

(b) the details of the steps taken in the said policy to ensure wages to women and children without discrimination and safeguarding them from sexual harassment in the houses where they work; and

(c) by when the National Policy for Domestic Workers would be finalized and implemented along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the policy has not been approved, it is not possible to indicate details regarding measures for ensuring payment of wages without discrimination and safeguarding them from sexual harassment.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate a time frame for finalization of policy.

Employment for women

1057. SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an alarming dip in the employment of women in the country particularly in rural areas in the past two years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH): (a) and (b) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSS), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the results of the two NSS surveys conducted during 2009-10 and 2011-12, estimated total employment for women on usual status basis has declined by 1.9 million from 131.3 million in 2009-10 to 129.4 million in 2011-12 and for rural women decline was of 3.7 million from 105.7 million in 2009-10 to 102.0 million in 2011-12. The main reasons for decline in women employment may be attributed to decline in labour force participation rate, higher level of retention in education and rise in the level of family income.