

That the members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and do communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Concern over the horrendous scenario of witch-hunting in the country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): It is an irony that within the country, where women are worshipped like goddesses, there is another India where 'Ghar-ki-Lakshmi' is branded a 'witch' and mercilessly slaughtered. There are endless instances where women have been called witches, stripped, shaven and made to make rounds of village and even eat and drink their own urine and excreta. In many parts of Rajasthan, particularly Dungarpur, Banswara, Udaipur, Tonk, Chittorgarh, Kota and Bhilwara it has been seen that women are branded as witches. If not killed, such women often commit suicide. Witch-hunting is prevalent in the tribal heartland of Central Gujarat, comprising Vadodara, Panchmahals and Dahod districts. Branded as 'dakan', about 100 cases are reported in these three districts every year. Most of these cases go unrecorded or are registered under mental or physical harassment.

A woman guilty of refusing advances, reluctance to sell land or bearing girl children, is likely to be branded a 'witch' and have her breasts chopped off, teeth broken, limbs amputated, eyes gouged out and then killed. Such cases abound especially in tribal-dominated belts.

Above alarming scenario of 'witch-hunting' is a crying shame and every State has its own horror stories. Hence, I would urge the hon. Minister for Home Affairs to take remedial steps on war footing.

Demand to confer Bharat Ratna on the veteran classical vocal musician Gangubai Hangal posthumously

श्री शिवानन्द तिवारी (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदय, पिछले 22 तारीख को कर्नाटक के हुबली में हिन्दुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत की लब्ध-प्रतिष्ठित गायिका पद्मविभूषण गंगूबाई हंगल का निधन हो गया। गंगूबाई का जीवन कथा-कहानी की नायिका की तरह है। केवट जाति-जैसी पिछड़ी जाति में पैदा हुई गंगूबाई अपने खून में संगीत लेकर पैदा हुई थीं। यह वह जमाना था, जब गाने वाली लड़कियों को समाज में अच्छी निगाह से नहीं देखा जाता था, लेकिन गंगूबाई ने समाज की मान्यताओं और वर्जनाओं के विरुद्ध संघर्ष किया तथा कभी समर्पण नहीं किया।