

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Some representations were received. An offer of an alternative plot in the same colony has been made to one of the auction-purchasers.

श्री नरथी सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताएंगे कि उन्हें इस प्रकार का आवेदन पत्र भी प्राप्त हुआ है कि जिस क्षेत्रफल का प्लॉट नं० जी-152 के नाम से बेचा गया उसके लिये खरीदार में 50 हजार पांच सौ से अप्रैल, 1973 तक जमा करा लिये गये और उसके बाद उसी एरिये को खरीदार की बिना जानकारी के प्लॉट नं० जी-150 के रूप में दूसरे के नाम रजिस्टरी करा दी गई ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : इस प्रकार का एक प्रतिवेदन हमें अवश्य मिला है। परन्तु सारी जानकारी प्राप्त करने के बाद यह तय पाया गया कि जो उस प्रतिवेदन में लिखा है वह तथ्यों से मेल नहीं खाता। जो वहाँ का नक्शा था एप्रूव ले आउट प्लान था उसको भी देखा गया और जो नीलामी हुई उसके कागजात को भी देखा गया। इन सब को देखने के बाद यह पता लगा कि प्रतिवेदन तथ्यों से दूर है और वस्तुस्थिति वही है जो पहले थी।

श्री नरथी सिंह : जो प्रतिवेदन दे रहा है क्या उसको कोई प्लॉट दिया गया है ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : उन्हें कहा गया है कि अगर आप यह प्लॉट पसन्द नहीं करते हैं तो उसी कालोनी में कुछ और प्लॉट हैं उनमें से पसन्द कर लें। उनको इस प्रकार का पत्र लिख दिया गया है और संभवतः वे उस पर विचार कर रहे हैं।

Recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Women

*302 SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :†

SHRI S. W. DHABE :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations of the committee on the status of women in India which have been accepted by Government; and

(a) the number of recommendations which have been implemented during the International Women Year 1975 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

1. The following recommendations of the Committee on the Status of Women in India have been accepted by Government :

(i) Mounting a campaign for the dissemination of information about the legal rights of women to increase their awareness.

(ii) Prohibiting giving or taking of dowry by Government servants through appropriate provisions in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(iii) The creation of a cell within the Ministry of Labour to deal with problems of women.

(iv) Reduction of the limit of workers for provision of creches from 50 to 30 under the Factories Act (The Committee had, however, recommended reduction of the number to 20 women workers).

(v) Promulgation of Legislative enactment to ensure equal pay for equal work for both men and women workers.

(vi) Developing programmes of vocational training for women in close rela-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sumitra G. Kulkarni.

tionship with industries and resources located in the area.

(vii) Attachment of production centres to Polytechnics for Women as recommended by the Committee of the All India Council for Technical Education.

(viii) Development of vocational training for both illiterate and semi-literate women workers.

(ix) Provision of basic education to adult women.

(x) Acceptance of co-education as the general policy at the primary level of education.

(xi) Maintenance of required standards in regard to staff, co-curricular activities, etc., wherever separate schools/colleges are provided for girls.

(xii) Common course of general education for both sexes till the end of class X.

(xiii) Vocationalisation of courses in classes XI and XII;

(xiv) Launching of special efforts to increase the number of *bal-wadis* in rural areas and urban slums, as near as possible to the primary/Middle Schools of the locality.

(xv) Provision of primary schools within walking distance from the home of every child.

(xvi) Provision of greater flexibility in admission procedures in schools to help girls to complete their schooling.

(xvii) Introduction of job oriented work-experience for girls in secondary schools.

(xviii) Provision of non-formal education to women who have remained outside the reach of the formal system.

(xix) Promotion of research in the field of female disorders.

(xx) Mass campaigns for family planning should also aim to correct prevailing social attitudes regarding fertility, metabolic hereditary disorders and the sex of the child.

2. The following recommendations of the Committee were implemented during the International Women's Year :

(i) Equalisation of wages for men and women workers; an Ordinance entitled "The Equal Remuneration, 1975" was promulgated by the President of India on 26.9.75.

(ii) A scheme to provide basic education to adult women as recommended by the Committee was sanctioned under the title "Scheme of Functional Literacy for Adult Women."

(iii) Inclusion of women in all important committees, commissions or delegations that are appointed to examine the socio-economic problems; appropriate instructions have already been issued in this behalf by the Government of India on 1.4.75.

(iv) Mounting a campaign for the dissemination of information about the legal rights of women to increase their awareness; all media of mass communication were utilised for the purpose.

(v) Launching of special efforts to increase the number of *balwadis* in rural areas and urban slums; the Integrated Child Development Services scheme which contemplates the establishment of *anganwadis* which serve the same purpose was sanctioned during the year.

3. The recommendations referred to at sub-para (vi), (viii), (x), (xi), (xii), (xiii), (xv), (xvi), (xvii), (xviii), (xix) and (xx) in para 1 above are in accord with policies already being pursued by Government.

4. The recommendations of the Committee regarding formation of women's wings in all trade unions and the adoption of a definite policy by political parties regarding the percentage of woman to be sponsored by them for elections are outside the sphere of Governmental action.

5. The remaining recommendations of the Committee are under consideration in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :
Sir, on page 359 of the Report, there is a Chapter on 'Eradication of Polygamy'. The Report says :

"We are of the firm view that there could be no compromise on the basic

policy of monogamy being the rule for all communities in India."

Now, in the light of this recommendation of the Committee on the Status of Women in India and also in view of other recommendations from the Law Commission, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken for accepting this recommendation, particularly in the matter of personal laws and more specifically, as it is mentioned in this report also, in regard to Muslim personal law. This is one question. The second part of my question is. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not add.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: This is also pertaining to the same thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will not get your second chance.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: why should you be unfair on this issue ?

This forms part of my first question, pertaining to the personal laws. There is also the recommendation of the Law Commission in regard to marriage and divorce among Christians. Since 1960, this Bill is pending.

In view of this, I would like to know what steps are being taken by the Government for implementing the recommendations on the personal laws of Muslims as well as Christians.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I would request the hon. Member to put this question to my colleague, the Minister of Law.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Sir, implementation of the report of the Committee on the Status of Women is part of the Curriculum of his Ministry and so he has to accept the responsibility for recommending it, chasing it and ensuring that it is implemented. What is he doing about it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Kulkarni, let the hon. Minister for Education bring it to the notice of the Law Ministry.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: That is what he should do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will do it. You put your supplementary.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Some recommendations of the Committee have been implemented according to his statement laid on the Table. At 2(iv) it says "Mounting a campaign for the dissemination of information about the legal rights of women to increase their awareness; all media of mass communication were utilised for the purpose." This is a very vague recommendation and I would like to know whether this is confined only to visual publicity because, last year the Prime Minister had agreed and the hon. Minister also is fully aware that it was agreed that this kind of social legislation which is for the protection of the rights of women should be made part of the curriculum of middle schools in the civics section. So, my question is : Has he authorised any Committee to look into the matter and prepare this social legislation protecting the rights of women which should be included in the middle schools and also in the adult school curricula so that adults can also be educated on the rights of women and also young boys and young girls know what are their rights and duties vis-a-vis the social legislation ? What has he done in this respect ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned this thing and I am very grateful to her for having drawn the attention of the Government to this extremely important point. The National Council of Educational Research and Training which is a body under the Ministry of Education is to prepare text-books for the middle section and higher secondary schools and in all these various stages. I have given this assurance to the hon. Member, that suitable lessons will be introduced.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: If you have taken the steps then they should have been included in this statement which is placed on the Table. How is it that it is not mentioned there ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has replied.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: He is laying it now but this matter was taken up last year. Why does not he include it ?

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : There is a lot of male chauvinism in the Government

SHRI S. W. DHABE : In the statement he has stated, "The creation of a cell within the Ministry of Labour to deal with problems of women". What problems will they deal with unless the recommendation is defined and accepted? A major recommendation of this Committee is that under the Constitution of India there will be equal opportunity of employment for women and special trades are prescribed for this purpose just like teaching, textile industry and other industries. But that has not been done. In Chapter V it is said that in educational institutions the employment of women is 21 per cent. The recommendation is that in high schools, secondary schools, Central schools and colleges. 50 per cent women should be employed. What is the position of the Government in respect of those institutions?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I have drawn the attention of the Ministers of Education of the State Governments to the urgent need to increase the percentage of employment of women teachers. There are various practical difficulties and we are doing our best to suggest ways and means of how to overcome those difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Menon.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Harsh Deo, let the women ask. Why are you so much interested?

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Sir, I also must have a question.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON : Sir, I find that in part 2 of the statement, item (iii) is "Inclusion of women in all important committees, commissions or delegations that are appointed to examine the socio-economic problems;". I would like to know whether the hon. Minister means only socio-economic problems and not cultural and political problems also. And I find that in reply to part one of the question the Government has listed the recommendations that have been accepted but it does not include promotion of women's participation in representative bodies. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government intends women being represented in representative bodies as has been recommended by this Committee, which says at least 15 per cent of the representative bodies should consist of women.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, on page 4 of the statement, we have made a reference to the fact that the representative bodies—presumably she means the political parties—are outside the purview of Governmental action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : She means other committees.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : So far as committees and delegations are concerned, the Government has been trying to include women in as many of the delegations and committees as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shrimati Alva.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN : Is it a women day today?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The hon. Minister just now, while answering Mrs. Kulkarni, said that measures for disseminating knowledge to students and to women about their legal and political rights have been taken or are going to be taken. But I would like to say that knowledge of these rights would be little use to women in this country if measures are not taken for providing free legal aid to them because in the absence of free legal aid, provision of this knowledge would create more frustration among women. Since at the moment there is a lot of talk of free legal aid to different sections of the backward and underprivileged sections of the Indian society. I would like to know whether the Minister would take necessary steps to see that the Ministry of Law would make special provisions for free legal aid to women to be given at this crucial stage.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : As the hon. Member has herself said, the Law Minister is actively seized of the problem of providing free legal aid to the poorer sections of the community and I would certainly bring the suggestion of the hon. Member to the notice of the Law Minister.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Sir, it is generally accepted that women's emancipation is not possible without economic independence of women. In this connection, I would like to ask whether the Government has considered the right to work to be a right to be incorporated in the Constitution and implemented effectively. Sir, in this connection I would like to draw the atten-

tion of the hon. Minister to the fact that wherever minimum wages and maternity benefits have been implemented by law or have been tried to be implemented by law, including the new Act for equal pay for equal work, there is a tendency among the managements of various private sector companies to retrench women because it is cheaper to employ men rather than pay equal for equal work and also give maternity benefits. So, I would like to know whether any steps are being considered for enforcing the law of maternity benefit, equal wage for equal work and so on, so that managements of private sector companies do not retrench women in order to improve their profits and whether the right to work will be incorporated in the Constitution.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : So far as right to work is concerned that is a general policy of the Government and I hope that every section of the House agrees that every person should have the right to work. But I will come to the more specific question which the hon. Member has put. Government when drafting this piece of legislation about equal pay for equal work gave very careful consideration to the fact that there may be a tendency on the part of many private employers to retrench women workers and, therefore, the hon. Member would notice that there is a provision in a clause of the Bill itself and also that this cell in the Ministry of Labour to which a reference was made a little while ago, will be trying to look into this and to draw attention continuously of the State Governments to watch the question of improvement of women.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : It is not a question of watching. You have been watching so long. You have seen that the employers have dismissed women when maternity benefits have to be implemented. They have retrenched women in many cases. What is the effective measure that the Government is taking in this regard?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : This is precisely what we are trying to do. The legal power is being provided under this particular Act. With the policy of the Government to ensure that there is no retrenchment, I hope that if more powers are needed by the Government, the Government would be prepared to come here. But

the policy of the Government is very specific in this matter.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is the Government aware that the women in India, in general—and specially after the International Women's Year,—have become aggressive. (*Interruption*). Sir, generally they have been aggressive. Will the Government take some steps to request ladies not to be aggressive?

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Under the MISA, should be given special protection.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The hon'ble Member has told us that women have become aggressive. If it is true, what is there? This thing has come after such a long time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wants to know your experience.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Sir, while putting my question, I sincerely hope that the hon'ble Minister will not try to be evasive as he did when replying to the first supplementary of Mrs. Kulkarni. My question arises from recommendations No. 1 and 3 about the legal rights and the creation of a cell within the Ministry to deal with the problems of women. Sir, is the hon'ble Minister aware of the extremely miserable and pitiable condition of women in jails all over India—I am not referring to the political prisoners, but all prisoners? If so, what steps is he through his Ministry planning to take to see that women in jails receive at least the legal rights which are today denied to them, and humanitarian steps are taken in this connection?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, we will certainly look into these points.

Problems of the Refugees from Erstwhile East Bengal

*303. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : †

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
DR. V. B. SINGH :

SHRI ROSHAN LAL :
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA
MENON :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any specific proposal to deal with the remaining

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harsh Deo Malaviya.