

Draft National Policy for Women

1265. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has come out with a draft National Policy for Women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has incorporated most of the suggestions received from general public; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared the draft National Policy for Women, 2017 after considering suggestions/comments received from stakeholders. The key stakeholders included various Ministries/Departments, Academic organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and inputs from general public received through social media and other means. The Draft envisions a society in which, women attain their full potential and are able to participate as equal partners in all spheres of life. The draft Policy addresses the diverse needs of women through identified priority areas: (i) Health including Food Security and Nutrition; (ii) Education; (iii) Economy (including agriculture, industry, labour, employment, NRI women, soft power, service sector, science and technology); (iv) Governance and Decision Making; (v) Violence Against Women; (vi) Enabling Environment (including housing, shelter and infrastructure, drinking water and sanitation, media and culture, sports and social security); and (vii) Environment and Climate Change. Draft Policy envisages that existing legislations affecting/relating to women will be harmonized in accordance with Constitutional provisions and international commitments, in order to enhance their effectiveness.

Revision of National Policy for Women

1266. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the revision of the existing 16 year old National Policy for Women would involve looking at new and emerging problems being faced by women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the draft National Policy for Women, 2017 is being examined by a Group of Ministers;

(c) whether the draft envisages that the personal laws are required to be reviewed given its plurality in accordance with the constitutional provisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes sir. Since 2001, there have been significant changes with regard to the status and empowerment of women. As a commitment towards fulfilling the larger mandate of women's empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has prepared the draft National Policy for Women, 2017 in consultation with various stakeholders. The draft was examined and approved by the Group of Ministers. The Draft envisions a society in which, women attain their full potential and are able to participate as equal partners in all spheres of life. The draft Policy addresses the diverse needs of women through identified priority areas: (i) Health including Food Security and Nutrition; (ii) Education; (iii) Economy (including agriculture, industry, labour, employment, NRI women, soft power, service sector, science and technology); (iv) Governance and Decision Making; (v) Violence Against Women; (vi) Enabling Environment (including housing, shelter and infrastructure, drinking water and sanitation, media and culture, sports and social security); and (vii) Environment and Climate Change. After incorporating, comments/suggestion of Group of Ministers, the National Policy for Women, 2017 has been sent to Cabinet Secretariat to place before the Cabinet.

(c) and (d) Draft Policy envisages that existing legislations affecting/relating to women will be harmonized in accordance with Constitutional provisions and international commitments, in order to enhance their effectiveness.

Orphanages for women and children

1267. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provides grants to NGOs for setting up of orphanages for women and children in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned/released to various States including Karnataka during the last three years and the current year, State-wise/year-wise?