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Title : Decisions taken by the State Bank of India and other subsidiary banks in the case of women candidates seeking employment in the banks.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in regard to the decision taken by the State Bank of India about the appointment and rejection of promotion of pregnant women. The State Bank of India is in the process of recruiting about 11,000 employees which is the highest ever in the recent times. But in the guidelines for recruitment and also in the norms of recruitment it has specifically been stated that all applicants should go for a medical check up. That is all right. But at the same time it has also been stipulated that the women applicants would be eligible for employment only if they produce their medical report and in case of pregnant women all the details of their pregnancy would have to be submitted. Such a stipulation is a shame on our nation where we have a woman as the President of this country; where we have Your Majesty, the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha as a woman; where we have the Chairperson of the UPA as a woman. Such a stipulation is not only applicable for employment in the State Bank of India but also in all the other subsidiary banks. It is not only a discrimination against women, but is also a violation of the constitutional right of our citizens that our nation has enjoined on them. So, the Government should take this issue seriously. It has been mentioned that if a women is pregnant for even a month she will lose one year salary and also all other benefits.

After three months of the delivery, they have to give a medical report again. I can understand that private banks and other banks are giving all benefits to women. The recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission appointed by the Government also assure many benefits at the time of delivery. So, the Government should take serious action in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Shri P.K. Biju and

Shri A.. Sampath are also associating with Shri P. Karunakaran.