

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent dowry deaths:—

(i) Offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act have been made cognizable and attract more stringent punishment.

(ii) A new Section has been added in the Indian Penal Code making the offences of harassment and cruelty to women by their husbands and in-laws a cognizable offence.

(iii) New sub-sections 113-A and 113-B have been inserted in the Indian Evidence Act providing for presumption by a court as to abetment of suicide/dowry death by a married woman if cruelty or harassment for dowry is proved.

(iv) Short -stay Home has been set up by the Delhi Administration for the use of women in distress

(v) Special Magistrates have been detailed for recording dying declarations

(vi) Public is being educated through the media about the evil of dowry

(vii) Instructions have been issued to get postmortem examination conducted by two surgeons in dowry death cases

(viii) A special Cell for crime against women under the supervision of a woman Deputy Commissioner of Police has been set up.

### **Constitutional Status to Panchayats**

2663. SHRI ARVIND NETAM. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to grant constitutional status to the Panchayats; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

### **Abolition of Death Sentence**

2665. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to abolish death sentence in the country in view of the worldwide opinion regarding abolition of death sentence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): No, Madam.

### **Groundnut Cultivation**

2666. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase the area under groundnut cultivation in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP) and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP) are in operation in Orissa during the Seventh Plan period for increasing the area and production of groundnut.

(c) Question does not arise.

### **Recruitment of Seamen From Calcutta Port**

2667. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 per cent ships of the Indian Shipping Corporation and other Private Companies are earmarked for Calcutta:

(b) whether as per the recommendations of the Nanda Committee, 30 per cent of the seamen are recruited from Calcutta port:

(c) if not, the actual percentage of seamen recruited from Calcutta, and

(d) the remedial measures contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) (a) The Shipping Corporation of India maintains job ratio of 70:30 between Bombay and Calcutta. Three other companies having headquarters at Calcutta, i.e. Ratnakar Shipping Co.; India Steamship Ltd. and Surrendra Overseas Ltd. take 100% of their crew from Calcutta roster

(b) The Nanda Committee did not recommend that 30 per cent of seamen, recruited by Indian Shipping companies should be from Calcutta

(c) As on 1.1.1990, actual percentage of seamen recruited from Calcutta comes to 22 per cent on the basis of total number of jobs available

(d) To regulate the employment opportunities for the seamen in general roster at Calcutta, the Director General of Shipping has issued the following orders:—

(i) For all categories of seamen, the company roster to be increased to 185% of jobs.

(ii) In all called musters, the selection will be in the ratio of 75:25 basis for company roster and general roster, respectively.

(iii) In some of the categories in company rosters, the strength is more than 225%. In such categories, the selection will be confined to the company roster seamen.

(iv) If the 75:25 ratio is deviated from in any selection for any reason, i.e., absence of seamen required, rejection on medical or other grounds etc., the requisite percentage will be made up in subsequent selection to maintain the ratio fo 75:25

### **Allotment of Land to Private Schools in Chandigarh**

2668 SHRIBABANRAO DHAKNE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for allotment of land for private schools pending with the Chandigarh Administration as on 31 March, 1989.

(b) since when and the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether land already allotted has been given at concessional rates?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) 17

(b) These applications were received during the period from 5/82 to 3/89. Decision could not be taken for the following reasons:—

(i) non-furnishing of necessary certifi-