been chosen to short-circuit the established procedure to give benefit to their own henchmen, and

(iv) Streamline the procedure of distribution so that such difficulties do not crop up in near future.

I hope and trust that Shri P. C. Sehi, who loved the Pink City of Jaipur for more reasons than one would come to the rescue of the housewives of Jaipur who are in great distress today.

(v) PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF A
SATI IN DELHI

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDA-VATE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

On Friday last, when the business for the coming week was taken up, I had raised the question of the procession in honour of Sati and the installation of a temple in her honour, with an expectation that the Government led by a woman would take immediate steps to stop this sort of activity. The procession is planned for today, that is, December 1, 1980 at 12 noon.

The status of women in India is on the whole, as you are aware, extremely low. A hundred and fifty years ago Raja Ram Mohan Roy started a movement to eradicate some evil customs which were degrading the position of women. Women did not even possess the right to live their own lives, as in the custom of Sati. Young widows were forcibly burnt on the funeral pyres of their husbands.

Now, towards the end of the twentieth century, sections of people in some regions of our country, have started reviving this custom. In recent years, in Rajasthan, there have been 7 cases of Sati, three of them in the last year. It is significant and alarming that in none of those cases has a single arrest been made as far as I can ascertain. This factor has obviously emboldened such backward looking people to multiply these Sati.

To celebrate yet another Sati in Hissar, on December 1, 1980, that is, today a section of the Marwari community has planned a procession to instal a temple in Delhi in honour of the Sati. We implore you to take steps to see that the capital of our country does not become a centre for illegal, retrograde steps leading to the denial of the right to live for our women.

Such acts unless nipped in the bud, will spread dangerously in our country.

In view of the urgency of the situation, I request you to make a statement on the Floor of the House as to what action the Government has taken about this.

I want a statement as we were assured about it. (Interruptions)

(vi) RAILWAY LINES IN HIMACHAL
PRADESH

श्री कुल्लु बत्त (शिमला) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 1947 से लेकर शिमला संसदीय क्षेत्र में कोई रेल की व्यवस्था नहीं की गई, जिससे लोगों