

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4664
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
NATIONAL POLICY FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated a national policy for the empowerment of women;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a),(b)&(c) The Government of India is in the process of finalizing a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women. Some of the salient features of the policy are indicated in the Annexure. It will be announced immediately after Government's decision on it is finalized.

ANNEXURE

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) (b) & (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4664 for 22.8.2000 by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan Dr. (Smt.) C. Suguna Kumari regarding National Policy for Empowerment of Women

Major areas to be covered in the proposed National Policy for the Empowerment of Women.

The National Policy, which the Government of India is considering, would guide and inform action at all levels and integrate women's concerns and perspectives into all macro and micro level initiatives. The Policy would address a number of issues and in particular may cover:-

- (i) De-jure and de-facto equality in rights, access and control over productive resources, including land, other forms of property, education, health, shelter etc. between men and women;
- (ii) Removal of all discriminating provisions (against women) all laws, policies, rules and regulations;
- (iii) Full and equal participation of women in all forms of decision making including the legislative, executive and judicial institutions by resorting to affirmative action such as reservation, wherever necessary;
- (iv) The acknowledgement and dissemination of women's contribution to the national economy;
- (v) Compulsory collection and publication of gender disaggregated statistics by all Ministries/Offices of the State/Central Governments;
- (vi) The imperative of keeping in view the needs of specially vulnerable groups of women; including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/OBCs/Minorities, disabled, elderly, widowed women, inter-state migrant women etc;
- (vii) The holistic convergence of women related schemes, programmes and services effecting a synergy of development giving women control over and equal access to factors contributing to empowerment such as health, education, credit, land etc;
- (viii) Mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental policies and process as catalysts, participants and recipients;
- (ix) Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls by strict enforcement and strengthening of machineries responsible for the elimination of violence;
- (x) Positive portrayal of women in media;
- (xi) Involvement of all sections of society including NGOs, the Private Sector;

(xii) Elimination of discrimination and violence of the rights of the girl child;

(xiii) Continuous and regular gender sensitization of all functionaries of the State, including the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative wings;

(xiv) Including women's perspectives in macro economic policies by inter-alia ensuring their participation in such processes;

(xv) Women's participation in the policies and programmes relating to the conservation of environment and management of ecosystems

2. The Policy may also include strategic actions required for implementation of various policy directions.