

**Title:** Urged upon the Government to give support to the widows to earn their livelihood.

**15.00 hours**

SHRIADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): May I draw the attention of the House into the most squalid plight of the widows in India. When we are pleading for the women's liberation and are advocating for the elimination of the male chauvinism, a large part of our society, that is widows, are thrown into oblivion. They are being treated as an ostracized community in our society. Widows, old or young, are often discovered themselves in the prostitutes of our religious cities like Varanasi, Mathura or Vrindavan. It is a shame for us that those widows, who have brought up their children by the sweat of their brow now eke out their livelihood in an undignified way. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give minimum support to them so that they can make their livelihood with dignity and honour. Instead of constructing Ram Temple or spilling the blood in the name of religion, we should concentrate on the welfare of the widows.