

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