

Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

### **Rising atrocities against *Dalits***

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I stand before this august House with a heavy heart and I am compelled to address the pressing and painful issue that demands immediate attention of this Government and of the society.

Sir, the NCRB report reveals the disturbing truth of a 13 per cent rise in the cases of atrocities on *dalits* in one year. They are also called 'Hindus' and the society says that all Hindus are one, but statistics reveal that in 2020, the number of cases of atrocities on *dalits* was 50,291; in 2021, the number was 50,900, an increase, and in 2022, it was 57,582. This increasing trend shows how we are treating our fellow brothers in this country. The top three States here are Uttar Pradesh - 15,368 incidents, Rajasthan - 8,752 and Madhya Pradesh - 7,733. These are the top three States. Sir, the women are the worst hit. Among *dalits*, women are vulnerable and they are succumbed to atrocities like rape, naked parade, destruction of their self-respect and modesty. The statistics say that in 2021, 3,893 rapes were committed; in 2022, rapes have been increased to 4,252. Sexual harassment on *dalit* women were 932 in 2021 which increased to 1,022 in 2022. The cases reported on assault on their self-respect were 2,000 in 2021 which increased to 2,167 in 2022. Totally, 7,756 cases were reported on atrocities on women in 2021 and 343 atrocities relating to naked parade were done on women of this country. This is really shameful. Even today, I have read in newspaper that in Tirunelveli district, a Scheduled Caste boy was murdered because he was in love with an upper caste girl. It is not his mistake, but it is called by the Press and other media as *maryada hatya*. This *maryada hatya* is going on across the country. I request the Government to take it seriously and come out with concrete steps to stop this massacre. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri L. Hanumanthaiha: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik (Rajasthan), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta (National Capital Territory of Delhi), Dr. Ameer Yajnik (Gujarat), Shri Neeraj Dangi (Rajasthan), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri

Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra) and Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra).

The next speaker is Shri Harnath Singh Yadav on 'Need to impose Uniform Civil Code in the country to maintain communal harmony'. उपस्थित नहीं हैं। The next speaker is Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas on 'Need to end deaths due hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks'.

### **Need to stop deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks**

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, recently four migrant workers from Bihar died while cleaning a septic tank in Surat, Gujarat. The Union Government has stated that there have been no deaths due to manual scavenging in the country. However, the Government's own data states that over 300 people have died in the last five years due to accidents while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. Manual scavenging has been prohibited in India since 2013. However, *dalits* and tribles are forced to take up these jobs mainly due to poverty and lack of employment elsewhere. The historical repression and marginalization of these groups still exists, leaving them no other source to earn a living. The Government needs to take urgent measures to ensure that no person should have to demean himself by cleaning sewers and septic tanks manually. The law should be enforced strictly in this regard, especially on private firms who employ such persons on *per diem* basis which do not show them on their rolls, often without providing them any protective gears.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The technological solutions need to be enhanced and mechanical desludging and the use of robots should become the norms. Self-employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers need to be revived. Besides one-time cash component, the emphasis needs to be put on skilling and providing them soft loans to enable them to carve out alternative means of earning, livelihood or other career. We must ensure dignity of life and livelihood for every Indian citizen. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah (Karnataka), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra)