

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : It is me who is tilling his land. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, god alone knows whether the seeds provided to the farmers after floods last year were substandard or what they were.

MR. SPEAKER : This is an outdated matter.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I want to ask whether the National seeds Corporation has adequate reserve this year so that it may provide seeds to the flood stricken states when the demand comes from there. Last year they had supplied the foodgrains under the name of high quality seeds by borrowing it from the F.C.I. on the ground that the National Seeds Corporation does not have adequate seed stock. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether he has made sufficient preparations for this year.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : So far as the first question is concerned, I want to say that it has already been debated in this House and reply too has been given after thorough investigation. The intention was not that good quality seed should not be provided. It was told that the seed borrowed from F.C.I. was useful and it germinated well. The State Governments and the Central Government together prepared an estimate of the seeds required this year and according to that every State had as much seeds available with them as required by them. Adequate stock of seeds was available in Bihar for this year Kharif cultivation and no complaint has been received by us regarding the scarcity of seeds. Transplantation work of paddy has already been finished in Bihar. Therefore, I presume that there is no scarcity of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bairagi, have you ever sent an invitation to Shri Shahabuddin ?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I am sending him the invitation to come here.

[*English*]

**Conference of State Ministers on
Women's Development**

*127. **SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :**
SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

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

(a) whether a Conference of State Ministers and Secretaries dealing with Women's development was held in New Delhi on July 4, 1988;

(b) if so, what specific steps were considered and decided upon for women's development and to effectively curb crime against women including dowry deaths; and

(c) the follow-up action taken in this regard ?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The State Governments endorsed the strategy for women's development contained in the draft National perspective plan for Women. The State Governments were urged to gear up their enforcement machinery to deal with crimes against women and help in meaningful implementation of the laws aimed at women's welfare and development.

The draft National Perspective Plan is being finalized taking into account the views of State Governments, State Social Welfare Advisory Boards, voluntary organisations and representatives of women's

interests, etc. The state Governments have to take follow up action in regard to effectively curb crimes against women in cooperation with the voluntary organisations and women's groups.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is doing a lot for the welfare and development of women and many laws have been enacted in this regard. But these laws are not implemented. Despite enactment of the Sati Prevention Act, Sati practice still continues. A number of so called Shankracharya are emerging. Merely enacting laws will not serve the purpose. There is an urgent need to implement these laws. What is the Government doing in this regard? Girls are being sold in the hands of anti-social elements. There are many reports of dowry deaths these days. What a coincidence that a gas stove explodes only when a daughter in law enters the kitchen. It does not explode when somebody else is in the kitchen; Why is it so? The main reason behind this is greed for dowry. Therefore. I would like to submit that merely enacting laws will be of no use. What is the Government doing to implement them? What step is being contemplated in this regard by the Government?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I am prepared to answer his question but this question was filed specifically about the meeting of the ministers from the States, what was discussed and what were the programmes which were suggested.....

(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I do agree, that one of the subjects which was discussed was the need for mobilising the machinery for implementation of programmes for women, including the prevention of atrocities on women. I may be criticised in places for saying so, but I want to repeat again that the implementation machineries are with the State Governments. I can only call for meeting of the Ministers in charge in the States, appeal to them and request them to strengthen the machinery so that we can altogether prevent

these atrocities and work for the improvement of the status of women. I have no other go except to appeal to the State Governments to cooperate to set up the family courts. Andhra Pradesh has not yet done so, many States have not done so

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, why does she say only Andhra Pradesh ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Because the Member is from Andhra Pradesh. I am requesting him to use his good offices with his administration and help us in implementing the legislation which is passed by the Central Lagislature.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REEDY : Sir, whenever the Minister gives an answer, Andhra Pradesh is always referred to.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : She is your neighbour. Don't the neighbours have love for each other ?

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : The Central Government did not leave any room for us to put pressure on our State Government, as it is already suffering from the pressure put on it by the centre. What more pressure can we put? (*Interruptions*) But remember one thing we are not going to submit to these pressures.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, education is a must for all women if we want to emancipate them and provide them equality of status. The hon. Minister is also aware of this fact. More Universities should be opened so that women can get education easily and be self-dependant, earn a living and save themse lves from dowry seekers, and death. What steps does the hon. Minister propose to take in this regard.

The Padmavati Women University was inaugurated by our Chief Minister Shri Ramarao three years ago but it has not been recognised by the UGC so far. Would the hon. Minister take steps to get it recognised by the UGC? As this question is related to women, this work should be

done and we should also be assisted in similar endeavours. I would like to know whether efforts would be made in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not relevant.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, from the Statement it is clear that the national perspective plan up to 2000 A.D. is in the process of finalisation. Naturally, being a Member of the Committee I am also aware of it. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether she is aware that a number of women's organisations have requested for a national debate to receive the adoption of the plan finally considering the fact that surely this plan will have very important recommendations and the implementation would be the biggest problem and the most important component will be a campaign among the public, State Governments and all other agencies and all people. I would like to know whether the Minister would consider to have a really national debate on the perspective plan so that it is backed up by our very wide awareness for the real implementation of the perspective plan.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, the hon. Member is aware of the various stages through which the plan has gone and in fact it was presented for a full discussion also at the national committee on women of which the hon. Member is also a Member.

Sir, we do agree that there must be a general debate and I would like to tell the Member that there were just five organisations which, in a joint statement, called for a national debate. In fact, after that we have had a two-day meeting with representatives of voluntary organisations from all over the country to which about 65 organisations were invited. They have made very valuable suggestions which the core Group has considered and incorporated as far as possible. There have also been discussions at various levels including with Chairpersons of the State Social Welfare Boards. We have had discussions recently in the meeting of Ministers in charge of

women's development in the States, and I am glad to state that all the States had unanimously endorsed the recommendations in the plan without any objection and therefore, Sir, I would like to say that we have made the document public, we have called for recommendations, amendments and whatever comes to us we are prepared to incorporate and change according to. It was only a draft plan which we presented. Before it is finalised, we are also going to have a meeting with all women Members of Parliament so that they also would be able to guide us before it is finalised.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I wanted to allow only lady Members to make that rest of the supplementaries but now I would make an exception for Dr. Dhillon.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Mr. Speaker, this question is about women and a woman is the Minister of this Department. There is no Minister in the Cabinet from Punjab and the officers are running the State there. I would like to know that is the progress of women development in Punjab.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that the women of Punjab are far ahead of women in many parts of the country in many respects.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. DHILLON : My question has not been replied. Should I take it that the hon. Minister knows everything ?

MR. SPEAKER : She has replied to it indirectly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of shame that three sisters committed suicide in Kanpur a few days back because their father could not afford to marry them off. It is very unfortunate also. Similarly, a father of three daughters committed suicide last Sunday in our State. Such

things are unfortunate. The Government has enacted many laws to check such incidents. I would suggest that the Government should provide loans and job on priority basis to those unemployed youths who are ready to marry poor girls without taking dowry. This is a serious question. The dream of a poor girl shatters because of dowry demand, and we are helpless...

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, Kindly, put the question.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I would urge the Government to formulate a scheme wherein those unemployed youth who come forward to marry girls without taking dowry should be provided jobs on priority basis.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I would only like to tell the hon. Member that we are very much in the process of telling young women that marriage is not the only course open to them. They should be educated; they should be able to look after themselves—like the hon. Member who has proved what a woman can achieve by pursuing a career on her own,

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is not a simple question, Sir.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Minister, don't give her wrong advice !

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, very little time is devoted on this subject in the House. I am glad that the hon. lady Minister has taken it very seriously. I want to ask the Minister whether the discussion in the House on this subject would lead us to any solution to the problem? Demand of dowry and dowry deaths have become very common now a days. It has become a street talk. Despite enactment of many laws for women, the problem of dowry is assuming serious dimension day by day. Dowry is asked in case

of educated girls also. If a survey is conducted in this regard in all the States you will get the reply. You can find out the number of bride-burning cases from hospitals and courts. This can be checked only when a detailed study is made in this regard. I would like to know whether such a survey would be conducted and the proposal for a family court is being considered ?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, we are constantly giving instructions to the State Governments. But there is nothing much that we can.

**Setting up of food and Vegetable
Processing Units to Check
Loss in Transit**

*128 SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI :
SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated annual production of vegetables and fruits in the country;

(b) whether due to climatic and other reasons fruits and vegetables do not reach the consumer in good condition and a large quantity of these items perish in transit;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a network of fruit and vegetable processing units at various places with a view to check this avoidable loss; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :
(a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) It is estimated that about 23 million tonnes of fruits and 43 million tonnes of vegetables are produced annually in the country.