

rice which was produced by the Coimbatore firm was found to be completely rotten and injurious to human health, and, if so, is the Government taking any steps to see that unauthorised production and manufacture of this synthetic rice is not undertaken in the country?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : I do not think so but it is difficult to stop anybody producing any type of food because it is essentially bad and harmful. Government take all care to see that the food which they patronise or initiate is perfectly healthy and is not injurious.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Who is responsible to see that the manufacture of rotten things are not put on the market in the name of synthetic rice?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : We will no doubt see that bad and harmful products are not put on the market.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Who finances the scheme?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : There is no scheme as such. We are just carrying out certain experiments. Substitute rice or artificial rice is just now in the process of experimentation.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Who is financing this?

(No answer.)

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Why is it called artificial rice? Is it because of its shape or of its taste?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA : Well, because the number of rice-eaters in this country is very substantial, it is hoped that they perhaps will like the shape.

WOMEN JURORS

*127. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether women

are debarred from being jurors in trials before Sessions Courts in the States, if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : I invite a reference to the reply given to starred question No. 4073 by Shrimati Jayashri on 12th May 1951. A copy of that reply is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT BY THE HON'BLE SHRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI, REGARDING "WOMEN JURORS" MADE ON 26TH MAY 1951.

SHRIMATI JAYASHRI : (a) Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether women are eligible to serve as jurors and assessors?

(b) Which are the Part 'C' States where women are not allowed to serve as jurors and assessors?

(c) What action do Government propose to take to bring about uniformity in various Part 'C' States regarding this matter?

THE HON'BLE SHRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI : (a), (b) & (c) The public service to be rendered by a juror or assessor is looked upon and treated in law as a liability not a privilege. Accordingly, under Sections 313 and 319 of the Criminal Procedure Code, no one can apply or claim to be included in the list of jurors and assessors. Lists are prepared of persons who are liable to serve if called upon. Certain persons are exempted from that liability. Under Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, all male persons between the ages of 21 and 60 are liable to be summoned to serve as jurors or assessors at trials in Sessions Courts within the District in which they reside. So far as the trials before the High Courts Sessions are concerned, the High Courts are empowered under Section 313 to make their own rules subject to which lists of persons liable to be summoned are prepared. There is no exemption for women in the case of the High Court lists. In the Sessions Courts of the Districts governed by Sections 319 and 320, women are exempted. They enjoy this exemption along with members of the legislatures and salaried judges and others who by reason of their occupation would be inconvenienced if made liable to be summoned to the Sessions Court to serve as jurors or assessors. At present the Code of Criminal Procedure has been extended to apply to all Part 'C' States and there is, therefore, complete uniformity in respect of the law on this point.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Am I to understand that there is no bar on the inclusion of women as jurors?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : There is a bar so far as Sessions Courts and District Courts are concerned, because it will be found that we have got the wording "all male persons" in Section 319 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Unless the word "male" is removed, it is not possible for women to be included.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know why, when according to our Constitution there is equality between the sexes, this obnoxious word is not removed ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : This matter has not yet been tested in the Supreme Court.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : In view of the fact that women are so full of the milk of human kindness, would they not always pass a verdict of "not guilty" ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : Is there any proposal for the abolition of trial by jury ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It does not arise.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Are we to understand that the Government wait for Supreme Court decisions before they make any sane decision ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : They do not wait.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : What is the total number of women jurors in the whole of India ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : It is very difficult to find out. They are confined to Presidency towns.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : May I know what is the number in Bombay State ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : I would like to have notice,

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Are there women jurors in the country ?

SHRI B. N. DATAR : There are a number of them in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether there are any women Sessions Judges or High Court Judges in the country ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It does not arise.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

*128. **SHRI M. VALIULLA :** Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments as to the working of the Preventive Detention Act and if so, what are those instructions ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR) : Yes. During the course of the debates on the Preventive Detention (Second Amendment) Bill, 1952, certain assurances were given to Parliament. The State Governments have been requested to administer the Act on the lines of those assurances.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the Central Government to interpret the law to the State Governments ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No question of interpretation.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know, Sir,.....

SHRI B. N. DATAR : The position was that certain matters were not covered by legislation. Therefore, certain assurances had been given on the floor of the House. They were conveyed to the State Governments and they were requested to carry them out. I might point out to my hon. friend that there was some discussion regarding the grant of family allowance for which there was no provision. Therefore, in terms of the assurances, the State: