

[Shrimati Margaret Alva] say is that the overwhelming crimes are against women and we believe that this section of our society requires not just to be treated as a joke whenever you talk about atrocities on women, but you take this issue as a national challenge. It is not a question of government or one State Government or a question of one group or one organisation of women; it is a question in which the dignity of women of this country is involved. Therefore, we have presented a national perspective plan of action. There may be differences of opinion. But, we are saying that positive intervention on behalf of women is needed if you are going to correct this attitude and try to tell some of our men that women, most of them have more brain than men whatever may be their local opinions. This is what I am trying to say. That they have never been allowed to think for themselves; they have never been allowed to believe that they are capable of looking after themselves, nor have they been given an opportunity to participate as equal citizens; and this is a challenge we, in the government, are going to face today. Because, just by a law, the status of women cannot be changed; there has got to be an economic emancipation and participation for which a very serious programme for involving women in the mainstream development activities is necessary.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRAS. DEO:
Are you prepared to give a women coparcenery right?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The recommendations have been made in detail. I can assure you that in the coming few years you will see many, many changes and many, many new efforts which have never been thought of before will be coming in so that the status of women could be changed.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South):
Why don't you amend the Hindu Succession Act?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We will

do it all. Thank you very much. I am sorry, this is not an assurance.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.13 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The house now shall take up matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

- (1) Demand for allotting waste land to the landless poor after making it cultivable.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, crores of hectares of land in the country is lying as waste land in the form of ravines and rocky land. On the other hand, the number of landless and unemployed people is increasing with the increase in population. In spite of Government's efforts to provide assistance in the form of loans and grants to the selected families living below the poverty line to enable them to raise their standard of living, the results are not satisfactory because no permanent employment has been provided to them.

My submission is that instead of leaving it to the State Governments, the Central Government should take steps to make the wasteland cultivable and to allot it to the landless and the unemployed. The Government should also make a provision for the loans and the grants to be given for installing tubewells for irrigating the land so allotted so that the poor may rise above poverty line permanently and the wasteland may also be utilised. By making the land available, timely recovery of the loans may also be ensured and agriculture produce may also increase. Besides, unemployment too may be contained.