

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1985-86—Contd.

[English]

(i) Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare—Contd.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA

(Contai) : Sir, first of all, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare. I would also like to congratulate the Government for establishing a separate Ministry for the Women's welfare and particularly when it is the last year of Decade for the 'Women's Decade'. Sir, I would like to state that the social welfare and women's welfare are under the care of one Ministry. But my point is that women's welfare should not be only on the welfare side alone because when we want to have development of women in the country, only the welfare side alone will not help us in uplifting women in the society though welfare is needed. There was an act introduced in 1976 for equal wage to both men and women workers. In Government, of course, women are getting equal pay. But in others sectors, we find in most of the cases that women do not get equal wages along with men. Whenever you ask them, they will find some answer. The attitude is wrong. They do not want to give any preference, not only preference, but anything to women. As far as possible, they like to keep women apart. Women of our country are to a great extent deprived of the benefits envisaged for them in the Constitution. Most women are living as second class citizens and they are the victims of exploitation in one form or the other. They are exploited in the family, they are exploited in the society and they are exploited in the work place also. The number of women who get the opportunity to work is very insignificant. I will give one example. In 1971 Census, it was stated that 52.5 per cent of the able-bodied men-population is actually working. But only 13.8 per cent of the able-bodied women population is found to be working. In the 1981 Census we find the number has increased. But we must remember that in 1981 Census, the definition is changed. There are marginal workers and main workers. It is quite interesting. Main workers are 45.9 millions and marginal workers are 20.3 millions. Marginal workers are those who work occasionally and not

regularly. In 1961, the ratio of women workers per 1000 men was 525. But Sir, it is surprising to find that in 1971 the ratio came down to 210. But it has slightly increased in the 1981 Census.

I would like to say that in the working places women do not have usually any welfare facilities, particularly for working mothers, pregnant mothers and for the children of the working mothers. In this connection, I like to point out that women need proper accommodation. I know that Government allots some money for their hostel accommodation. But I also know that that money is not being utilised fully by voluntary organisations. I am not going to that point part. What I am saying is that all working women cannot stay in hostels so other types of accommodation are required for them. I plead that there should be some arrangement made by the Government. The ministry may discuss this matter with the different Departments and Ministries and see that there should be proper accommodation for working women as far as possible near the their place of work.

Sir, in many places when one women is released or if she resigns, usually a man is taking the place if that women. So, you see the attitude. I do not like to say much about it. This is a new Ministry and I do not like now to say much. But I would like to say that a National Policy on Women should be introduced. Unless and until there is a national policy on women, it will not be possible for the Ministry to work according to its thinking. I would like to point out that unless creches for children along with primary schools are arranged one it will not be possible for women to send their children particularly girls to schools.

On the social welfare side, I do not like to say much, but I would like to point out that we are spending quite a lot of money on it, and there is a socio-economic programme also. But I would like to say that it is not a question of how much money we have spent or released, or how many women are trained for different socio-economic programmes. Our point is : how many women are fit enough to earn their living. That is very important, because we can spend the money, train them and they can join any establishment; but after a year, many of them do not get enough

opportunities to work, may be for various reasons so, I would like the Minister to look into this particular point, so that a real assessment is made.

My last point is that unless there are a large number of creches throughout the country, our women will not be free. It will not be possible for women to really come out, and to send their children to schools. With these words, I support the Demands for the Ministry. I am very glad that a Ministry of Women's Welfare has been established. I wish that gradually, more and more money is given to this Ministry.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on these Demands. Many people have taken part in this debate already, and given valuable suggestions.

I am very glad that this Ministry has started working vigorously, i.e. to look into the difficulties of ladies and children. I am sure there are many good laws already, but I regret that they have not been implemented fully. Though respected late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had brought this 20-point programme specially for the development of the country, and for the advancement of women and children we see that in the villages and rural areas, its implementation is Nil. It has not been implemented seriously. There are many laws to protect the interests of women, and to protect them from harassment which is going on in villages and urban areas.

This subject is not related only to one Department. So there should be coordination between Ministries such as Finance Education, Social Welfare, Home and Labour, and all these Ministries should act together. It will be good if they increased the funds allotted for women's development. They are not adequate now. We have first to request that this amount should be increased. In villages, there are so many arrangements where a girl can get education, but the funds are not there. High School are not running properly. The payment to the teachers is less. Our programme is suffering because of lack of funds.

In Maharashtra, the percentage of education is more, we all know about it. Some social agencies, some honourable persons who are very much interested in women

welfare, they have social organisations all over Maharashtra. They are doing a good job on these striving young people and raising funds. This can be done much better if the Minister increases fund to the social organisations and see that the laws which are made by our government are implemented. There is a Child Marriage Act. This is very old. In villages, nobody implements it and the child marriages are going on. Even Anti-Dowry Bill is under consideration. We had a long tour throughout the country for finding out the causes and the response to this Bill. We are educating Young generation, but we see that educated ones demand more dowry. This way, education about Anti-Dowry scheme is very essential and I am sure through this Ministry we can do much better.

Then there are labour problems. According to the law, equal payment should be given to women, but it is not being implemented; and in villages, in rural areas, women are getting less payment, than men. So, I request the hon. Minister to see that equal payment should be made to both. When we talk of equal status for women, we could do it through our laws; and the Ministry should implement all these things for the welfare of women and children.

The Health Ministry and the Home Ministry should take more care against atrocities on women when they go to police station. Much care is not taken when they go there and it is not with that much zeal that a woman goes there. They neglect the appeals of the women. I request the hon. Minister to see that the Home Ministry also should take more interest and see that justice is done to the harassed women. So, I think, if this coordination is there, then our lady MPs in the Parliament, who are really striving for this great cause of the country will help us to help our women folk and our country also.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : The Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare is to safeguard the provisions of the fundamental rights and also the directive principles enshrined in our Constitution. For the welfare of women, lot of schemes have been formulated. What has been done as compared to what has to be done is really very small.

As far as physically handicapped persons are concerned, we are only paying lip sympathy towards them. Fortunately, not only the government but also the society has discarded them I know about it as I happen to represent two organisations of the physically handicapped Bangalore. They are doing good work for them. This is my experience with them because I have moved with them. These physically handicapped persons are really better than the normal persons if they are given proper training. I have been able to get them many jobs in many places. Many of them work in some factories; their performance is excellent, because they can concentrate better on the work assigned to them. Many of them have been given national awards.

There is a Central Government circular—not only a Central Government circular but also in the State Governments there is a circular—suggesting the earmarking of certain percentage of jobs for the physically handicapped persons. But it is observed more in breach than in practice. The Government must be very strict in regard to this. The hon. Minister must give strict instructions not only to the various Ministries but also to the State Governments requesting them to implement it in full.

There is an institute for the deaf and dumb in Bangalore. I would request the hon. Minister to visit that institute. They are given training to 60 to 80 mutes, for about one to one and a half years. When they come out of that institute they will get some jobs. My appeal to the Government is to see that the physically handicapped should not feel that they are a burden to the society, nor should the society feel that they are a burden.

I have got only one more point to make. In this men-dominated society we are not being fair to women we are not providing the proper facilities to them. I know that the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare has got some schemes, I have seen them. If you want to raise the status of women, you should implement them properly. Also, the other day we had a debate here on the status of women. It is the duty of men to see that women are properly looked after. My only suggestion to this august House and

the Government is that we must look to this problem carefully. What I mean is that we must see how a large number of women are returned to legislatures and Parliament. In Karnataka after the Ramakrishna Hegde Government came into existence 20 per cent of the seats have been reserved for women. In the City of Bangalore—which I represent—out of 87 Municipal Corporators 18 are women. The Chairman was a woman and two women Deputy Mayors were there. Various posts are also held by women. They are doing excellent work. I have been a Mayor there, I am talking from my experience. So, I say that we should have more women in these institutions so that we can have a better understanding of their problems. I do not know how many are there exactly here in Lok Sabha but I do not think that it is more than five per cent. I do not know whether constitutionally we can reserve more seats for them in the Parliament and legislature.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : I want to ask the hon. Member what the Janata Government has done there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down, Madam.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I welcome her question. I am not speaking of Congress Party or Janata Party. I am suggesting to all the political parties. We must give more representation to women while making selection of candidates for the Assembly and Parliament. I would even say that we should make some reservation by providing for it in the Constitution. The political parties should see to it that at least 20% to 30% women are returned to Assemblies and Parliament. These are the suggestions I want to make and I do not want to repeat what I have already said or what others have said. I request the hon. Minister to consider reservation of seats for women and to give them a better status.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shrimati Basava Rajeswari.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI**
(Bellary) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take great pride in supporting the demands for

grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare.

Eminent Ministers and experienced elders are incharge of this ministry. Therefore I am sure that they can solve the problems and make commendable achievements. A separate Ministry has been set up for social and women's welfare and for this I whole heartedly congratulate our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Most of the educated women dislike breast feeding. Unfortunately this trend is on the increase abnormally. This leads to the gradual deterioration of children's health infact last year World Health Organization has given a statement reiterating the importance of breast feeding. But in our country women have not realised the vital role played by breast feeding in the improvement of the child's health. Therefore it should be our earnest endeavour to inspire and encourage our women to compulsorily follow breast feeding.

The various problems of children's development are as follows. High incidence of mortality, mal-nutrition and morbidity in early childhood, destitution among children who are likely to be delinquent or vagrant or beggars may continue unless provided with maintenance educational and vocational training for their development and for becoming productive citizens. Children of working mothers in unorganised sectors may become victims of society's neglect and abuse unless provided with day care services.

Our Ministry has several programmes to solve the problems of children.

ICDC

Project is working very satisfactorily throughout the country. It is helping the children in their education, health discipline and in other aspects of development. There are various schemes for the welfare of women also. But the number of projects existing to day is not at all sufficient. About 600 projects were sanctioned during the sixth five year plan. I urge the Hon. Minister to have more schemes especially in areas and slum areas of the cities for the emancipation of the down trodden children. For this great cause voluntary organisations have to come forward.

Due to poverty, illiteracy and other

factors many children have become pampers. There are some centres which look after such deprived children. But they are all in cities. Therefore I demand that at every district level such homes have to be set up to look into the problems of destitute children. If this not done, the suffering children of today my become a dengerous generation of tomorrow. Our Govt. should not hesitate to spend any amount of money for establishing such homes in all districts. Our younger generation is capable of repaying the investment made by our country in many forms as it grows. It is the duty of the society to help the all round development of children.

In our country there are no proper training centress in this field. The persons who are dealing with the children should know the minds of children. The talent can be acquired only through proper training. I have several such raining centres in many foreign countries. Persons from our country should be deputed to such countries to get training.

There are many grievances of widows in our country. Many widows have lost their lands under land Reform Act. If they are not provided proper compensation how can those widows look after their children ? In some states arrangements have been made for payment of lump sum amounts to such widows. I urge the Govt. of India to issue such guidelines to all the states to make payment of lump sum amounts as compensation to such widows. It would be a great service on the part of the Govt. if they can wide out the tears of these widows.

While speaking on the demands for grants of the ministry of Industry I had mentioned about the help to be given by the Govt. to women to start small scale industries. They should be provided with power, land, loan without interest etc. Women also can come forward in the Society like men. The Govt. has to provide all possible incentives to them.

In the agricultural field women are serving better than men. Women have worked hard and made the country self sufficient in the production of food grains. But I am pained to say that she is not geeting equal wages with men. She should be given equal wages. She must be given priority in the fields of electronics, computer science, sericulture, seed multiplication etc.

In Karnataka unfortunately the 'Devadasi' system is still prevailing. The state Govt. has passed a legislation for the abolition of this system. Law alone does not come to the rescue of women. I came to know the various reasons which force poor women to take up Devadasi system. When I was the Minister for Social Welfare, I studied the issue and tried to end it. I have read that some people in Vijayanagar empire started this system to be of some use to the Military personnel in the name of God. Rehabilitation programmes in this respect are not satisfactory. This system is still persisting in industrial areas. Therefore women have to be protected from this evil system. Survey has to be conducted and the victims have to be rehabilitated.

Dowry system and child marriage are the other evils of our society. In our country, especially in the rural areas child marriage is taking place on a large scale and in a grand manner.

Divorce is also becoming easy. Man divorces his wife who is ignorant of legislation and law and marries another women. This kind of exploitation also should be rooted out from our society immediately. Stringent measures should be taken to put an end to child labour. Some girls are brought from the neighbouring states for some illicit purposes. This has to be stopped forthwith our Govt. should see that all such systems are eradicated. Our Govt. should also manure our culture and bring up a new generation which would be brave and prove to be good citizens. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI SUNDARWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR (Karol Bagh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare.

The Minister of Social Welfare and the Department of Social Welfare have done a lot for women but still many of their problems remain to be solved which will take considerable time. We have these problems everywhere in India but they are more rampant in rural areas where the women folk is illiterate. As a first step, higher secondary schools should be opened in all the villages to ameliorate the lot of these women.

Today, many of the women do not feel the need for education and are not aware of the facilities available therefor. They do not know what is happening in their country as also other details about the country. The most important thing is that a large number of primary schools should be opened in the country and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women should be given education in those schools. The women in villages go out for work during the day and remain indoors in the morning and evening. Such arrangements should be made as would ensure education of these women.

Secondly, I would like to point out that poor women in villages either work on their own fields or go for work elsewhere. When they go out for work their children play in streets in mud or under the trees. Government should set up some centres where these children can be looked after, where they can get education and where there development can be ensured? Such centres exist at some places in cities, but no such facility has been provided in villages. I shall request that such centres should be set up for the education and development of these children. Their health should also be taken care of the parents are very poor and cannot afford medicines and doctor's fee in the case of the illness of their children. Dispensaries must be opened to provide medical care to them.

Some law has been made to safeguard the interest of widows. The Civil Code is there. But I would like to point out that these laws have not so far been enforced. They are flouted. No attention is paid towards this.

Similarly, anti-dowry law is there. A very sad situation is arising today out of dowry cases. We read daily in the newspapers that a woman has immolated herself or that some woman has been burnt to death. I would urge the Ministry of Social Welfare to ensure implementation of this law. Some sort of news item is seen in newspapers daily about the victims of dowry. Something should be done in this regard.

I would like to point out that Government are spending a sizeable amount of money on the welfare of women but I do not know where that money goes. I am one of the Members of the Social Welfare Board and I know that various types of grants are

given for improving the economic condition of women. They are given sewing machines which remain idle and rust gets formed on them. I would suggest that training centres should be set up to impart formal complete training to such women so that they are able to earn their livelihood by serving clothes for the common man. Some of the women, who know a little of tailoring, can sew only ordinary kurtas or underwears, etc. out of which they cannot earn their livelihood. Arrangement should therefore, be made to impart full training to them in tailoring.

Many centres have been opened and more are being opened for small children. Government supply *Dalia*, *Khichri*, sugar, etc. to these centres for distribution among the children but they are not supplied to children in full. Whatever is given to them is given as if they are beggars. Arrangements should be made to ensure proper supply of all these things to children. What happens today is that all these things disappear from these centres.

What I mean to say is that our Government have done a lot and are doing still more. But the implementing machinery does not function properly. Government should see to all these things so that more and more facilities can be provided to the poor women, and they can be taken care of. Similarly, poor children should be looked after properly so that they become good citizens.

At the same time, poor expectant mothers should also be looked after properly. The programmes meant for pregnant women have been lagging behind in villages. The fund or assistance provided for them by the Social Welfare Board does not percolate to them. I shall cite an example. The men and women in a village are given a wage of Rs. 7/- per day per person—which might have been raised now, but the person who disburses wages to them and marks their attendance, deducts a sum of Rs. 2/- out of Rs. 7/- and gives them Rs. 5/- only per head. Such type of treatment is meted out to the poor women. It is a grave crime to make such deduction from their hard earned wage. Hence, I would like to impress that equal wages should be given to women and they should have the same respect as is shown to menfolk.

This aspect needs special attention in the villages. The matter should be looked into. I think the person, who marks attendance, must be earning hundreds of rupees in this manner and the poor women, for whom our government are spending so much money, are subjected to such type of maltreatment and to such grave injustice.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on these demands for grants.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
(Panskura) : The other day during the discussion on Women's Decade we had at length discussed the situation of changing inside our country regarding women's condition in various fields, political, social and economic and also children's welfare. Today because of want of time I shall not cover the same ground. Only I will say that very much remains to be done. That was very clear from that discussion. Today I shall be specific on this grant itself.

While regarding the annual report I welcome the fact that the Ministry has promised that they are going in for evolving a new policy and on the basis of various reports of the Working Groups on certain aspects of the social welfare programmes, they have already found out certain areas which should be added. I would have been happier if we would have had some outline of what the new areas are that the Ministry has already found. If they were given, then we would have been in a better position.

In any case my first request to our hon. Minister is that really a new policy totally covering all the aspects of woman's life is very essential and I would only request that while this new policy will be evolved, I hope that not only the women Members of Parliament but also the All India Women's Organisations who are active in this field should be consulted for evolving this new policy. I feel that in the absence of a policy like this, an all enveloping policy, the Social Welfare Ministry's work is really based on absolute ad hocism. Had you looked into this annual report, you would have seen a plethora of schemes. Absolutely there is no dearth of schemes. It seems that from time to time some bright ideas struck somebody, so cer-

tain schemes have come. Afterwards some new international developments take place and some other schemes are added. I feel that first of all at the moment there are many schemes with little, little allotment for that. Probably many of these will need serious rethinking to reorganise those schemes to give a better benefit from the schemes. For want of time I cannot illustrate all. I will illustrate one or two at the end.

About the schemes that are now in operation I would like to make a few suggestions with regard to certain schemes which are now being followed. For example, the socio-economic programme that is there under the Social Welfare Board. Grant is given to voluntary organisations. Here in this it seems to me that the allocations which are made are very unreal. For example, after a lump sum grant, one month's working capital for the raw materials, etc. is given to a voluntary organisation to guarantee employment for 25 women. I feel that with one month recurring capital it is really impossible for any voluntary organisation to have the market, to find out the place, etc. So those voluntary organisations who have a lot of money may be able to make good use of it, but really to make it purposeful, this needs some real re-orientation. This is one of the examples I am giving of the schemes which really need re-examination. For example, there is another scheme for condensed course. Here 3 years time seems to be unreal along with the other stipulations that are made for all those who attend this condensed course.

For example, 70% pass must be there in order that the grant may be repeated. When will the student be taken? That student must be in this category: He should have given up studies at least 2 years back. He should pass within 3 years. And then 70% of the students must pass. Probably it becomes a little difficult under the present situation.

The money given for the residential courses is really not enough at all in keeping the students in these residential courses. At that time many years ago when the quantum was decided upon, it might have been adequate. But, with the present situation and running away inflation, the money should be increased.

There is another schemes called Balwadi

scheme. Now, with the coming of the ICDS, the nutrition part of it is being taken a way from Balwadi. Balwadi minus nutrition is becoming difficult in my opinion. With this ICDS scheme coming up, Balwadi scheme needs re-examination. Various schemes are there which need very serious review in my opinion.

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to mention one thing. This Ministry, to be purposeful, with the new name 'Women's Welfare' added to it, needs necessary inter-ministerial connection and monitoring. I will give you one example. My colleague Mrs. Phulrenu Guha just now said that women are not taken in the Central Enterprises and they are sometimes even replaced by men. Now, what is happening in the Central Sector enterprises? How many women are being taken in? How many are being displaced? How many more can be employed? If this Ministry monitors all these things, then, more women will get jobs. This Ministry must be a nodal ministry for chasing what is happening in the Central sector enterprises with regard to women's employment. If this Ministry monitors it then more women will be employed than what the Ministry will be able to give by way of direct employment. I don't say that these social welfare schemes which are called socio-economic schemes, should be given up. They should be continued and strengthened. But the former seems to be a very important thing. I do not want to dilate because I have no time. About social laws and their implementation many of them may be under the Home Ministry. But unless this Ministry does constant monitoring about the implementation of those laws, nothing will be done. Some mechanism at the administrative level lower down should be there for implementation. It should be at the district and subdivisional level to co-ordinate all these things and to see what is happening with regard to women's problems and various measures of the Government. Having implementation officer at the lower level exclusively for dealing with women's problems is very essential. This Ministry can take it up with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Personnel. Like this very many changes in the administrative level in respect of implementation will be needed. While working out the new policy this new Ministry should work out those linkages with other Ministries in regard

to the implementation machinery. In regard to all these things this Ministry should be a nodal ministry. The hopes that have been aroused after the new nomenclature of this Ministry, has to be fulfilled. I do hope that this new Ministry will fulfil it.

I would like to raise one problem among the children. This problem is becoming very dangerous. I refer to drug addiction in Delhi and other places. If you go to the middle class regions you will find that number of students including young girls and boys become drug addicts. Their whole life is being ruined because of this. So, this needs to be given serious attention. If you want to save all their lives then you should take proper measures. I think this aspect has not yet received the tremendous importance it should have received. Having said, this, as the time is very limited, I hope that Government will make proper use of the media to improve the cause of women's welfare, in all its aspects. I don't think that either from the point of view of popularising the new laws or from the point of view of implementation enough has been done through the media. From this point of view also, this Ministry should be a nodal Ministry in this respect. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

*SHRI E. S. M. PAKEER MOHAMED (Mayuram) ; Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare for 1985-86.

Sir, in India we worship woman as the universal *shakti*; the world will not survive without woman. We pay our homage to our country in the name of Bharat Mata. All the perennial rivers of India are deified. Yet there is no limit in the perpetration of injustice towards our women.

We have the Dowry Prohibition Act and yet we cannot restrict the number of brides being burnt on the ground of dowry. If you open the English daily of the Capital, you will immediately see the bride-burning news. I demand stringent enforcement of Dowry Prohibition Act.

As soon as he assumed the Office of

Prime Minister, our dynamic young Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made secondary education free for girls. This has been universally welcomed.

Women constitute 50% of our population. There is a Parliamentary Committee for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who constitute just 18% of our population. I suggest that a Parliamentary Committee for the welfare of women be constituted who constitute 50% of our population.

Our hon. Minister for Social and Women's Welfare is not only the elder stateswoman of this country but she embodies in her the aspirations of women in our country. Social reform is her soul force. The women's welfare is safe in her hands. She has taken vigorous steps for implementation of Integrated Child Development Services. I demand the constitution of a separate Children Development Board to nurture and nourish the interests of children who are the future wealth of the country. It is also essential for looking into the welfare of child labour. The Gurupadaswami Committee has given many recommendations in regard to child labour. I suggest that they should be implemented effectively. In the magazine entitled INDIA TODAY there was a research article on child labour in the match industry in Tamil Nadu. We cannot statutorily abolish child labour, on account of economic considerations. According to the statistics of Central Planning Commission, 42% of our population is living below poverty line. Naturally we cannot prohibit child labour. But it becomes our duty to ensure that conducive atmosphere is created for child labour with basic minimum facilities.

The Central Government is helping war widows in diverse fields. But most of them are officers' wives. We have not given adequate attention to the rehabilitation of widows of soldiers. They are mostly uneducated. I take this opportunity to demand that rehabilitation schemes for the uneducated widows of soldiers should be drawn up by the Central Social Welfare Board and implemented forthwith.

70% of our population is engaged in agriculture and more than half of agricultural labour in our country is women. In Textile

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Mills more than 50% workers is women. We talk day in and day out that men and women are equal in all spheres of activities. But in agricultural wages the women do not get equal wages. This should be looked into and the women agricultural labour should get equal wages like men agricultural labour. For all publicity the body of woman is exposed. This is wrong. I demand that a high level committee should be constituted to go into the question of exploitation of woman's body for publicity campaigns. With these words I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M: CHANDRA SEKHAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members who number nearly 23 for having taken so much interest to express their appreciation and also to make certain valuable suggestions about the working of Social and Women's Welfare Ministry. Many hon. Members have spoken about the welfare of women, and have given suggestions. Some of which are overlapping. So, instead of replying to each and every member, I would in general, say a few words about the working of the Ministry and also try to incorporate some of the suggestion which they have made for further improvement of the working of the Minstry both for the Social Welfare and in the Women's Welfare.

Regarding women's Welfare, Shrimati Bibha Goswami in her opening remarks mentioned about the paucity of resources in the Plan and the Budget of our Ministry. I would like to remind the hon. member that other Ministries like Education, Health, Rural Development, etc., have special programmes for women in their sectors and therefore, it would not be correct to say that it is only our Ministry's resources that are available for women. Of course, as mentioned by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, the Women's Welfare Ministry is a nodal ministry which will look into, take note of and also coordinate the welfare work and developmental work that is meant for not only women's welfare, but also for other sections concerning the Ministry. The Ministry of Education, for example, has special schemes to increase female enrolment in educationally backward States. The Ministry of Rural Development has got a special scheme for the development

of women and children in rural areas. Maternity health care schemes are being implemented by the Health Ministry. Thus, a combined effort is being made in all the Ministries to earmark a part of their resources for development of women.

Again, Shrimati Goswami has referred to the increase in the number of women labourers in the agricultural sector. It is correct that a majority of women workers are employed in the agricultural sector. In order to provide off-season employment for the large working force, Government have taken up rural employment-generating schemes like NREP and RLEGP. Women workers have benefited from these programmes as they provide not only work but also supportive services like creches, child care centres, etc. About 40 to 50 per cent of workers at the NREP work si.es are women.

To satisfy Mrs. Goswami, I can mention that there has been increase—of course it is not enough if we compare the total number of women in the country—but there is an increase, as compared to the total increase in the Budget of other Ministries. In 1984-85 for Social Welfare we got Rs. 78 crores and in 1985-86 we have got Rs. 100 crores. If you take the percentage difference, it is 0.42 per cent in 1984-85 and in 1985-86 we are receiving about 0.54 per cent. I do not say that it is quite enough. But as I said, earlier, we are getting benefit from schemes of other Ministries as well regarding the development of women.

Mrs. Goswami has also referred to the problem of displacement of women workers due to mechanisation and modernisation. In this connection, I would like to assure the hon. Member that Government is very much aware of this problem. Two years ago, a Technology Policy Statement was made, which is aimed at preventing such displacement of workers belonging to weaker sections, including women, by machanisation. There is a Working Group on Women Workers, constituted by the Labour Ministry in which a representative of our Ministry is also associated. This Group is looking into this problem. There is also a Technology Policy Implementation Cell in the Cabinet Secretariat to look after the implementation of this Policy. So, I want to assure the hon. Member that we are very much aware of this problem.

Shrimati Kishori Sinha made a mention about the drudgery to which women are put, and the need to relieve them of the drudger. There are several schemes being implemented to remove drudgery from the working lives of rural and urban women in their household lives. The National Project on Bio-Gas Development and the National Project on Schedules chulha are two very useful projects. These projects are helping women to cook in a smoke-free atmosphere which improves their health, besides saving them long hours in gathering fuel wood. The Department of Science and Technology has a special programme on "S and T Women" in which special schemes to alleviate women's drudgery are financed. Rs. 1 crore was provided in the 6th Plan for the Scheme.

Quite a number of members have expressed their concern about dowry. We have enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act in 1984, with a view to eliminate the evil of dowry. As soon as the rules for its implementation are finalized, the Act will be in operation. After it is in operation for some time, we will review it; and if changes are necessary, they will be brought about. We have an open mind on this question, and are determined to take all steps to eliminate this evil. This social evil can be fought by social boycott and social awareness, in addition to legislation.

About giving training to women for employment, I would like to say a few words. The need for this was expressed by many Members, and a programme for Training-cum-production units for Women was started in 1982-83 for training of women by public sector undertakings, corporations, autonomous bodies, and then providing them with sustained employment. This programme was started with the assistance offered by the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD). The total assistance offered for the calendar years 1983-86 is 24 million Kroners i.e. approximately Rs. 3.48 crores.

The scheme under which this assistance is being utilized provides for grant-in-aid to public sector undertakings/corporations/autonomous bodies for training component of their project or projects sponsored by them. The implementing agency is required to employ the women immediately on completion of the training, for at least five years.

Against the total assistance of Rs. 3.48 crores offered by Norwegian Agency for International Development, about Rs. 2.61 crores have been sanctioned for 55 projects to 37 organizations upto the end of 1984-85. Out of this amount, Rs. 1.83 crores have so far been released. Therefore, there is commitment of about Rs. 78 lakhs for projects sanctioned upto 1984-85. For 1985-86, a Budget provision of Rs. 1 crore has been suggested. This would meet the requirement of the already committed expenditure and also for a few more projects. Keeping this in view, and the officer of assistance to be received from NORAD, the Budget provision is sufficient. A statement reflecting the assistance sanctioned to various organizations during 1982-83 to 1984-85 is available; I will give it, if there is time.

About education of girls, concern was expressed by Members. We have realized the need for education of girls, at least in high schools. The announcement made by the Prime Minister after the new Government was formed, viz. that girls will be given free education upto high school, is known to the Members, and certain other methods under which this facility can be fully utilized by the girls, is under the consideration of the Ministry.

Special measures to increase female enrolment in schools in nine educationally backward States, are being implemented by the Ministry of education.

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha and some of the other lady Members have mentioned about the status of women in India, about the Committee which was formed when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Their recommendations are quite a few in number. If you want, I can read them. They include Eradication of polygamy in Muslim law; Enforcement of provision against bigamy under Hindu Marriage Act; Reform of marriage laws prevalent in former French and Portuguese territories; Child Marriage Restraint Act to be amended, to raise the age of marriage of girls to 18 years; Compulsory registration of marriages; Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 to be amended to make the offence cognisable, to limit the gifts to bridegroom or his parents, to display wedding gifts and evaluation of amended Dowry Prohibition Act and ceiling on gifts to the bride...

There are quite a few more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can place them...

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : It is only the legal aspect. There are other aspects also. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : Now about economic participation. Apart from the legal aspect, the other recommendations are : Maternity Benefits Act, 1961 should be extended to all industries, and the provision of maternity relief should be extended to all industries and the provision or maternity relief should be ensured by the creation of a Central Fund by levying contributions from employees; Provision of Creches—A limit of 20 women workers should be accepted for this provision. (What we have done is that we have raised it to 30 women); Insurance : The Employees' State Insurance Scheme should be extended to all areas; Equalization of Wages (The Equal Remuneration Act was passed in 1976 for the first time when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was our Prime Minister.); Integrated development of training and employment; Part-time employment : specific provision for part-time employment of women should be made there, in the Anganwadi, most of the members expressed concern that they were given no pay, since they were only part-time workers, and hence they were paid honorarium); Enforcement of laws pertaining to protecting women workers...

There are recommendations relating to educational development. There are many others viz. co-education should be adopted; Pre-School education for all children; Universalization of education for the age group of 6 to 14 years; introduction of sex education from middle school; etc.

About political participation, the recommendations say that there should be establishment of Statutory Women's Panchayats at the village level, with autonomy and resources of their own for the management and administration of welfare and development programmes for women and children.

Reservation of seats for women in Municipalities

The political parties should adopt a policy regarding percentage of women's candid-

dates for election to Parliament and State Assembly.

There should be inclusion of women in all Committees, Commissions and delegation.

Women's Welfare and Development

Change needed in the medical termination of pregnancy Act.

A national policy in the light of the constitutional directives and pledges made to the women should be framed.

Constitution of Statutory, Autonomous, Commission at the Centre and the States for the purpose of collection of information, evaluation of existing policies programmes and laws and redress of grievances. These are all under consideration. We have taken steps in respect of some of them.

The hon. member has raised the question of contribution of the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi to the development of women. Let me tell the hon. members that after the freedom of the country, we have made new strides in the field of economic development during the successive Five Year Plans and benefits thereby have reached all sections of our society including women. Recognising women, however, as a disadvantaged group in view of certain historical factors, the Government of India, under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi, appointed a Committee on the status of women (CSWI) to study factors affecting their development. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Committee, the Sixth Five Year Plan 1980-85 contained for the first time in India's planning history a chapter on 'Women and Development'. This changed the emphasis in the case of women from welfare to development and extended the areas of women's concern from the social service factors of education, health and welfare to the areas of economic development such as agriculture, animal husbandry, and other rural development programmes. This also provided for the access of women to training and investment resources to enable them to undertake independent economic activities.

Thus women can now take advantage from all the existing development programmes such as IRDP, TRYSEM and different welfare and other employment-generating programmes being run by the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare.

A number of legislations and new amendments were brought about during the period of our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. They are as follows :

Equal Remuneration Act.

Amendment of Factory Act—to increase ratio of creches to women.

Amendment of Maternity Benefit Act—to extend coverage of benefits.

Amendment of Hindu Law by Marriage Law (Amendment Act).

Amendment of Dowry Prohibition Act.

Amendment of Criminal Laws to make punishment more stringent for offences against women, etc.

The Family Courts Act.

One of the hon. members who spoke yesterday referred to the declining employment of women. Actually the work participation rate of women has registered a modest increase in the last ten years. In 1971 it was 14.15 per cent and in 1981 it was 19.76 per cent. We have started various training programmes not only by Social and Women's Welfare Ministry, but by other Ministries as well, in order to enable women to join the job market successfully. TRYSEM, which is a programme for training the rural youth for employment has women trainees who form nearly about one third of the total number. The Labour Ministry has a network of about 2800 institutes, 176 of whom are exclusively for women to train them to take up jobs in traditional and non-traditional fields.

Then again, coming to working women's hostels, in 1984-85 the budgeted amount was Rs.2.70 crores and grants were paid to the tune of Rs.2.80 crores. In 1985-86 Rs.1.75 crores have been allotted. The total amount spent since 1972-73 up to now is Rs. 21.94 crores to construct 344 hostels to benefit 22,951 women. About 69 hostels have been constructed with a capacity for 9711 women. People ask for more funds. After the grants have been sanctioned there is a long delay, and then they say that the prices have escalated and they have to go back and give another estimate. This is due to the slow speed on the part of the voluntary organisations and other agencies which are controlling the building of such hostels.

I would also like to mention that we are not far behind in electing women Members of Parliament or to the State Assemblies or to the municipalities or other local bodies. We had as you know, in the Lok Sabha earlier about 28 Members; now we are about 43 women Members. And I am glad to say that our party has got a majority of them. Apart from this, we have a scheme to help the women in distress. In 1984-85 we have spent Rs.15 lakhs, and in 1985-86 we have provided Rs. 25 lakhs for the schemes of women. They are given vocational training under this scheme and there is also another scheme, of short stay homes for women who are in difficulties and Rs. 8 lakhs have been spent this year. The expenditure on these schemes is shared amongst the Central Government and the State Government and the voluntary organisations in the ratio of 45 : 45 : 10.

Vocational training is given to women, and it is taken up in short term courses, through these schemes. Rs. 25 lakhs was the amount provided in 1985-86 as against Rs.15 lakhs in 1984-85.

Coming to Child Welfare programmes, quite a number of opportunities are there, we have to appreciate the work done by the Integrated Child Development Scheme which is operating in about 1,000 units and I have visited some of them, I have paid surprise visits and I have not found much difficulty. If the hon. Members bring to our notice any units which are not functioning well, surely we will take action and we will not hesitate to do so.

Hon. Members very rightly pointed out the serious consequences of malnutrition among pregnant women, nursing mothers and children. We have found that their nutritional status can be improved by providing a package of services like supplementary nutrition, health-care and nutrition education. So, we started the ICDS programme. It is a package service. Some States have ICDS areas where the health of the children and the mothers and the nutritional status has improved. So, the Government has decided to expand the programme in a phased manner.

The hon. Member also referred to blindness among children due to Vitamin A deficiency. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken up a large programme of giving intensive doses of Vitamin

A to young children in order to prevent blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency.

Some of the Members mentioned that we being a nodal Ministry should coordinate all this work. We know what is happening and wherever there is deficiency we step in.

Mrs. Shekhawat also mentioned about the misuse of funds. If any hon. Member, as I said, earlier, brings any case of the alleged misuse of funds or corruption to my notice, it will be thoroughly investigated and if misuse or corruption is found the guilty will be punished.

Mrs. Shekhawat also referred to the employment of the female officers in ICDS. In fact, all Anganwadi workers and helpers are women. ICDS also employs more than two lakh women. In State and National level offices., there are both male and female officers. We have advised the States that the project officers should be ladies as far as possible.

Mrs. Shekhawat also suggested that Anganwadi workers should be full-time employees. I would like to tell my esteemed friend to appreciate that the work of Anganwadi can be best run by Anganwadi workers who can spare four to five hours per day. Of course, we are careful about giving them some fair honorarium, Their honorarium was revised from 1st Jaunary 1985.

We have also decided to give training to creche workers. Government is also considering an increase in the provision for nutrition to children in creches.

I have noted the good suggestion that 'anathalaya' should be called 'apna ghar'. It can also be called 'bal grih'. This suggestion can be followed by voluntary organisations which mostly run the homes for destitute children.

There is already a system of allocating adequate funds by the Planning Commission to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to the population through special component plan for Scheduled Castes and sub-tribal plan for the Scheduled Tribes. In the ICDS programme run by our Ministry 2/3rd of the children of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

get the benefit. This has been revealed in a study conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission.

Mention was made of the children fund which amounts to Rs. 1.71 crores, but of which Rs. 10, lakhs have been spent and the rest Rs. 1.62 crores is in the shape of deposits in the bank. This is because of the guidelines of the Childrens' Fund which says assistance can be given to any voluntary organisation for those activities which are not eligible for assistance from any other source. So, if more organisations come up satisfying the guidelines, we would not hesitate to help them out of this fund.

As regards the National Children's Board we are meeting on the 31st of May and the Standing Committee will be meeting in the next week.

About child labour, though it is the concern of the Labour Ministry, special schemes are being worked out to help these children. We have also had discussion with the Labour Ministry.

About creches and day-care centres there are 7,000 units both in the urban and the rural arrear. More than 80 per cent of 'Anganwadis' are in rural areas.

As regards the honorarium to the Anganwadi workers—earlier it was Rs. 175 per month. Now it has been raised to Rs. 250 per month for matriculates.

It was Rs. 125 per month for non-matriculates and now it has been raised to Rs. 200 per months for them.

According to the latest report for the period ending 31st December 1984, the number of anganwadis reporting is 90,462. This would mean that at least 1,08,924 women were employed as anganwadi workers and helpers. The number of Mukhyasevikas in position was 3,904 while that of CDPOs was nearly 897. The number of women, who are receiving supplementary nutrition through ICDS anganwadis was 10.91 lakhs.

About indirect benefits, the ICDS has indirectly helped in dissemination of information among women on health and allied subjects. It has also helped in awareness for creating better sanitation condition, and

clean environment. It has also helped in suitable education of family welfare and acceptance of small family norms. It has also created awareness among women about proper child care and upbringing, because the ICDS programme consists of immunisation to the children and the women when the children are born, know that their mortality is not going to be much, mortality rate is going to be low. There is also awareness among the women to limit their families.

About the national policy for women mentioned by some hon. Members, the policy needs to be comprehensive and integrated with the development plans of the country. We are, therefore, having a dialogue with each Ministry concerned with women's development as to how best we can ensure these schemes meant to benefit women, which are refined and restructured to achieve this objective. I have already had discussions with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Rural Development and I will be discussing with the other Ministries also. I have already had the benefit of discussing with the women M.P.s. as well as Women research workers and social scientists and getting their views on the subject. The Ministry of Social Welfare intends to give the highest priority to economic activities and programmes for women so that they can become self-reliant and economically independent. We have already taken up with the Ministry of Rural Development that 25 per cent of the IRDP beneficiaries should be women, we will fund voluntary organisations for training women in skills and encourage vocational education which will lead to employment. Education for girls and women will have priority. We will also extend schemes which will help women to take the benefit of education and employment such as hospitals, creches for children etc.

Dr. Vallal Peruman made a mention of the condition of working children. I have taken note of this observations. We have taken up the matter with my colleague, the Minister of Labour, whose Ministry's budget proposals included a provision for improving the conditions of working children by providing facilities for education, recreation and health care.

Coming to Prohibition and Drugs Act, I would like to say about prohibition. Most of the Members are very very vociferous

about this prohibition. I agree with the facts that prohibition as a means of raising the standard of living of the people and in improving public health is the Directive Principle of State Policy. The production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of intoxicated drinks is the responsibility of the State Governments under Entry 8 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The responsibility of fulfilling these Constitutional obligations in regard to prohibition, therefore, rests largely with the State Governments. However, the Government of India serves as a catalyst in persuading the State Governments to take meaningful and effective steps in the direction of fulfilling the Constitutional obligations.

To undertake periodic review of prohibition policy and progress of prohibition in different States, a Central Prohibition Committee is set up in the Ministry from time to time. The Committee was last constituted on 7th September, 1982 up to 30th September, 1984. The recommendations made by the Committee were sent to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Though prohibition is a State subject, the Government of India offered to compensate the State Governments 50% of the loss in excise revenue incurred by them on introduction of prohibition. I regret to say that the Government of India, in pursuance of this policy made advance payments to some of the States. Even then, they did not incur the necessary expenditure by proper measures to introduce and ultimately they had to return back the money to the Government of India. We propose to continue this policy of 50% compensation according to the present decision up to the year, 1989-90 and thereafter it will be reviewed.

The hon. Member Dr. P. Vallal Peruman has referred to the problem of finance. I share the concern this Member has expressed on the subject. As you may know, many Ministries and Departments are involved in the subject of drug addiction. Its prevention and enforcement aspect are being looked after by the Ministry of Finance and by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The curative aspect is the concern of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Social Welfare Ministry is mainly responsible for building up social awareness and educating the public about the evils of this habit.

We are, however, also coordinating with other Ministries like Health and Information and Broadcasting to ensure that the public is made aware of the subject. This Ministry has sponsored a number of programmes in the media to build up public awareness including radio and TV plays. The Ministry of Finance is gearing up its machinery to deal with the illegal smuggling of drugs. Social Welfare is also conducting surveys to find out the extent of the problem. Voluntary organisations which are interested in running de-addiction camps and centres are being encouraged to do so by Social Welfare Ministry with the grant of financial assistance.

In 1976, seven surveys were conducted to find out among others, the extent of drug addiction among college and university students. It was found that the existence of use of harmful drugs was not significant. In a couple of States, many industrial workers were also contacted of which one was in Delhi. A re-survey is being done in some cities. Besides, two more towns are being included in the sample cities. It is being done in cooperation with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The cities covered under this are Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Jaipur, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Jabaldur.

One of the hon. Members mentioned about drug legislation not being effective. The Government is well aware of the need to enact a uniform legislation to cope with every aspect of the drug problem. This legislation is under preparation. The valuable comments of the hon. Members will be kept in view about providing a deterrent punishment. The Ministry had, earlier, in 1976, conducted surveys to find out the extent of drug abuse, including alcohol, in 111 universities, towns and industrial areas. The results of these surveys showed that drug abuse not a serious problem amongst students. Now that India has become an acknowledged transit route for drug trafficking, the Social Welfare Ministry has decided to conduct fresh surveys in these towns, along with some others, in order to assess the magnitude of the problem.

As for de-addiction facilities, I am aware that these are not as much as are desired, but they would be increased. It

is not correct to say that no de-addiction facilities are existing in India. In Delhi at least two hospitals offer indoor and outdoor de-addiction facilities. There are some other hospitals in the States which offer similar facilities. We have taken up with the Ministry of Health to provide de-addiction facilities to all psychiatric wards in hospitals. Having separate de-addiction facilities and centres may not be necessary; besides, they are very costly.

In connection with the same subject I would like to say that the Ministry of Social Welfare sponsored a sample survey by commissioning eleven research studies in 1976; seven research studies were conducted among the university students and some of them covered the rural areas and some covered industrial workers.

I think, I have covered almost all the points. If anything has been left out, we will look into that. I once again thank the hon. Members for having taken so much of interest, for making valuable suggestions and also for appreciating some of the work done by the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing more. I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 82 relating to the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare."

The Motion was adopted.

Demand for Grant, 1985-86 in respect of Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
		1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
82	Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare	21,26,97,000	11,08,000	1,07,84,86,000	55,42,000

(ii) Ministry of Labour

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 16 relating to the Ministry of Labour. Six hours have been allotted. Two Members have tabled their Cut Motions, Mr. Narayan Choubey and Mr. K. Ramachandra Reddy. Both of them are not present in the House.

Motion moved :

"That the respective sums not exceed-

ing the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1986, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 65 and 66 relating to the Ministry of Labour."

Mr. Penchalliah.

Demand for Grants, 1985-86 in respect of the Ministry of Labour submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 25th March, 1985		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Labour					
65	Ministry of Labour	30,31,000	..	1,51,58,003	..
66	Labour and Employment	29,99,40,000	18,66,000	1,49,97,05,000	93,35,000

SHRI PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the modern world no country can expect to be a developed country unless it happens to be an industrialised country. Progress is impossible without industries. The industries in turn are very much dependent on labour force, whether it is skilled or unskilled. Our

hon. Prime Minister time and again has promised to take us to the 21st Century. But this year's budget and especially the Labour Ministry's Demands speak something contrary. The interests of the labour were ignored to a large extent if not totally. The allocation made to the Labour Ministry when compared to other Ministries is far