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Title: Regarding problems faced by women working in police and armed forces.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon'ble Union Home Minister recently inaugurated the 7th National Conference on Women in Police and armed forces on 6 January 2016 and stated clearly that self-sustained development of the country is not possible without the participation of women who represent country's 50% population. Hence the Ministry of Home Affairs in order to increase the representation of women has already issued instructions for 33% recruitment of women in both Police and Central Armed Police Forces. Hon'ble Minister also re-iterated government's commitment to improve the working conditions for women personnel to enhance their efficiency. In the backdrop of these announcements, I wish to point out that there are over 20 lakh women serving in Indian Security forces but when it comes to training, performing their duty and law enforcement, they unwarily step into the shoes of their male counterparts. We are still far away from having gender friendly work equipments and infrastructure in our security forces. So far as the equipments are concerned, all forms of body protection gear or anti-riot equipments like bullet proof jackets, helmets, fiber glass shield, *Lathi*, belt, shoes, winter jackets, etc. are unsuited for a women's body specifics, for example, bulletproofs jackets are heavy and made for flat chest of men so these cause pain and breathlessness for women. Also the Firearms are too big for the small hands of women so they can't make a full grip and shoot property.

Coming to infrastructure, women recruits grapple with lack of basic amenities like toilets and want of privacy. Women cops go on long spells of 'No Water' to avoid frequent urination. It is hard for them to find a place to wash their clothes, to dry their inner wears, and even to dispose their sanitary napkins.

They find it difficult to travel in heavy trucks especially during menstruation and pregnancy. 80% of her time is wasted in thinking of the uncomfortable environment, how will she perform her duty?

In western countries, governments ensure gender friendly environment, equipment and infrastructure in their security forces.

As a woman, I sincerely urge the government to take this issue very-very seriously and make all the possible amendments and arrangements as early as possible.

14.15 hours

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2016-17

(i)Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment...Contd..