

Increasing Incidents of Atrocities on Women in Various parts of the Country

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, let me start with a request to the Chair that the Special Mentions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please read it out.

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: I will read it out, Sir. Before that, I would like to say one sentence. Fixing the Special Mentions in a box with a limit of 250 words may be reconsidered by the Rules Committee so that our freedom of expression will not be curtailed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will see.

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Now, Sir, my subject is that there are increasing incidents of atrocities on women in various parts of the country. The media, both print and electronic, are full of reports of atrocities on women and some parts of the country have become notorious. Unfortunately, Andhra Pradesh is one of them. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh an agitation by the people against the 100% hike in electricity charges made by the State Government is going on for the last two months. As the hike has affected mostly the households, women are participating in the agitation. All sections of the people are participating in the agitation in support of them. The economy of the common man and the poor has been affected by the sudden hike in electricity charges. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, this is a law and order subject *(Interruptions)*... Some agitation is going on. *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: The people ask, "why should we pay 100% extra for the inefficiency of the Government?". When the present Government took over charge from the Congress in December, 1994, the Electricity Board was having a profit of Rs.85 crores. Now, the Board has declared a loss of Rs.3,600 crores. The transmission loss in December, 1994 was 18.6 per cent.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, in what way is it related to the atrocities on women? *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete.

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Now, after five years since the present Government started ruling Andhra Pradesh, the transmission loss stands at 32.10 per cent.

It proves that how inefficient and ineffective the State Government is. The Government has no answer except trying to curb the agitation through the police and through the Telugu Sena which was recently introduced by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

I have some photographs as evidence which show how brutally and violently the women were beaten. Besides the police, one can see civilians holding *lathies* and hitting the people including women. They are the people engaged by the Telugu Sena cadre. Thus the security and safety of women across all sections of the people in Andhra Pradesh has become vulnerable.

So I request the Central Government to advise the Government of Andhra Pradesh to stop the atrocities on women immediately and take stern action against the guilty. Thank you.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, my protest should go on record. *(Interruptions)*. He has raised an issue about the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board. *(Interruptions)*. In what way the Congress Party or the TDP...*(Interruptions)*.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

Involvement of Indian Troops in the UN Peace keeping Force in Sierra Leone

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the involvement of a sizeable contingent of Indian troops in the UN peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone has raised several questions which the Government must answer. Was a thorough appraisal of the risks involved made before committing our troops? Were our troops briefed of the terrain, policy objections and nature of warfare in that far away land? The answer appears to be in the negative.

The UN peacekeeping operations have grown in size and complexity after the end of the cold war and the whole character of the peacekeeping operation has completely changed. Sir, 1,400 peacekeepers have died and more than half have died in the last four years alone. The UN peacekeeping forces are now mandated to keep peace in the midst of civil wars inside the countries and where there is no peace to keep. The UN peacekeepers are not expected to fight other people's wars but to keep peace when there is a ceasefire and see to it that people do not start