

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this question is relating to the Indo-Oman Project, not about any fertilizer factory.

SHRI LAKSHAMAN CHANDRA SETH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering the proposal is given by a private sector company to set up a urea factory at Haldia in collaboration with the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation. I would also like to know whether the Government is considering the revival of the Haldia unit of the HFC
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth, please take your seat. Mr. Minister, you need not answer this question. I will not allow such kind of supplementaries.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHAMAN CHANDRA SETH : I want to know about the joint venture company. It is a related question....(Interruptions)

Employment to Disabled

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*222. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT :

SHRI C. D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any orders to various Ministries/departments/agencies to give priority in employment to the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and;

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government in providing employment to disabled in J&K as compared to other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has taken steps to provide employment to persons with disabilities in the Government Sector as follows:-

(i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for suffering from:-

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

In the post identified for each disability, 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Act came into force. In pursuance of this provision, extension for 3% reservation in Group 'A' and 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons - 1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's circular No. 36035/16/91- Estt (SCT) dated 18.2.1997.

(ii) 50 Special Employment Exchanges and 39 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Chapter I, Section 1, Clause 2 - of the Act, states that it extends to the whole of India except State of Jammu & Kashmir.

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the written answer it has been stated that this Act does not extend to Jammu-Kashmir State. I want to say that this should be implemented strongly in Jammu-Kashmir State also and a letter should be written to the State Government asking them to provide the facility to the people after making necessary amendments in the Act because handicapped people these are helpless, they do not get reservation.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, we have written to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. I am happy to tell you that on the 20th July, 1998, they had passed a Notification reserving three per cent for the disabled. Therefore, now the entire India is under the same Act.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaidya, do you want to put the second supplementary?... There is no second supplementary.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the handicapped in the country account for really seven crore people, that is, around eight per cent of the population. But the reservation is only three per cent. Will the Minister appreciate the need for raising the percentage of reservation? Does the Minister realise that even this three per cent reservation has been more honoured in breach than in observance? It is a dead letter. It is only on paper. Will the Minister take stringent action in the matter?...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I fully appreciate the need to employ more of the disabled both in the Government and non-Government sectors. Regarding the employment of the three per cent itself, they are divided into the categories of A, B, C and D. Of the C and D category, we have employed them and we have over-fulfilled the three per cent requirement. It is about 8.7 percent for the C category and 13.65 for the D category against the identified posts in 31 Ministries. While I appreciate the hon. Member's suggestion that we should move it up from three per cent to eight per cent, the fact is that in A and B categories, we still have not been able to fulfill even the three per cent in spite of repeated reminders and in spite of a lot of action being taken with the Department of Personnel and Training.

Now, what we have done is that on 11th September, 1998 we have set up an Expert Committee. For the first time, we have appointed a Chief Commissioner for persons with disabilities to identify more posts that are suitable for them so that we can actually not only increase but fulfil three per cent reservation that has not been fulfilled in A and B categories. The actual fact is that a large number of people have been interviewed. We have a reservation of one percent each for hearing-impaired, for the blind, and for the orthopaedically disabled. Now, we have not been able to fill up all the posts because we have not been able to get them trained sufficiently. So the Government have set up 17 Special Vocational Training Centres in which job training will be given. After we fulfil reservation of three per cent, I am sure it would be in the fitness of things to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, there are many more Members also.

SHRI. S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that this percentage could not be filled up because of lack of qualified persons. It is not true. There is a lot of prejudice among the recruiting authorities in regard to handicapped people. It is not for want of qualified persons...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Perhaps, that is true. That is why, we now have a Chief Commissioner for disabilities and his job is to see that there is no prejudice. If it is there, it is to be removed. His job is to ensure that grievances of the disabled are redressed.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said in her reply that three per cent reservation is given to three different categories of handicapped persons. Besides these are a number of organisations through which Government provides facilities and assistance to handicapped persons. As Jaipal Reddy ji said that increasing reservation from three per cent to seven per cent is a different thing, but the handicapped persons

are not able to get the full benefits of even the existing facility of three per cent reservation. I want to know from the Minister whether Government is considering any proposal to constitute a Committee at employment exchange level and at State level, of elected representatives such as M.L.As and M.Ps in order to ensure whether full benefit of reservation is reaching them or not? Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government is thinking to constitute any such Committee or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, there are already 50 Special Employment Exchanges at work. There are 39 Special Cells monitored by senior people to see that the disabled persons are given their chance. There are 17 Special Vocational Centres, as I said earlier, for retraining so that they find employment. Now with this the Chief Commissioner's office being set up, we will be able to introduce far more justice in the employment sector.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : They are all officials.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has issued any direction to the States to implement the programme of employment for the disabled. The number of disabled persons is high. Is the Government thinking to increase the percentage of reservation for the disabled?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, directions have been given to the States. In fact, it is because of our constant reminders, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has passed this notification as well.

Regarding the second question which Shri Jaipal Reddy has already raised, the moment we cross three per cent barrier in A and B categories, we would be happy to look into the needs to increase it.

DR. SAROJA V. (RASIPURAM) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I understand that the Ministry is planning to establish, at least, one Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in each State during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any proposal had come from the State of Tamil Nadu to start a Vocational Rehabilitation Centre. Would this Government consider setting up a Vocational Rehabilitation Centre in Namakkal which falls in my constituency?

Mr. SPEAKER : Is there any proposal, Mr. Minister?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I will bring this to the notice of Ministry of Labour*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We unanimously passed the Bill on Disability three years back but in spite of that, this is not being implemented by various Departments. The hon. Minister was referring to the recruitment to the various categories of posts in the Central Government. I

would like to know whether the same instruction has been sent, and whether the same is being implemented in the case of State Governments and public sector undertakings.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Not just my Ministry, but the Department of Personnel and Training has regularly sent out instructions to all PSUs and to all the States. Performance varies from State to State. In some States, there may be a position that they have not employed physically handicapped or other disabled persons for a long time... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, many hon. Members want to raise supplementaries on this question. I understand the importance of the question. If the hon. Minister has no objection, I can allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : All right.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, I will allow a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

Extremist Attacks on People in Tripura

*223. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the number of extremist attacks on innocent people in Tripura and some other North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons killed due to such attacks during the current year;

(d) whether the withdrawal of central forces on a large scale from Tripura has created uncertainty and insecurity of the people;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government are considering restoration of army battalions deployed in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) There has been an increase in incidents of extremist related violence in Assam and Tripura. Available information in regard to such incidents in the North-Eastern States during the years 1997 and 1998 is given below :-

States	1997		1998 (upto December 2)	
	Incidents	Civilians Killed	Incidents	Civilians Killed
Arunachal Pradesh	34	9	71	2
Assam	427	285	676	463
Manipur	320	233	235	79
Meghalaya	14	3	13	5
Mizoram	1	—	—	—
Nagaland	380	92	186	25
Tripura	303	205	519	200

(d) to (f) The levels of deployment of Central forces in various parts of the country, inter alia, depend upon the overall security scenario as well as the availability of such forces. The situation is kept under constant review. Central forces have been deployed in Tripura to curb insurgency and maintain public order. The Central Government is fully alive to the security situation in the State.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement that has been given by the hon. Minister, it is seen that the incidents are the highest in Tripura and Assam. Compared to the population of Tripura, incidents are very high. Though the hon. Minister has stated that the Central forces have been deployed in Tripura to curb insurgency, to maintain public order and the Central Government is fully alive to the security situation in the State, I would like to know, how many army battalions were granted to the Government of Tripura to meet the situation and how many battalions are now stationed in Tripura.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, the hon. Member must be aware that insofar as the deployment of the Army is concerned, it is not the practice to make statements in the House so far as the deployment of number of Army battalions or Army companies are concerned. I would have no objection in sharing with the House the fact that so far as the para-military forces are concerned, today in Tripura, there are, in all, 111 companies of the para-military forces, out of this, 45 are the BSF companies, which are on the border. Their duty is not related to counter insurgency.

They are managing the borders, whereas it is 66 companies of the CRPF which are deployed for counter-insurgency and anti-militancy activities. It is the highest ever. In fact, we have had to stretch our resources to the maximum. But I must confess to you that the Government of Tripura has been pleading for greater deployment and we have been in touch both with the MPs of Tripura as