

into this accident had not included his name in the list? Will the Government consider this case sympathetically?

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** The hon. Member has informed me about it just now. I will certainly get an inquiry conducted into this matter.

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the main reasons of this devastating accident in which such a large number of deaths occurred is the carrying of inflammable materials and another and a more solid reason is the lack of internal communication in the train, that is, communication facilities between the guard and the driver were not available and that is why the driver did not stop the train immediately when the accident occurred and the train had covered sufficient distance which resulted in an accident of such magnitude. Has the hon. Minister of Railways considered this aspect as well and is he going to take any steps in this direction so that the communication system of the Railways, rather the internal communication system of the trins can be rectified?

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:** If the hon. Member had paid attention to the speech which I delivered yesterday, he would have known the we are making efforts to provide communication facilities between the guard and the driver but we have some difficulties here. This is also a part of our modernisation programme.

[English]

#### Sati Incident

\*45 **SHRI SURESH KURUP:**  
**SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH**  
**GOSWAMI:**

Will the minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that some incident of 'Sati' have occurred after the enactment of central legislation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):** (a) and (b). It was reported in the Press on the 12th of January, 1988 that a twenty eight year old woman had reportedly committed Sati in Kheria Mishra Village in Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh on the 10th January, 1988.

The State Government of U.P., which had promptly initiated investigation into the matter, reported on the 14th January that the investigations made so far had revealed that the incident was not an act of Sati. However, the criminal Investigation Department of the State Government has started further investigation of the case, which is in progress.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP:** I am not satisfied with the Minister's reply. There were reports in the Press that this has actually amounted to *sati*. This reply is only the reproduction of the official position of the U.P. Government. Since we are all concerned about this thing, I would like to know whether the Central Government would institute an Inquiry directly and report to this House of the findings of the Inquiry?

**THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO):** We do not have to reproduce either the press report or the Investigation report. Further investigation by the State Government is in progress. So let us see from the facts which have been brought out in the investigation. The investigating authorities came to the conclusion

that it cannot come under *Sati*, it could come under or suicide. This is their first finding, but they are not satisfied with this finding—I mean they have not stopped the investigation or terminated the investigation on this. They have given it to the CID, and CID is the authority, is the agency which goes into the motivations and other things behind the scenes. So, we would like to await the result of the CID report. At the moment, it would not be fair to add anything more.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Despite the Central law and the campaign against *Sati*, it is most unfortunate that certain influential people are still glorifying *Sati*. Recently, an influential political leader from Tamil Nadu issued a statement that she actually intended to commit *Sati*. I would like to know (*Interruptions*) whether Government would take action against the person concerned.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I do not think the hon. Member is serious about getting an answer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: She made a public statement. The statement appeared in the Press.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: I do not want to add to what Mr. Kurup says. (*Interruptions*) Why not reply to this question? My question is the same. If the political leaders and influential Members of Parliament make such statements....

MR SPEAKER: Nawal Ji, Saying and doing are completely different things.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: It amounts to glorification of *Sati*. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The Government has passed an Act to abolish *Sati*. What action has Government taken under that law? (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: Now next question. Mr Bhuria.

[*Translation*]

### Amount Utilised on National Highways

\*46 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have fully utilised the amount allocated to them for the development and maintenance of the National Highways during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the names of those States whose performance has not been found satisfactory?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) The States/Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have fully utilised the years of the Seventh plan period.

(b) The States/Union Territories of Bihar, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, however, could not fully utilise the funds provided to them for this purpose.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr.