

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2002
LEGAL RIGHTS OF MUSLIM WOMEN
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether in a bid to provide a forum where rural Muslim women can come up with their specific problems, the National Commission for Women held a series of public hearings in some States;
- (b) if so, the name of the States where these public hearings were conducted;
- (c) whether a large number of Muslim women are not aware of their legal rights and they suffer because of their ignorance; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which this decision of conducting public hearings for rural Muslim women have helped them in enforcement of their legal rights?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women had held public hearings for Muslim women in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The public hearings held in the States mentioned in part (b) of the reply culminated into the preparation of the Report titled 'Voice of the Voiceless'. As a follow up of the recommendations contained in the above Report, the National Commission for Women proposes to organise public hearings in the rural areas dominated by the Muslim women to make them aware of their legal rights amongst other things.