

I now request members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory

(Hon. members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved families our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Atrocities against Women in Kerala

†*161. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has received any complaints regarding cases of atrocities against women from Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof, incident-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Sir, if Mr. Chairman permits, I would like to put a point to the hon. Minister though the answer is 'no'. The recent developments in our State are related to atrocities on women specifically. One sex scandal is under discussion over there in a big way; two nuns and one priest were also attacked by the BJP followers. Regarding that, my question is: Is there any report received by the Government from the National Commission for Women? If not, is there any action initiated by the Government, *suo motu*? That is what I wanted to know.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. Chandran Pillai.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, as a matter of abundant caution, I requested the hon. Chairman of this Commission to see me and I pointedly asked her whether, in the answer of the Question, what we have said is correct or not. She said, it is totally correct and no such complaint had been received by her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, it is not only in Kerala, but all over India this is happening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is for Kerala only.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Sir, it is happening everywhere....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be happening. But the Question is not related to the whole of the country. It is limited only to Kerala.

डा० प्रभा ठाकुर: माननीय सभापति महोदय, यह एक चिंता का विषय है। सारे कानूनों के बावजूद महिलाओं के शोषण और उत्पीड़न में लगातार वृद्धि हुई है।...(*व्यवधान*)... मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि चाहे राजस्थान हो या केरल हो, ऐसी घटनाओं में वृद्धि हुई है या कमी हुई है?

श्री अर्जुन सिंह: सर क्वेश्चन तो स्पेसिफिक है। Normally one answers specific questions. But, if the hon. Chairman wants, and if some occasion could be made available, we can discuss this issue in general also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is right. Next Question.

Languages spoken in the country

*162. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:†

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many languages are spoken all over the country as per Government records;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.