

ment has neither any proposal for the setting up of any additional coach factory nor has any decision been taken in this regard. When there is no need for such a factory, there can be no question of considering the demand of the hon. Member. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever the question of railway coach factory comes up, our old wounds are revived. The hon. Minister has revived our old wound today. A decision was taken to set up a coach factory in Andhra Pradesh and recently survey was also completed. The hon. Speaker is also aware of it. Later, it was shifted to Punjab and an assurance was given that another coach factory would be set up in Andhra Pradesh. However, according to the reports which we are receiving at present, there is no proposal to set up any new coach factory in the Seventh Plan. The hon. Minister has dismissed the whole issue in a sentence and has stated that the Government has no such proposal under consideration. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you whether he will do something for Andhra Pradesh as per his assurance, because our sanctioned project at Kazipeth has been shifted elsewhere. In case he is going to give us anything in return, then please let us know about it. At least he should not reject it outright but should rather talk in terms of giving something,

MR. SPEAKER : Do not reject outright.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The new railway coach factory is going to be set up at Kapurthala.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Sir, my question has not been answered.

[English]

SHRI H.A. DORA : Is it an answer ?

MR. SPEAKER : Next question. Mr. Uttam Rathod. We have discussed it at length. There is nothing.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : At present there is no requirement for any

additional coach factory. Now, whether it be Andhra Pradesh, whether it be Rajasthan, whether it be Kerala, it will be applicable to all.

(Interruptions)

International Women's Day

***599. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Women's Day was observed in India on March 8, 1987;

(b) if so, whether any special programmes meant for the welfare of women in India, especially women belonging to the weaker sections of the society were launched on that day; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Human Resource Ministry is over-represented by women. May I know, with Kumari Saroj Khaparde to his left, Shrimati Krishna Sahi and Shrimati Alva on the right and Mrs. Bhandari in front of him, how could the Minister afford to forget the weaker sections, especially the women ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The question is directly pointed to my boss. I do not think I can answer it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : In dowry cases, when they are reported, they say that woman is the greatest enemy of woman. Are we to tell him that where women need help and how can he neglect the weaker sections, especially the women ? Put them in any front, I will say this. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): I am all the time monitoring what the women are doing. So, he need not worry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Sir, the presence of hon. Sbrri Narasimba Rao enhances the grace of the House. Therefore, you must ensure his presence here.

MR. SPEAKER : If it makes the debate lively, I will certainly do it.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : May I know one thing from the hon. Minister ? The International Women's Day is an important day and you remember that our great leader Mrs. Indira Gandhi in the year 1975 ratified the I.L O, Convention No. 100, which reiterated that equal wages should be given as also equal rights to women. We are surprised to see how the Government has observed this day this year, as a Women's Day and have any special programmes for the welfare of women been started, especially for weaker sections ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Of West Bengal.
(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is not a matter of joke...*(Interruptions)* And also, is it not a fact that women are discriminating against women ? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : This how the other parties are dealing with women.
(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We are grateful to our Prime Minister because he has done a lot for the women.

I would like to know whether equal opportunities will be given to women.
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I would like that the question be treated

with some seriousness, because, just because this is a women's subject, it does not become a subject matter of a joke. I do not see why we have to laugh.

I want to say that the question specifically deals with, whether we made an announcement of a new programme for weaker sections and for women on the International Women's Day. I want to categorically tell the hon. Member that we do not need a particular day in the year for doing any programmes for the weaker sections. We are doing it throughout the year and therefore no specific announcement was made on that day.

About the specific question which the hon. Member has raised, I agree with her that equal pay for equal work was a legislation which was passed during the decade under Shrimati Indira Gandhi's direction. We have been trying to monitor that legislation. But I must admit that in the unorganised sector we still have serious problems about enforcing this legislation. I would request you to help us to see how it can be done at the grassroot level. I would need help from everybody to make this legislation a reality.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The hon. Minister's reply is quite disappointing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that even after nearly 40 years of independence, though we have the Dowry Prohibition Act in force, we are coming across many number of incidents where women are resorting to suicides because of the absence of an adequate property right to women. At least to make memorable this year, 1987 as the International Women's Year whether the Government will come up with a legislation to grant equal right to a daughter along with her brother in her parent's property ?
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Rights of inheritance are governed by various laws, personal laws also, in the country and it is not possible for me to give a categorical assurance that it can be done.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you not got a law already ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Andhra Pradesh has already passed that legislation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We all know that inheritance is a subject which is governed by the personal laws. As for the law to which the hon. Members were referring, the law which was passed in Andhra Pradesh, I would like to say that we are very keen to see how it works in the field in Andhra Pradesh where it has been introduced. I would certainly consult very eminent jurists and lawyers like Mr. Ayyappu Reddy, practitioners, and then come to a conclusion if it could be emulated elsewhere. There is no point in just saying, 'since we have passed a law, why do you not do it elsewhere'? I will certainly monitor this. I will certainly look into this. It is a matter connected with the rights of women and we are fully alive to it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Why Andhra Pradesh, even in Goa it is there.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Goa also, wherever it is.

Western Railway Workshop, Dahod

*600. **SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workload of Periodical, Overhauling (P.O.H) of steam locos has been reduced at Western Railway Workshop, Dahod;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start Periodical Overhauling of diesel locos at this Workshop; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There has been a slight reduction in this workload.

(b) and (c). Western Railway has been directed to submit proposals in this regard for further examination.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon.

Minister is not fully correct. The locomotives have since been phased out completely. The periodical overhauling of steam locos has been reduced considerably. The number of steam engines which were repaired every month earlier has gone down considerably and the reduction has been more than 50 per cent. However, the hon. Minister has stated that there has only been a slight reduction in this regard.

I want to know how many steam engines used to be overhauled earlier and how much has been the reduction in the number of employees during the last ten years? Today, the number of employees has gone down by 30 per cent and no one is ready to accept them. Hence, what the hon. Minister has stated is not correct.

The Government of Gujarat had sent a proposal to set up a wagon manufacturing unit and a workshop for the repairs of diesel and electric locomotives in place of the existing workshop at Dahod which was closing down gradually and for which the Gujarat Government was prepared to bear the full expenses. I want to know as to what has happened to that proposal?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have stated in my reply that there has been a slight reduction in workload. How can the hon. Member say that I have given a wrong answer, I cannot understand. We are making efforts to make some alternative available so that the workload remains the same. In this connection, the hon. Member has suggested that production of wagons should be started at this place. I want to inform him that as compared to our installed capacity of about 26 thousand wagons, the orders which are placed are between 18 to 20 thousand. We still have spare capacity. But I think that it will not be proper to add more to this spare capacity. The proposal for starting P.O.H. work of diesel and electric locomotives at the Dahod workshop is under consideration. When a decision is taken in that regard, the workload of this workshop will be the same as heretofore.

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they want to increase the workload but I have seen that only 10 to 15 people are recruited every year and