

**Concern over the imposition of 'Jaziya' like tax on the Sikhs and
the Hindus in Pakistan**

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Sir, it is a matter of regret to mention here that the Government of India has not raised any objection when a tax was imposed on Sikhs and Hindus who were living peacefully for centuries in the North of Pakistan. In the present world when people are striving for communal harmony and inter-faith relations, one community is imposing a tax on the people who don't believe in their faith and the tax is collected forcibly. We were taught in the schools that some hundred years back even in India Jazia, a tax by the ruling Government, was imposed, because of the different religious beliefs, on the residents of other community, which remained prevalent for a long time.

The Government of India should raise this issue in the United Nations and also through our Embassies apprise every country about this harsh action and the treatment given to Sikhs and Hindus in Pakistan and effort should be made that the Pakistan Government should give the entire money collected from these families back to them. It is further a matter of concern that till today the Government of India has not sent any senior official to Pakistan to meet the unfortunate victims who are living as refugees. No aid has been sent by India to them. Thank you.

Concern over increasing number of dowry deaths in the country

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak about the dowry deaths in this august House. Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the dowry deaths are increasing day by day in the country. Hundreds of innocent women are being burnt to death. Really, it is an uncivilized act. Being a woman, I know the sufferings of such victims.

Sir, in our country, on the one hand, people regard women as a *devi*; on the other hand, they burn them alive. This is against the norms of civilised society. It is barbaric. Sir, one should not show mercy to those accused of burning women to death over dowry demands. They should be hanged till death. Then only, the society will fear to do an unlawful activity against women. This is the immediate need of the hour to save our women and their children from such dowry deaths.

Sir, I also request the Government to provide immediate financial relief to the children of such women who die in dowry related deaths by changing the law.

Demand to restart the earlier system of voting by using ballot papers in the country

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to take steps to revert to ballot paper for conducting public elections, since the authenticity of Electronic Voting Machine is questionable among the public. Our country has nearly above five thousand villages and majority of the people do not have access to knowledge about electronic