

repeatedly told in this august House that our aim is for self-reliance. You can imagine that the Department of Electronics has funded Rs. 9.5 crores to ECIL and 60 other Research Institutes for the past 12 years to develop and design our own competence in computers and computer processing technology. Whatever appears in the press, we do not take notice of that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : What do you mean? The whole files have been reproduced to show that there is in existence a lobby and people are claiming all kinds of access to these important people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : I am also looking after the electronics. I would like to add that we will certainly look into the leakages of the files, and try to take adequate steps in this regard.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : That is what I wanted.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : At least, the Minister said that he would look into the leakages. The previous answer was that they do not take notice of the press reports. In a democratic Government, you have to take note of whatever appears in the press.

The Government should not only be responsible, it should be responsive also. Has the Government identified the sectors where computerisation is a must? If so, what are those sectors?

Secondly, has the Government studied the impact of computerisation on the conditions of employment, because ours is a country where we have a large number of unemployed persons.

SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO : Government is fully aware about its social responsibility, but the hon. Member will agree with me that in this high technology area, if we do not take adequate precautions and move with the times, we will be left behind. With this background, we have taken steps to

introduce this computerisation only in areas like power generation where data acquisition system is required, so also in the ONGC where telemetry and telecontrol system is involved, as also for mass production with quality. I can assure the hon. Member that employment potential is not sacrificed with computerisation; only mass production with quality is there with computerisation without effecting employment potential.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : The question of unemployment caused by computers has come up many times in this House. Abroad, it has been seen that not in every field, but certainly in some sections, where computers have put in, there is some dislocation in the beginning, but because of increase in efficiency, increase in productivity, ultimately there are many cases of greater employment being generated. We should keep that in view.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Indirectly.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Directly.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Once you are right.

Dowry Cell

*769. **SHRI N.E. HORO :**
SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the dowry cell set up by Government is proving to be a non-starter;

(b) if so, the details regarding the cases reported to the cell since its inception; and

(c) the details regarding its performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House,

Statement

(a) to (c). In pursuance of instructions issued to the Police to take serious notice of all cases of suicide or death in suspicious circumstances of young married women, an Anti-Dowry Cell was set-up in Delhi Police.

Since its inception, on 22nd January, 1983, 5 cases were received by the Anti-Dowry Cell from the Districts Police for investigation. Investigation of 4 of these cases is in hand and one case has been returned to the local Police for appropriate action. 2 of these 4 cases have been registered u/s 302 IPC and the other 2 u/s 306 IPC. Besides, 47 complaints received from the public have been looked into.

Keeping in view the number of complaints being received in the Cell, its strength has been increased.

SHRI N.E. HORO : Has the Anti-Dowry Cell which was started 2 or 3 months back, started working. The statement says that five cases were reported, five cases of death were reported ; and the action taken so far is Nil. It is still being processed. They say they received 47 complaints, about which the statement is completely silent. This Anti-Dowry Cell seems to have been established, not for preventing deaths. It is for enquiring into the cases after suicides and unnatural deaths have occurred. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government is serious about taking such steps which would prevent the system of dowry itself.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Government is very serious in effectively controlling this evil system. As you know, apart from governmental and administrative action, there must be a social awareness from the public ; and voluntary organizations must also help in detecting these cases and coming to the rescue of these unfortunate people.

With regard to these four cases—mentioned by the hon. Member—I can only say that these four cases have been investigated thoroughly, and they are at the investigation stage. Some of them have been referred to

the judicial authorities ; and we are taking all the steps to see that these cases are expedited, as early as possible. We have also established a dowry cell in the Delhi Administration. The functions of the Cell are :

- (1) To investigate cases of murder, attempt to murder, abetment to commit suicide and other forms of harassment to wives on grounds of demanding dowry. While some of such cases are investigated by the respective police stations all such cases which involve complicated investigation and cases in which the complainant is not satisfied with the progress of the case in the police stations are transferred to the Dowry Cell.
- (2) To enquire into complaints from women and their parents of harassment caused as a result of demand of dowry and advise proper legal action. In cases where an evidence to the Dowry Prohibition Act is made out, the complainant is advised to file a complaint in the court of law.
- (3) To maintain liaison with the voluntary agencies for providing help to harassed women as a result of demand of dowry.

So, even before this crime is perpetrated, the Dowry Cell is being charged with the task of enquiring into the various grievances made out by these harassed people from time to time. I may say that we are strengthening the Dowry Cell also recently ; and it is now manned by a Deputy Commissioner of Police ; two Inspectors, seven Sub-Inspectors, one Assistant Sub-Inspector, five Head Constables and twelve constables.

It has been our constant endeavour to see that these deaths do not occur. We will take proper steps to see that such culprits are brought to book as immediately as they are brought to the notice of the Administration.

SHRI N.E. HORO : What I am worried about is this that you ask the Anti-Dowry Cell to enquire into the cases after the mischief is done. You have already said that these cases are being enquired into with what

results? You know the system where the police officers and others are pliable, and wherein you can purchase even justice. These cases can be hushed up, and the mischief has already been done, and suicides have taken place. That is not going to help us. What I want to know from Government is this. You said that social awareness is necessary, and that voluntary organisations should go into this. But in that direction, what has the Government done? There are so many organizations in this country. There are big temples where they collect millions of rupees. How are they being used for this type of work, i.e. for bringing about social awareness? I would like to know from Government what are the special steps taken by them, or proposed to be taken, for bringing about deterrent punishment to those people who are committing these things.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : The present Dowry Prohibition Act has got several loopholes and it is not as effective and deterrent as my hon. friend has pointed out. That is why a Bill has been introduced in the Parliament and a Joint Select Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shrimati Krishna Sahi. Now, the recommendations of the Committee are engaging the attention of the Minister of Education and a Bill is pending before the House. We will ask the Education Ministry to expedite it as early as possible, to bring this Dowry (Amendment) Bill before the Parliament with the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee. Our effort has been to make it as stringent as possible. Now, it is not a cognizable offence. So, these are practical difficulties. That is why administration is finding it difficult to implement effectively this Dowry Prohibition Act.

SHRI G.S. REDDI : The hon. Minister in his reply has said that 47 complaints have been received from the public and they are being looked into. A complaint is received by the cell from the district police usually after the death. Whenever the public at large comes to know, whenever even the voluntary organisation comes to know that in certain families there is a problem of dowry and the possibility of death may come or suicide may come, and whenever they complain to

the cell, it should be taken most seriously. For example, when we go to the airport and get into the aircraft, if there is some telephone call saying that there is a bomb kept somewhere, then immediately so much precaution is taken because so many lives are involved. Similarly, if a complaint comes from any voluntary organisation or any person complains to the cell that in a particular family, the problem of dowry death is going to come up, it should be taken very seriously. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India is going to give necessary instructions to the cell that whenever they receive such complaints, they should take it very seriously.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : A reconciliation-cum-guidance bureau under the anti-dowry scheme has been set up by the Directorate of Social Welfare of Delhi Administration to provide counselling and guidance services to married women in distress and victimised by their in-laws on account of dowry. The Directorate is also launching publicity propaganda through various media. We have also sent elaborate instructions to the various State Governments to set up such cells in their respective States. Instructions for getting post-mortem conducted by at least two doctors in dowry death cases have also been issued. Various steps have been taken. Special Magistrates have also been detailed. Government is also seriously thinking of establishing family courts to see that these cases are taken out of the purview of the normal courts and the family courts can go into this matter and settle the dispute.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : As the hon. member has suggested we must do something about finding it out before an incident occurs. A counselling cell may not be very helpful since such women may not even be allowed to go outside the house. It depends on the conditions. This matter needs to be probed into. We must be able to check any warning that may come in. Also, this matter should be taken up publicly. All people in *mohallas* should be ever vigilant about this.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : मैं माननीय गृह मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि जैसा

आपने कहा कि अधिक से अधिक पुलिसकर्मी बढ़ा रहे हैं तो क्या उसमें अधिक से अधिक महिलायें भर्ती करके महिला पुलिसकर्मियों की संख्या भी बढ़ायेंगे ? दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि आप दिल्ली में प्रदेशों के स्तर पर समितियों का गठन कर रहे हैं, क्या आप जिला स्तर पर भी करेंगे ? किन-किन प्रदेशों में आपने आदेश दिए हैं और किन-किन प्रदेशों में समितियों का गठन हो चुका है ? अगर नहीं हुई है, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इसको जिला स्तर पर ले जायेंगे ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : The Deputy Commissioner, who is heading this cell, is a lady. The hon. Member's suggestion is very valid ; we will certainly look into this matter.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : This exercise of looking into has been going on. How many times will you say it ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : About the inspections, that had been done ; we will also follow them up as suggested by the hon. Member whether the instructions that have been given by the Government to various State Governments with regard to these district centres are being followed or not. We will pass on this information to the State Governments for their consideration and action.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I want to know how many Members of Parliament have taken dowry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri B.V. Desai.
Absent.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nityananda Misra. Not present.
Shrimati Kishori Sinha. Absent.
Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar.

Agreement with Japan on Expansion of Durgapur Steel Project

*772. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR :
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with Japan in regard to the expansion of Durgapur Steel Project ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : Mr. Speaker the answer mentions that there was no agreement reached with Japan with reference to the expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant. In the month of October, 1982 it was reported in the Press that Japanese help was sought for the expansion of Durgapur Steel plant; may be that agreement might not have been reached between Japan and our Government. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a Japanese technical team had come to India some time in October, 1982 to make an on-the-spot study, comprising 12 or more members drawn from Mitsubishi, Nippon Steel and Nippon Kokan and others; which team visited the Durgapur Steel Plant from the 19th October, 1982 onwards for four days, and left for New Delhi, met the experts in SAIL ; and the team also submitted its report to the Government of India and if so, why this team was called and what were the recommendations or suggestions made by this team with reference to the expansion of the Durgapur Steel Project ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : It is true that a Japanese team from Nippon Steel did visit India in October, 1982. The Durgapur Steel Plant had been in trouble ever since its erection and therefore various studies have been undertaken for rehabilitation and modernisation of the plant. In the meanwhile, MECON was entrusted with the task