

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The entire premise and the conclusion of the question is non-existent. Therefore, the question does not arise. I do not have to add anything more to what I have stated.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : He does not satisfy the House. He is unfit to become a Minister.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The premise in the question are unreal and untrue; they do not exist. Therefore, the question does not arise.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : I do not understand how the question can be unreal and untrue...
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He will deny your existence also.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : For the last three years the Government of India has banned the registration of new re-rolling mills because the existing units are sufficient to meet the demands. Now scrap is available in large quantities in India. Apart from that, it is also being imported. In view of the large availability of billets and scrap indigenously and also from imports, will the Government re-consider the banning of registration of re-rolling mills in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The Hon. Member is on the question of registration of re-rolling mills whereas the main question relates to the Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, where certain problems have been created which affect the employment of workers. I submit that his question is entirely outside the scope. If he wants me to answer seriously his question, I require notice.

SHRI S.T. QUADRI : Sir, the steel industry in the country is in a crisis and last year the working results of the plants under the Steel Authority of India were bad. They have sustained a loss of Rs. 103 crores. One of the reasons for the loss has been interpreted

as liberalised import policy adopted last year.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his reply has mentioned that the import of only those items of alloy steel including stainless steel are allowed which are not available indigenously. If liberalised import is not the reason for accumulation of stocks in Alloy Steel Plant, what are the other reasons for the non-satisfactory performance ? What are the reasons for the market position being changed ? Will the Minister give his candid views in this matter ?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : So far as liberalised imports are concerned, we monitor the entire imports very strictly, whereas I submitted earlier, there is a conflict of interests between the consumers here and the manufacturers. We do our best to ensure by two-fold restrictions which we impose—actual restrictions on imports, secondly fiscal measure of raising the tariff, so that the import does not become very attractive.

So far as the failure of SAIL is concerned, I respectfully submit that I will need notice for that.

दिल्ली में दहेज के कारण होने वाली मौतें

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*44. श्री भीम सिंह :

डा० सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी :

क्या गृह मन्त्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में पिछले छः महीनों में (माह-वार) दहेज के कारण कुल कितनी मौतें हुई हैं;

(ख) उनमें से ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिन्हें प्राथमिक जांच के बाद बन्द अथवा फाईल कर दिया गया है;

(ग) ऐसे कितने मामले हैं जिन्हें न्यायालयों में चलाया जा रहा है;

(घ) सरकार ने इन मामलों को शीघ्र निपटाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है;

(ङ) क्या सरकार का विचार मामले की जांच केन्द्रीय जांच ब्यूरो से करवाने का है; और

(च) क्या सरकार ने दहेज सम्बन्धी मौतों के कारणों पर विचार किया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

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

(b) None.

(c) Challans in three cases have

already been filed in the courts and are pending trial. The other cases are under investigation.

(d) Instructions have been issued to the concerned authorities to expedite investigation in the remaining cases and to ensure expeditious trial in courts.

(e) Cases are handed over to the C.B.I. when considered necessary in the interest of investigation. The investigation of one of these cases has been transferred to the C.B.I. this year.

(f) Investigations so far conducted into dowry death cases indicate that deaths had taken place due to harassment on account of dowry. Giving and taking of dowry is a social evil and strong public opinion has to be created against it. Government are seriously concerned with this problem and in order to ensure speedy investigation and to provide more deterrent punishment, amendments in the Dowry Prohibition Act, the I.P.C. the Cr. P.C. and the Evidence Act are being made.

Statement

During the last six months, 23 dowry death cases were reported to the Delhi Police. The month-wise break-up is indicated below :—

MONTH	U/S 302 IPC	U/S 306 IPC
January	—	—
February	2	1
March	1	3
April	1	3
May	3	4
June	1	4
Total	8	15

श्री भीम सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न के (क) भाग का जो जवाब दिया है उसमें 5 महीने के अन्दर 23 डेथ्स बतलाई हैं। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा—यदि आप पिछले पांच महीनों के—फरवरी से जून तक के—पेपर-क्लिपिंग्स देखें और उनमें जो घटनायें रिपोर्ट की गई हैं उनको टोटल करें तो वे कहीं ज्यादा हैं। क्या वे उनको टोटल कराने के लिए तैयार हैं ?

दूसरा सवाल...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दूसरा सवाल बाद में पूछियेगा ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : ये आंकड़े गलत हैं ।

श्री भीम सिंह : मेरा सवाल इसी से सम्बन्धित है। इन्होंने (ग) के जवाब में बतलाया है कि 23 कैसेज में से 3 का चालान हुआ है, यह इस बात का द्योतक है कि पुलिस ने टालने की कितनी कोशिश की है, इसलिये पूरे कैसेज दर्ज नहीं किए गए हैं। क्या सरकार डेटा इकट्ठा कर के सदन को बतलायेगी कि क्लिपिंग्स के हिसाब से कितने थे और दर्ज कितने किये गये हैं ?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Sir, I have given the cases that have been registered and investigations that have taken place, and I have also given the break-up of these cases.

The number of cases reported under Section 302 (Murder) ...8

Cases under Section 306—abetement to suicide : ...15

Total ...23 cases

Number of cases arrested ...39

Challans filed ...3

Pending investigation ...20 (Including one Transferred to CBI)

This is the break-up of the cases and as I have already pointed out, we ourselves are not happy with the procedure that is being adopted.

Several cases are being reported and we are making all our efforts to see that speedy trial is brought and the culprits are brought to book. Whatever is possible is being done and I may tell the Hon. House that the Government is seriously contemplating to amend several criminal procedure codes to make it more deterrent and to see that deterrent punishment is being given to them.

श्री भीम सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि प्रेस में रिपोर्टेड कैसेज का नम्बर और पुलिस में दर्ज कैसेज के नम्बर में डिस्क्रिपेंसी क्यों हैं, क्या आप इसको मालूम करने को तैयार हैं? प्रेस में पिछले पांच महीने के कैसेज का टोटल करिए और पुलिस में दर्ज कैसेज का टोटल करिए और दोनों में डिस्क्रिपेंसी को देखिए।... (व्यवधान)

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : We go by the fact—the reports that are being made. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He wants a comparison. Is there any discrepancy between the reported cases in the press and actually reported in the police stations? How has this discrepancy come about? Are you ready to find out why is it so?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : We will certainly find out. I may also tell you that we have initiated action to plug the loopholes in the existing legislation dealing with dowry and rape cases in order to make them more effective and stringent. The Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 as it exists has not proved to be effective. The Dowry Prohibition Amendment Bill is presently pending before Parliament.

I may enumerate the various actions that are being taken by amending various codes. I may inform in this connection that the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 1980 as reported by the Joint Select Committee to make the law more stringent will be considered in the current session of Parliament. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ghosh, he has agreed to that.

(व्यवधान)

श्री भीम सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन्होंने अपने उत्तर के एफ-भाग में कहा है कि लॉ में अमेंडमेंट करेंगे। मेरा सुझाव यह है कि सरकार क्या दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी के सोशियलजी डिपार्टमेंट में इस प्रोजेक्ट को टेक-अप करेंगे कि ऐसे केसेज किस क्लास और सोसायटी, हायर ग्रुप या लोअर ग्रुप, पढ़े-लिखे और अनपढ़ में हो रहे हैं? जब आप इसको सोशियल इविल मानते हैं तो क्या आप इसका एक प्रोजेक्ट बना कर रिसर्च करेंगे?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : यह तो एक अच्छा सुझाव है, इसको मान लीजिए।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : I

have been enumerating the various measures that are being taken by the Government. He has been mentioning about the research—with regard to the causes of dowry deaths and all that. It is one of the main points that the Government will undertake to go into the matters that causes dowry deaths. We are constrained because there are some loopholes in the existing laws. We want to amend and bring some suitable amendments to see that loopholes are plugged. The Bill for the amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act to deal with cases of cruelty to married women and dowry death is proposed to be introduced in Parliament during the Monsoon Session. It is proposed to make additional provision in the Indian Penal Code to punish the husband or the relative of the husband of the women who subjects her to cruelty with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and fine. Cruelty is being so defined as to include harassment on account of dowry. The offence will be cognisable and non-bailable. It is also proposed in the Evidence Act to permit the court to presume abetment of husband or relative of husband to suicide of woman in certain cases.

So, these are the amendments which are being proposed to make it more stringent. Some of these loopholes of the existing acts are being plugged by taking these administrative actions.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : It is now well established that there has been an increase in dowry deaths over the last three years specially and the Minister has really not given any satisfaction. (Interruptions)

The Minister will answer. I wish you to become Minister. But right now he has to answer. Now, whatever the Minister has said is not a matter of satisfaction and it is not a new thing. He has said about the Bill. It has already come in the newspaper. It is now known that the predominance of such crimes are in the middle class. In lower classes, in fact, the dowry is in

the opposite way. In upper-classes, the incidence is low

SHRI E. BALANANDAN : It is not coming in the Press.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : Even in China, there are lots of dowry deaths. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : In America also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He has got first-hand knowledge.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is not an issue to laugh at it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : These Marxists make everything into a class conflict.

The Minister has talked about the strong public opinion etc., etc. It is fine. But that is not being done, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that many judges of High Courts and even the Supreme Court have said that there should be death penalty for this and that would be a deterrent action. This should be put into special tribunals. This has to be taken on a war footing. Only then, this matter can be resolved. Otherwise, in this way letting the police to take their own time in registering a case, I am afraid, this problem will continue and an increase has taken place due to you people coming to power and this will continue as long as you are in power unless you bring in a special tribunal.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Mr. Subramaniam Swamy has raised certain points which have been expressed by the courts with regard to setting up of tribunals. We have already submitted to this House that this is a very serious matter and this has to be tackled very effectively.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : This is not my question, I asked a

specific question: Has it come to your knowledge that even judges of Supreme Court and High Courts have said that you must have a deterrent punishment like death penalty? Will you consider a tribunal to be set up for deciding these cases? You are doing as if this is a matter that can be resolved by itself and your own Government is showing a streak of social conservatism which I am surprised to find.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : There are cases under the dowry which are registered under Section 302. It is for the courts to give either life imprisonment or death penalty as they like. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : What I find is all-round the House, there is quite an eagerness towards this Question. We shall then have a half-an-hour discussion on this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

Memorandum for Freight Equalisation for Raw Materials

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*45. SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY :
PROF. RUPCHAND PAL :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from Members of Parliament regarding freight equalisation policy for all basic industrial raw materials;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was suggested in the Memorandum that either all basic raw