

contain provision for Movement of Natural Persons with Commercial Presence, there were limited offers in the mode of movement without Commercial Presence. The EU, Norway and Switzerland which so far had not scheduled any commitments on the movement of natural persons have done so in these negotiations. US had earlier tabled an offer for movement of natural persons without commercial presence while an improved offer has been scheduled by Canada. Overall, now a larger market access package is available for our skilled personnel as compared to the situation in December 1993.

Developing countries including India have been emphasising that for international trade in services to be conducted on the basis of inherent comparative advantage movement of Natural Persons who are providers of services will need to be facilitated. This principle has now been recognised and even though the gains in respect of offers of individual countries in individual speciality occupations may not be very large, it signifies the beginning of a process which can be built upon in future rounds of negotiations. It is our assessment, that with the improvements secured by us in the offers of our major trading partners, a significant opening has been created for the temporary relocation of our skilled personnel without commercial presence.

In the area of Financial Services, our offers on banking and financial services are well within the current policy parameters. That is, India's offer is at a level which is lower than current practice. Sufficient safeguards have been provided to give primacy to our domestic laws and regulations. There are no offers in life or non-life insurance sectors as our current policies do not permit foreign investments in these sectors. It is felt that offers of various countries under the WTO framework will provide transparency, predictability and multilateral discipline which will impart a greater degree of investor confidence. As the financial sector in India grows and matures, it can also look for export opportunities that have become available as a result of the financial services agreement.

The situation arising out of the US decision to take on MFN exemption on its financial services offer has also been fully taken care of in our offer by the following steps :

(a) We have retained the MFN exemption notified by us in December 1993,

(b) Our offer has been qualified by a head note to the effect that our commitments are subject to entry requirements, domestic laws, rules and regulations and term and conditions of the RBI, SEBI and any other competent authority in India.

(c) One of the conditions of market access in our offer on banking provides that market access will be

subject to grant of licence as permissible under existing laws. The implication of this conditions being that since our Banking Regulation Act provides as one of the conditions of the licence that Government or law of the country in which the foreign bank is incorporated does not discriminate against Banks registered in India, our market access offer will be on the basis of reciprocity.

(d) The US has separately conveyed to us that non-discriminatory access to the US market will be their normal practice.

Overall, it is Government's assessment that the outcome of the negotiations on financial services and movement of natural persons is fairly balanced.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : The House should be given an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : We generally do not do it. We do not put questions now.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Not now. We will give notice and then you allot some time for us.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. We will give.

(ii) SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI) : As Decided in the Fourteenth Session of the Council of Ministers held at New Delhi between 30th April - 1st May 1995, the Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was held in Dhaka on 29-30 July, 1995. The Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Department of Women & Child Development) represented India at this meeting.

Recognising the common socio-economic problems faced by women in the SAARC region, the Ministers and Representatives of SAARC Countries decided to take a common position at the Fourth World Conference on women in respect of important issues concerning women of this region. At the end of this meeting, 'Dhaka Resolution on Women' was adopted calling upon the Fourth World Conference on Women to appropriately reflect the SAARC perspectives on women.

The Dhaka Resolution on Women has emphasised the following seven areas of concern common to the SAARC countries :

1. Eradication of poverty;
2. Mainstreaming and empowerment of women, including involvement of women in the decision making process;
3. Establishing and strengthening National Machineries for Women and Girl Child;

4. Survival, protection and development of the Girl Child;
5. Measures for talking incidence of violence against women and Girl Child;
6. Equal access to educational opportunities;
7. Equal access to health care services and nutrition.

It was further resolved that the text of the Dhaka Resolution be forwarded as the additional input of SAARC countries to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

The Dhaka resolution on Women adopted at the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing is laid on the Table of the House.

Dhaka Resolution on Women

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments at the "SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women : Towards the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing", having met in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 29-30 July 1995, reviewed the implementation status of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies in the SAARC region and discussed the draft Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

Recognizing the common socio-economic problems faced by women in the SAARC region, particularly the fact that the majority of women in this region live in poverty and suffer from lack of opportunities for educations and health services and the discrimination against the girl child and the violation of their rights of survival, protection and development are still prevalent;

Recalling the SAARC Plans of Action for Women, and the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child (1991-2000 AD), the recommendations of the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women in Development, Shillong, 1986, the SAARC Ministerial Meeting on Women in Development, Islamabad, 1990, and the SAARC Ministerial meeting on women and family Health, Kathmandu, 1993;

Reaffirming the commitment of the SAARC common position on issues before the Fourth World Conference on Woman as endorsed by the Eight SAARC Summit in New Delhi in May 1995;

Expressing the hope that the international community would carry forward the consensus forged earlier at various international conferences and meetings and having a bearing on issues relating to women and development;

Recognizing that the Fourth World Conference provides an opportunity to review status of women and their social, economic and political empowerment through the Platform for Action;

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments, call upon the Fourth World Conference on Women to appropriately reflect the SAARC perspectives on women as reiterated in SAARC documents and particularly stated in this Resolution

1. Eradication of Poverty

While Member States attach the highest priority to the issue of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women, it is imperative that national efforts for eradication of poverty are reinforced by a favourable for international economic environment for the SAARC countries including access to market, financial resources and technology on equitable terms. A categorical commitment from the international community to new and additional resources to the strategies and objectives identified under the draft platform for Action would be an essential preliminary prerequisite.

2. Mainstreaming empowerment and decision making

Mainstreaming of gender perspectives and empowerment of women at all levels in the economic, political and social process is essential to the upliftment of the status of women. This requires appropriate changes and commitments at all levels, including involvement of women in the decision making process.

3. National Machineries for Women and Girl Child

An effective national machinery is essential for identification, planning and implementation of strategies to enable women to realise their full potential. National machineries should, therefore, be established, strengthened and appropriately equipped with staff and resources.

4. Survival protection and development of the Girl Child

SAARC has taken the lead in pioneering a focus on the needs of Girl Child with the commitment at Summit level. SAARC has already adopted a Decade Plan for the Girl Child and Member States are already implementing their national Plans of Action. SAARC notes with satisfaction that their pioneering work has sensitized the international community to the special needs of the Girl Child.

It is urged that all States reiterate their commitment, at the highest level, to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the Girl Child, throughout her life cycle and evolve all appropriate measures, particularly in the fields of educations, health and nutrition. This would require a similar reaffirmation and commitment from the international community to the special needs of the Girl Child.

5. *Violence Against Women and Girl Child*

The SAARC Member States are already in the process of evolving appropriate measures for tackling incidence of violence against women and the Girl Child including trafficking in women. These efforts should be further strengthened by evolving legal and institutional frameworks at the national level.

6. *Equal access to educational opportunities*

It is urged that all State pursue a policy of ensuring universal access to primary education and create a gender-sensitive educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities. This would require sufficient resources for which support from the international community and multilateral agencies would be crucial.

7. *Equal access to health care services and nutrition.*

SAARC attaches high priority to the implementation of commitments to meet the health care needs of women throughout their life cycle. This would require evolution and implementation of appropriate strategies and services to take into account the multiple role and responsibilities of women. These strategies would include food security, adequate nutrition, universal access to sanitation and health care and health training programme.

The successful implementation of the Platform for Action requires a categorical commitment to new and additional resources from the international community and the multilateral financial institutions as well as free and unrestricted market access for the goods and services of the developing countries and the transfer of technology, including new technology in order to reinforce the national and regional capacities to address the problems of women in the Region.

It is further resolved that the text of the Dhaka Resolution be forwarded as the additional input of SAARC countries to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

12.45 hrs.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY (Hoshiarpur) :
I bet to move :

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Vilas Muttemwar resigned from the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : The questions is :

"That the member of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 312B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Vilas Muttemwar resigned from the Committee.

The motion was adopted.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT RE : CANCELLATION FIXATION OF THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that at the meeting of the leaders of parties and groups in your Committee Room yesterday it was decided that the sittings of the House fixed for Friday the 11th August and Monday the 14th August, 1995 may be cancelled. It was also decided that in lieu thereof the House may sit on Saturday the 26th August, 1995 and also sit up the 7 P.M. daily in order to transact Government Business.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : If necessary.