

Workshop on Evils of Dowry

2317 SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHAN DARI Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether any workshop on evils of dowry was organised by the Department of Women and Child Development,

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the objectives

(c) the details of suggestions made in the workshop, and

(d) the steps taken to implement those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) (a) to (d) A Workshop was organised under the aegis of the Department of Women & Child Development by the National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development in collaboration with the Indian Law Institute on 12-13 January, 1991, to review the four acts with which the Department is concerned. The recommendations of the workshop with reference to the Dowry Prohibition Act, inter-alia related to a change in the definition of Dowry, restrictions on marriage expenses and number of guests, equal inheritance rights for women, compulsory registration of marriage delinking of the economic aspect from marriages, mandatory provision to maintain a list of presents, prescription of a time limit for preparation of charge-sheet and post-mortem reports, disallowing the accused in a dowry death case from remarrying till the case is finally decided, association of women police officers

with investigation, close association of Dowry Prohibition Officers with voluntary organisations and setting up of family courts to settle dowry cases. The recommendations are under the consideration of the Government

[Translation]

2318 SHRI BALRAJ PASSI
SHRIPRABHU DAYALKATHERIA
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide free rail passes to the handicapped persons,

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAL LIKARJUN) (a) No. Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) Orthopaedically handicapped, Mentally Retarded, totally Deaf & Dumb and Blind persons are already eligible for specified concessions. Further liberalisation is not feasible in view of wide implications.

[English]

Restoration of Saradia-Junagadh Railway Line

2319 SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Saradia-Junagadh railway line on Western Railway has been discontinued, and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the said line is likely to be restored to serve the important industrial town situated there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Shahpur-Saradia portion of Saradia - Junagadh section has been closed on account of heavy breaches and extensive damage to bridges. In view of the line being uneconomic, availability of adequate road transport services, and high cost of expenditure on repairs, it is not proposed to restore this section.

Scheme to save Taj Mahal from Pollution

2320. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

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

(a) whether Taj is losing its lustre and growing paler day by day even after the implementation of the recommendations of the Varadarajan Committee to save Taj Mahal from environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any positive scheme is under consideration of the Government to save Taj Mahal from environmental pollution of Agra;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Measures have already been taken by different agencies including Archaeological Survey of India to preserve Taj Mahal from Pollution.

(d) The details are as under:

- (i) Two thermal power plants have been closed down in 1981.
- (ii) Agra railway station yard has been dieselised.
- (iii) The forest Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has created a green belt around Taj Mahal by plantation of trees.
- (iv) The state Government is monitoring the pollution levels in Agra.
- (v) The Archaeological Survey of India is constantly monitoring the ambient air around the Taj Mahal to assess the level of sulphur-di-oxide, suspended particulate matter and other pollutants as well as meteorological data in order to take such remedial measures as may be required and consequently periodical chemical treatment and preservation is being carried out.
- (vi) Department of Environment, Government of India vide its notification dated 3rd May, 1983 has demarcated a geographical zone around Taj Mahal where no industry with pollution potential is allowed.
- (vii) There is a ban on the use of furnace oil and diesel generators in industries in Agra. The foundaries are not permitted to operate during winter nights.