

Challans in 20 cases have been prepared and are under scrutiny with the Director of Prosecution. The remaining cases are pending investigation with the Cell.

Judgements in Dowry Death Cases

3345. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has made any study of the recent judgements in dowry death cases in which the accused escaped punishment on technical grounds;

(b) if not, whether he is aware that there are too many loopholes in the IPC to enable the accused to escape punishment;

(c) if so, what steps he is intending to take to make these prosecutions effective and deterrent; and

(d) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) The Government has gone through the judgement of the Delhi High Court dated 3rd November, 1983 acquitting the husband, brother-in-law and mother-in-law of Shrimati Sudha Goel, who had been sentenced to death by the Additional Sessions Judge, Delhi.

(b) There is no loophole in the Indian Penal Code which only defines offences and prescribes the punishment therefor. Sections 302 and 306 of the Indian Penal Code provide adequate penalties for the offences of murder and abetment of suicide. Section 498A of the Code also seeks to punish cruelty to a married woman by her husband or his relatives for not bringing dowry or for bringing inadequate dowry.

(c) The conviction of a person depends on whether the prosecution has been able to prove its charges against the accused beyond all reasonable doubt. When the prosecution

is not able to do so or when there is lack of evidence against the accused, the case against the accused would fail. The Evidence Act, 1872 has, however, been amended by the insertion of new section 113A, which provides that, where a married woman commits suicide within seven years from the date of her marriage and it is proved that she was subjected to cruelty within the meaning of Section 498A IPC by her husband or his relatives, the Court may presume that the husband or such relatives abetted the suicide of that woman.

(d) Delhi Administration's petition to Supreme Court for special leave to appeal against the judgement referred to in part (a) is still pending.

Wasteland Development Corporation of India

3346. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) whether Waste Land Development Corporation of India has come into existence as proposed; and

(b) if so, the progress and plan for development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have taken a decision to set up a National Wastelands Development Board.

(b) Details are being worked out.

Night Landing Facilities at Patna Airport

3347. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHANU: SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) when Patna Airport is proposed to be equipped with superior night landing facilities;