

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has recommended to enact uniform marriage laws for all the communities in the country;

(b) if so, whether the commission has formulated and recommended a Bill that inter alia, seeks to repeal the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1936, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and various other marriage laws pertaining to other communities;

(c) if so, the objective behind the recommendation made by the Commission; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIR (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The objective of the recommendation of the National Commission for women is to have a uniform marriage legislation application to all citizens of India.

(d) Undertaking legislation on the lines of the proposal received from the Commission would necessarily involve changes in the personal laws of the minority communities. The consistent policy of the Government has been not to interfere on its own in the personal laws of the minority communities unless the initiative for the changes from those communities. It is, therefore, not considered appropriate at this stage to accept the recommendations of the Commission.

[Translation]

Sanitation Schemes

1313. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total amount provided as loan for the schemes of various districts in regard to the Water supply/sewage disposal schemes by the Life Insurance Corporation of India is less than 50% of the approved cost because of the way in which said amount is provided;

(b) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has not provided any loan to increase the cost of the scheme; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS LAND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): (a) The funding pattern for providing LIC loan to the water supply/sewage disposal schemes is under:

A. LIC loan within the plan scheme (rural and urban).

Estimate cost of the project	State/local bodies	LIC loan share
(i) First Rs. 1 crore	33.33% for Urban areas & 50% for rural areas	66.67% for Urban areas & 50% for rural areas
(ii) Next Rs. 4 crore	50%	50%
(iii) Next Rs. 5 crore	60%	40%
(iv) Balance cost	75%	25%

B. Outside the Plan Scheme.

50% of the approved cost is provided as loan by LIC.

(b) and (c) No additional loan is provided by the LIC towards escalation due to time and cost over-run of the project.

Village/Cottage Industry

1314. DR. G.L. KANAUIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken/propose to take any steps to provide assistance and loan on easy conditions to small village industries and cottage industries on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to 1977, the loan and grant to the certified KVI institutions and State KVI Boards were provided from budgetary grants, however, due to continuous increase in the financial requirements of these institutions and State Boards on the one hand and budgetary constraints on the other, it was felt that these institutions should approach nationalised banks for their credit needs. Accordingly, the Government of India introduced the interest subsidy scheme.

Presently, these institutions are issued the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificates by the Commission and based upon these Certificates they approach the nationalised banks for the bank credit. The interest on these loans is 4% and the difference between the normal bank rate of interest and the subsidised rate of interest is met through grant from this Department. KVIC also gives loans given from Government directly to the listed institutions at zero percent for khadi and at 4% for village industries.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Electricity through N.C.E.S.

1315. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: