

Promotion of elected women to Municipalities

*573. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry have information on estimates about the number or proportion of women elected to the Municipalities or as President of their respective Municipalities in a proxy capacity on behalf of their husbands, fathers, brothers or other male members of their households; and

(b) if not, whether, on the lines of 2007-2008 Survey of Elected Women Representatives undertaken by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, a study could be commissioned on the extent of women's proxy representation and ways in which this might be curbed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. However, it is pertinent to mention that in order to obviate proxy representation, capacity building and training of Women elected to municipalities is of paramount importance. The Ministry of Urban Development under its Capacity Building Scheme for Urban Local Bodies provides financial assistance under its plan budget to State Governments, specifically for training of elected women representatives in the urban local bodies. The State Governments are required to nominate one State-level institute to conduct the training programmes of three days duration. They are provided with lumpsum financial grants @ Rs.2,500 per day per participant. Also, financial assistance (maximum Rs. 50,000) is provided to States for preparation of training modules. The expenditure on this account during the 11th plan period was Rs. 4.15 crore. So far 18,720 women elected to municipalities have been trained under the above scheme from 2002-03 onwards. The total expenditure for the training programme is borne by the Central Government.

Unemployment rate

*574. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's unemployment rate fell to 2 per cent in 2009-10 from 2.3 per cent in 2004-05, dispelling fears of jobless growth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to correct the situation with some action taken in the last year of the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE) : (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained