

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the decisions, if any, taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b). The Young Scientists of AIIMS have submitted a memorandum dated 22.1.1990 to the Prime Minister. Their main demand relates to the revision of emoluments of Ph. D. students and senior Demonstrators (Non-Medical).

(c) The representation is under consideration of the Government.

Closed Textile Mills in Gujarat

5449. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government have submitted a memorandum to Union Government in regard to the closed textile mills:

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Gujarat has demanded modification of Textile Workers Rehabilitation Scheme so as to make it applicable for payment of terminal benefits to workers, extension of this scheme to cases of partial closure, relaxation in credit norms by banks and financial institutions, and 50% exemption/deferment of excise duty on yarn/fabrics.

(c) The question of rationalisation of excise duties on yarn/fabrics has been considered in the recent budget. The other matters have been discussed with the Chief Minister, Gujarat and taken up with the concerned organisations.

Asian Women Parliament Conference in Population

5451. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether first Asian Women's Parliament Conference on population and status was held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the deliberations so made at the conference;

(c) the recommendations made at the conference; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The organisers of the Conference namely the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development have intimated that preparation of the detailed report of the conference is likely to take some more time. However, they have furnished to this Ministry 'Declaration and programme of action of the First Asian Women Parliamentarian's Conference on Population and Status of Women' which indicates various action points for the Women Parliamentarians of Asia, Government, non-governmental organisations, Press and Media, International Community and Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. A copy of the documents is given in the attached statement.

(d) The recommendations of the Conference have been noted for consideration within the overall Policy and Programmes of the Government.

STATEMENT

Declaration and Programme of Action of the First Asian Women Parliamentarians' Conference on Population and the Status of Women

We, Parliamentarians from 25 countries of Asia attending the First Asian Women Parliamentarian's Conference on Population and the Status of Women in New Delhi from 12 to 14 March, 1990, in addressing ourselves to the issues related to population and the status of women do hereby declare the following principles:

Declaration of Principles

1. Women, who comprise half the world's population, have a vital role in nation-building as individuals, professionals, mothers and wives, and as such, should be helped to develop their self-confidence and full potential and should affirm their basic human right to participate in social, economic, political and cultural life of their countries;
2. Equality between men and women means equality in their dignity and worth as human beings as well as equal partnership in responsible parenthood, in the process of decision-making and in the achievement of the goals of sustainable development;
3. Sustainable development means creating a balance between population growth and the environment in order to ensure the future of coming generations;

4. The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women from 1986 to 2000, adopted by consensus at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the United Nations Decade of Women held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 1985 with the theme: "Equality, Development and Peace" and the sub theme: "Employment, Education and Health" remains a major document, to be implemented for the advancement of women;
5. The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) should be ratified and implemented by Member Governments of the Asian region, if they have not yet done so;
6. The inextricable link between population and the status of women, if reflected in socio-economic policies, including family planning programmes, will help eliminate poverty, achieve sustainable development and promote stability and peace;
7. Family Planning services should be made accessible on the basis of voluntary choice and the provision of medically-safe and legally-acceptable methods within a user-friendly environment;
8. The recommendation of the 1984 International Conference on Population (Mexico City) that parliamentarians, policy makers, and other leaders in public life should promote as integrated approach to population and development and raise public awareness on the inter-relationship of these two issues is hereby endorsed;
9. The recommendations of the First Asian Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

- held in Beijing in 1981 and of the first Conference of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in New Delhi in 1984 to improve the status of women, particularly in areas of health, education and employment, and to create public awareness and acceptance of the changing role of women in Asia and of its social, political and cultural implications is hereby reaffirmed.
- 10 The statement made by the International Forum on Population in the 21st Century held in 1989 to the effect that strengthening the role and status of women is one of the pillars on which the attainment of population goals and objectives rests is hereby reiterated
- 11 Although many Governments of the region have adopted policies and programmes on the status of women and population much remains to be accomplished in these two areas such as raising age at marriage, providing social security for women, etc
- 12 Asian women parliamentarians have a special responsibility in identifying problems, developing a legislative agenda and mobilizing public support relating to the status of women, population, education health and environment specifically pertaining to destitute women, discriminatory practices in marriage and reduction in maternal mortality
- 13 The Asian region has a major role to play in world affairs in the next century and Asian women parliamentarians and women in general have an important contribution to make in influencing future developments such as environmental degradation, debt issues, peace and security arrangements.
- Programme of Action*
- 1 Asian Governments should adopt specific goals and targets within a prescribed time frame to improve the status of women in the areas of employment, education, health and environment,
- 2 Governments should make family planning and responsible parenthood and development priority which would include an overall population growth rate target of 1 per cent by the year 2000 for the region as a whole Family Planning services and related information, education and communication services should be strengthened and women's active participation both as beneficiaries and providers of service in these programmes should be ensured at every level,
- 3 Following the example of South Asian Countries, other countries should declare a year as the "Year of the Girl Child" with a view to formulating and implementing policies and programmes to benefit the girl child,
- 4 Special measures should be taken to improve the health of women and girls with a view to reducing high infant and maternal morbidity and mortality rates as well as to enable women to successfully combine, on a long-term term basis, home and career,
- 5 Governments should expand educational and training opportunities for women on an equal basis with men, including attention to the

- needs of illiterate women;
6. The national data collecting systems including the population census, the agricultural census and the national accounts must take due note of the role and contribution of women, including unpaid household work, while setting out figures which at present tend to underestimate and even distort the value of women's work;
 7. Governments should provide equal employment opportunities and equal pay for men and women and ensure that labour laws and standards for men and women are made on an equal basis in order to expand and to raise the level of the economic role of women;
 8. Governments should fully utilise the known linkages between women's status and population goals to underline their mutually reinforcing dimensions as a necessary precondition to adopting comprehensive, integrated and effective legislation. The process of legal reform should be broad-based to ensure and enhance the contribution of women as well as to protect their rights in marriage, family life and ownership and inheritance of property;
 9. The attitudes of male decision-makers and leaders need to be changed to be more positive to the new requirements and roles of women in society and to have such attitudes reflected in policies and programmes in order to eliminate discrimination against women;
 10. There is a need to strengthen national structures and organisations,
- improve the co-ordination between government and non-government organizations, and expand organizational network for the implementation of policies relating to women, population and environment;
 11. The role of men as equal partners in responsible parenthood should be better utilized in determining the size of their families, in deciding the future of their children and in sharing household responsibilities;
 12. Special attention should be given to women in industrialized countries in Asia where women have fewer children and enjoy economic opportunities, but whose status in other fields still needs further advancement;
 13. In Asian countries where fertility has declined to a low level, measures should be taken to enable and encourage women to increase family size; steps must also be taken to deal with the situation of older women who outnumber men in their age group;
 14. Exchange of information should be encouraged between countries which have lowered their fertility rates and those with high fertility rates, with a view to a better understanding of the demographic phenomenon and its implications;
- Call to Action*
- The participants of this Conference call on
1. *Women Parliamentarians of Asia*
 - i) to strengthen women's partici-

- pation in political life in their own countries;
- ii) *to encourage and assist* other women in exercising their right to vote and seek office at every level. This includes fair selection practices by political parties;
 - iii) *to adopt* legislation to guarantee equal status of women with men in all spheres of society including legislative measure in support of this Declaration's Programme of Action;
 - iv) *to stimulate* action which encourages effective implementation of such legislations;
 - v) *to continue* their efforts to increase awareness and promote greater understanding amongst Governments, parliamentarians, religious leaders and the public of the important inter-relationship between the status of women, population, environment and human survival;
 - vi) *to exercise* their role as the crucial link between government and the people, functioning as the channel of communication for the articulation of the people's needs;
 - vii) *to establish and strengthen* parliamentary committees on population and development with a strong women's component and to encourage the participation of men parliamentarians in such committees;
 - viii) *to promote* and support exchange programmes in the field of women and population among Asian women parliamentarians.
2. *Governments*
- i. *To allocate* an adequate share of national resources to implement programme on women and population, including this present Programme of Action;
 - ii. *To establish* women ministries in countries which have not done so;
 - iii. *To widen* and secure the opportunities for women to participate as equals of men in all aspects of development;
 - iv. *To encourage and support* activities of non-governmental organizations and community groups to improve the status of women and implement population programmes;
 - v. *To increase* population assistance through multilateral agencies, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and non-governmental organizations;
 - vi. *To ratify and implement* international conventions and treaties relating to women, children, population and environment.
3. *Non-Governmental Organizations*
- i. *to strengthen* cooperation with the national Government and international organizations in the areas of women, population, environment and human survival;
 - ii. *to enlist* voluntary participation of women at the grassroots level, with a view to empowering them through developing their self-re-

liance and their sense of responsibility through livelihood projects and community programmes.

4. *Press and Media*

- i. *To feature* in the press and media with understanding and concern, the "silent emergencies" which afflict a large segment of the human population such as hunger, malnutrition, maternal deaths, women as victims of armed struggle, international migration of women, sexual violence etc.
- ii. To be sensitive and aware of the various stages of the development process and to feature the important role women play in development instead of focussing on dramatic and sensational events.

5. *International Community*

- i. *To Continue* to seek the co-operation and counsel of groups of parliamentarians at the regional and national levels in addressing issues and problems associated with women, population and development;
- ii. *To increase* the financial support of multilateral and bilateral organizations which fund and/or implement women, population and related programmes of governments and NGOs in Asia;
- iii. *To increase* support for research on women, population and development at both the macro and the micro levels;
- iv. *To call* upon the United Nations and its specialised agencies, the UNFPA in particular, to intensify

efforts to support programmes on women, population, development and human survival and to ensure a system wide-co-ordination of these efforts.

6. *Asian Forum*

- i. *To establish* a Standing Committee on Women and Population within the Asian Forum on Population and Development to ensure regular follow-up and implementation of their Programme of Action;
- ii. *To urge* the Forum to make provisions for a 50 per cent participation of Asian women parliamentarians and for increased opportunities for being elected as officers at the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians' General Assembly to be held in Bangkok, Thailand on 15-18 October, 1990.

Sick Textile Mills in Gujarat

5452. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of textiles mills in Gujarat that are under sick list;
- (b) the reasons for mills being sick; and
- (c) the steps taken to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The primary causes of sickness in the organised textile industry can be attributed to low productivity of both machine and