

Unemployment among Women

*495. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to strengthen the productive role of women in economic development activities initiated in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry and small and large scale industries;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint an expert group to study the problem of unemployment among women; and

(c) whether Government also propose to form separate women's cooperative and credit societies for the purpose?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R DESAI): (a) While formulating the next Plan the question of providing employment opportunities to women will be given specific attention.

(b) The Government have recently constituted a Working Group on Employment of Women to examine various issues relating to employment of women in the context of the formulation of the next Plan.

(c) Issues relating to women's cooperative and credit societies are, among others, to be considered by this Working Group.

Increase in the amount of Pension to Freedom Fighters

*496. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from freedom fighters for increasing the amount of pensions granted to them; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. From time to time, freedom fighters have been request-

ing general enhancement of the minimum pension of Rs. 200 per month, (b) A general enhancement of the minimum pension of Rs. 200 per month is not feasible in the present difficult economic situation.

Findings of the Sarkaria Commission

*497. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have processed the findings of the Sarkaria Commission on some of the charges against the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to initiate action against the former Chief Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Sarkaria Commission submitted its first report on 19-1-1977, which relates to 7 of the allegations referred to the Commission for inquiry. A copy of the report along with a memorandum of the action taken thereon was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 1-4-1977.

One of the allegations covered by this Report, which relates to award of Aerial Spraying contracts in Tamil Nadu, was also the subject matter of a regular case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation prior to the setting up of this Commission. This allegation was accordingly remitted to the Central Bureau of Investigation for proceeding further with the case registered by it, in the light of the Commission's findings.

As for the remaining allegations covered by the Report, the matter was remitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu for taking necessary follow-up action on the findings of the Commission.

Research on Herbs by the Botanical Survey of India

♦498. SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: