

[श्री शंकर सिंह बाघेला]

खीचना चाहिये और लोगों को मरने से
बचना चाहिये। यही मेरी प्रार्थना है।

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO CONTROL DOWRY DEATHS IN THE COUNTRY

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-
DHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I
want to draw the special attention
of the House to the persisting factor
of dowry deaths in the country.

Sir, despite the Dowry Prohibition
(Amendment) Act, 1984 women are
being burnt throughout the country
with even a less value than what is
given to a joss-stick. A joss stick is
burnt in reverence. But a women's
value is less than that of a TV or a
refrigerator which she is unable to
procure. What we have failed to
recognise is that it is only
a large number of the
Hindu women, a large number of the
Hindu section of women, who are
burnt for dowry. In Uttar Pradesh
alone, Sir there were 323 deaths as
against 15 dowry deaths in Andhra
Pradesh. Now, despite all the amend-
ment to the relevant Acts, there is
no social feasibility to implement
these Acts because the social norms
and factors and social recognition
are far stronger for a woman and she
is unable to get out of those social
norms and complain against her own
husband. And, Sir, society has failed
to recognise the fact that, despite all
the progress of the Indian women,
we have not yet reached a stage
where we do not think that the
husband is the sole end aim of a
women. Now, taking this into con-
sideration, what is it that the Gov-
ernment can do for the Indian wo-
men within the framework in which
the Indian women exist, especially
Hindu section of women in the coun-
try today? Sir, I come up with a
small suggestion that perhaps we
should on a national level do what
Andhra Pradesh has done today. That

is the Amendment of the A. P. Hindu
Succession Act. By virtue of this Act
the women because a copercerner
which literally means that she inher-
its by birth. This could be a shrom
incentive for a women to be able to
survive on her own. Now, this was
not there in the original Hindu Suc-
cession Act which is pertaining to the
rest of the country because they
went by what is known as 'Military'
which literally means of limited
knowledge. This was brought
about because women were
considered incapable and illi-
terate to be able to main-
tain themselves and to look after
their little property on earth. Hap-
pily enough, the situation has chang-
ed today. Both the State and Central
Government have paid enough atten-
tion to women by means of free and
subsidised education for women all
over. However, the social standing of
a women in the lower middle-class
and middle-class homes has not
changed. In fact it has deteriorated.
Perhaps by virtue of amending the
Hindu Succession Act by section 29
(a) of the A. P. Amendment Act in
particular, the girl will inherit
merely by birth. That I feel is the
first really revolutionary step for wo-
men because the husband will hesi-
tate to burn her. He will inherit far
more than what he will get in the
form of dowry. He also faces prose-
cution under the Dowry Act. There
are so many hazards to it. He will
learn to respect women. The woman
need not think of marriage as the
ultimate end for her life. She will no
longer be a burden on her brothers
or anybody else because she will in-
herit along with red brothers an equal
share in the property. A time has come
for the nation to sit up and for the
Government to consider. Since the Go-
vernment has accepted in principle

the A.P. Amendment Act, it should
be brought about on a national
scale. The women all over the nation
covered by the Hindu Succession Act

will benefit by inheriting property by birth on an equal footing with their brothers and others. The Amendment also gives you an additional clause. There might be a suspicion brought about that there might be burning as soon as the husband inherits her property. The Amendment Act also prevents the husband from inheriting the property in the event of wife's death. Along with the enforcement of the Dowry Amendment Act, this should bring about a real strength to the woman's position in the society. I request all Members of this august House to come forward and reinforce this statement. I know that the men are going to grudge it because they will lose part of their property (Interruptions) This is a very encouraging response. Thank you very much.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): We unanimously extend our support to our sister who has made this proposal.

REFERENCE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HELIPAD BY CHINESE IN INDIAN TERRITORY

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I rise to make a Special Mention on a very serious matter. It is a matter of great concern for the country that Chinese are consolidating their intrusion into Arunachal Pradesh, going deep into South of McMahon Line. According to latest reports, the intruders have constructed a helipad in Sumdorang Chu Valley of Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen their position in Indian Valley. The helipad is being regularly used for flights of helicopters. The intruders numbering about 150 have set up camps in the Valley and are trying to infiltrate into the villages.

Another alarming report is that the intruders are demanding grazing taxes from the local people. At a meeting on July 16, the Chinese asked the poor tribal villagers of Sumdorang Chu

river valley to pay taxes to the Chinese Government for grazing the yaks in the area which they claimed was inside the Chinese territory.

While there is no police in the area, the reported demand of the intruders and regular visits of helicopters from the Chinese side have created tension among the people.

It may be mentioned that the tribal people of Sumdorang and Thumdorang areas have been traditionally living in the upper reaches and have been using the Valley for grazing their yaks. If the tribals do not get back their grazing land immediately, they will starve as they earned their livelihood only from the milk of the yaks.

Sir, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr. Gegong Apang has already submitted a detailed report to the Prime Minister. While the Government must be realising the gravity of the situation, I know it has to move cautiously into the matter and take decision after considering various dimensions of this complex issue. But the Government must take the country into confidence and the House also about what exactly is happening, and give a factual statement. It should also apprise the House of the steps it is taking to meet the situation created by the intrusion. I hope, Sir, the Government will make a statement.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Chairman gave us an opportunity to seek clarifications on the statements. A statement has already been made by the External Affairs Minister on this issue. He has also assured us that another statement will be made by the External Affairs Minister on the recent talks on the border issue. No such statement has yet been made. We want to know when the statement will be made by the External Affairs Minister and when we will be given the opportunity to seek clarifications.