

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2138
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
TWO-CHILD NORM FOR PANCHAYAT POLLS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States like West Bengal, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have adopted the 'two child' norm for Panchayat polls;
- (b) if so, the details therefore;
- (c) whether 79th Constitution Amendment Bill, introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1992 on the subject, is pending for consideration;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Bill is likely to be taken for consideration during the ensuing session of Parliament; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): The 'two child' norm for Panchayat Polls has been adopted by Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Madhya Pradesh initially made a similar announcement but subsequently modified the 'two-child' norm to a 'three-child norm'. At present, no such norm exists in West Bengal or Haryana.

(c) to (f) The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December, 1992. The Bill seeks to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy to provide that the State shall endeavor to promote population control and the small family norm and to include in the Fundamental duties, a duty to promote and adopt the small family norm. Under the provisions of the Bill, a person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being a member of either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assembly or, as the case may be, either of the Legislature of the State, if he/she has more than two children. However, it will not apply to those who already have more than two children or those who beget an additional child within one year of the commencement of the Act.

The Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development for examination. The Committee examined the Bill and recommended the Bill for passage without any change. While recommending the Bill for passage, the Committee also recommended that the Government might convene a meeting of leaders of various political parties in Parliament to evolve consensus to ensure the passage of the Bill. However, no consensus could emerge among the political parties. This issue was discussed in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on 2nd May, 2003 where a consensus emerged among the members on the need for more effective measures for controlling population growth in the country.

Since the policy of the Government is to keep a family welfare programme as voluntary, free from any incentives, disincentives or coercion, the option of withdrawing the Bill is under the consideration of the Government.