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Rajya Sabha in rage over rape

Members moot drastic punishments including lynching and castration

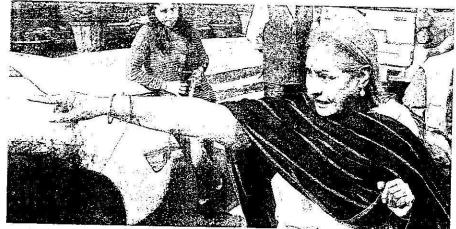
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A heated debate on the rape and murder of a 25-year-old veterinarian in Hyderabad saw several Rajya Sabha members moot drastic punishments including lynching and castration for rapists.

Observing that in some countries justice was delivered by the public for such incidents, Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan urged lynching of the rapists. "I know it's a little harsh, but I think these kind of people need to be brought out in public and lynched," she said.

Offenders' list

DMK member P. Wilson wanted the government to enact a law to castrate convicted rapists. "The courts should be empowered to surgically and chemically castrate convicted rapists before they are released from jails so as to check repeat offenders," he said. Mr. Wilson said the list of sexual offenders should be made public.



Vociferous demand: In her speech in the House, Samajwadi Party member Jaya Bachchan demanded lynching of rape accused. • PTI

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AIADMK member Vijila brief mer
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diate justice", and demanded that the four persons accused in the Hyderabad case
be tried and hanged before
December 31.

Members cutting across party lines sought a speedy trial and the death penalty for the rapists.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu rejected adjournment motions, but allowed members to make brief mentions on the Hyderabad case and other such incidents.

Mohammad Ali Khan of the Congress wanted a timeline to be set for trial in fasttrack courts, and urged that the religious identities of the accused not be used to give the crime a religious colour.

Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral said "fear of law" was no longer a deterrent.

The debate saw the Communist Party of India, which

is opposed to capital punishment, demand the death penalty for the accused. "I do not believe in the death penalty, but these accused should be hanged for such a heinous crime," party member Binoy Viswam said.

Mr. Naidu questioned the mercy petition system. "Can anyone think of giving mercy to such people," he said. He also suggested that laws treating a 'juvenile' accused lightly ought to be revisited.