

Need for legislation to control Jat/Khap Panchayats

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I want to bring this up that these caste-based panchayats are arbitrarily taking law into their own hands; they are ostracizing the people, humiliating them and making social boycotts. We have to pay attention to this arbitrariness because if this is not allowed by law, I think, we should come up with a legislation. In Maharashtra, we enacted this in 2017 to control the arbitrariness of caste based Panchayats. They should be abolished completely because they are going against the Constitution of India. For no reason, they are making a social boycott against the people who are just breaking social traditions or religious traditions. So, Sir, I request this House that we should come up with a legislation to abolish this system. Like we have abolished the social evils of *sati* or child marriages or the dowry system, in the same way, abolishing this caste system is also necessary.

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

श्री नीरज डांगी (राजस्थान): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

चौधरी सुखराम सिंह यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री रामचंद्र जांगड़ा: महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions, Shri Rewati Raman Singh; not present. Then, Shri Suresh Gopi.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for adequate health facilities for the tribal Community of Attapadi in Kerala

SHRI SURESH GOPI (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is with concern that I wish to raise certain challenges and hardships of the *adivasis*. I have picked Attapadi tribal hamlet in the Palakkad district of Kerala as a module.

One of the highest priorities in Indian democracy should be attending to the tribal problems. The Centre must take necessary steps for a rightful intervention into the tribal affairs. It is a hard reality that even after 74 years of independence, the community is struggling to sustain. If a community has to sustain, then, they have to remain healthy and deliver healthy babies.

From the various reports and interactions with those closely working with the Attapadi tribal hamlet, I understand that *adivasis*' healthy birth rate is decreasing tremendously. Very recently, there was an instance of three infant deaths in a week that has added to the total deaths of 12 infants in this year. We need to take urgent measures to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate and improve the health of people especially pregnant women in the tribal hamlets. I wish to suggest that the Centre takes the onus of the protection and development of the adivasi community rather than leaving the responsibility to the States alone. I request the Union Tribal Ministry, through you, Sir, to have a Tribal Protection Bill like the National Dam Safety Bill.

If the adivasi tribal community is not safeguarded from malnutrition and ill health, this would pose a threat to their very existence. Hence, I humbly request that the matter be seen as a serious one. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.