

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the recommendation of DPC would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) As per information provided by Delhi University, the Governing Body of the Shivaji College has recommended the name of Mr. R.C. Passi, SC, for promotion to the post of Sr. Assistant by relaxing the required work experience, subject to the approval of the University. The fixation of pay of Mr. Passi even as J.A.C.T. (Junior Assistant-cum-Typist) on promotion from Office Attendant is presently held up pending fulfilment of certain eligibility condition.

Students' Enrolment in Higher Education

2255. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of students going in for higher education in India is alarming;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether Government are having any scheme to send students to foreign countries for higher education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Policy for empowerment of women

2256. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are set to announce a National Policy for Empowerment of Women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the policy document is expected to be presented in Parliament; and

(c) whether the policy would eradicate various disabilities and handicaps faced by women in various settings and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is in the process of finalizing a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. Some of the major areas which the policy may cover are indicated in the Statement. (See Below) It will be presented in the Parliament immediately after Government's decision on it is finalized.

(c) The extent to which these issues will be addressed would be known after the policy is announced.

Statement

Major areas to be covered in the proposed National Policy for the Empowerment of Women.

The National Policy, which the Government of India is considering, would guide and inform action at all levels and integrate women's concerns and perspectives into all macro and micro level initiatives. The Policy would address a number of issues and in particular may cover:—

- (i) De-jure and de-facto equality in right, access and control over productive resources, including land, other forms of property, education, health, shelter etc. between men and women;
- (ii) Removal of all discriminating provisions (against women) all laws, policies, rules and regulations;
- (iii) Full and equal participation of women in all forms of decision making including the legislative, executive and judicial institutions by resorting to affirmative action such as reservation, wherever necessary;
- (iv) The acknowledgement and dissemination of women's contribution the national economy;
- (v) Compulsory collection and publication of gender disaggregated statistics by all Ministries/Offices of the State/Central Governments;
- (vi) The imperative of keeping in views the needs of specially

vulnerable groups of women; including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBCs/Minorities, disabled, elderly, widowed women, inter-state migrant women etc;

- (vii) The holistic convergence of women related schemes, programmes and services effecting a synergy of development giving women control over and equal access to factors contributing to empowerment such as health, education, credit, land etc;
- (viii) Mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental policies and process as catalysts, participants and recipients;
- (ix) Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls by strict enforcement and strengthening of machineries responsible for the elimination of violence;
- (x) Positive portrayal of women in media;
- (xi) Involvement of all sections of society including NGOs, the Private Sector;
- (xii) Elimination of discrimination and violence of the rights of the girl child;
- (xiii) Continuous and regular gender sensitization of all functionaries of the State, including the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative wings;
- (xiv) Including women's perspectives in macro economic policies by inter-alia ensuring their participation in such processes;
- (xv) Women's participation in the policies and programmes relating to the conservation of environment and management of eco-systems.

2. The Policy may also include strategic actions required for implementation of various policy directions.