

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: I wanted to know a categorical reply from the Hon. Minister that whether there is any Government policy for the Government employees including the Government doctors that for their personal reasons, they can represent the Government for transfer to a particular place of his or her choice on compassionate ground or whether such requests are kept in abeyance or cancelled? If so, in this particular case, when the doctor has applied for six month's extension for her joining at Lakshadweep or Andaman and Nicobar, why did the Government not allow her to continue here? In case of female Government servants, they have facilities like maternity leave etc. In this case whether any such type of reason was given or not? If so, what was the reaction of the Government?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Now, we are really going into the individual cases. I have told you the general position as it obtains today in regard to these postings. Since the Hon. Member has raised the question of this particular lady doctor, we really got a whole suspicious about the whole thing. While we were considering to give her sometime to go and join, there was a proposal from the Medical Superintendent to say that this lady should be transferred to some other post and retained here. Now, that somehow put our back up, let me say, and we said, "No, she will have to go. If she does not go, we will have no other alternative but to cancel her appointment."

SAARC Workshop on Women's Development Programmes

*499. DR. V. VENKATESH:
SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:

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

(a) whether one-week SAARC workshop was organised in October, 1987 on training of senior personnel for development of rural women in the South Asian countries;

(b) whether the emphasis of the workshop was on strengthening the capabilities of personnel of SAARC countries in the planning management and development programmes for rural women;

(c) whether review was also made to evaluate women's development programmes; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Development programmes for women were reviewed in general.

(d) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The discussion in the workshop emphasised the need for:

(i) increasing women's access to productive resources including credit and training;

(ii) evolving and strengthening machinery at national, regional and local levels to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor all policies and programmes concerning women's development in all sectors;

(iii) creating supportive services for women; and

(iv) establishing and strengthening linkages among SAARC countries to facilitate exchange of resource material, personnel etc.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sorry to say that I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Hon. Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is always dissatisfied.

MR. SPEAKER: He is consistently dissatisfied.

DR. V. VENKATESH: We all know in this country since centuries that the women folk are neglected; they are worse than the down-trodden people of this country. About 50% population of the country are women folk. Particularly, the women folk of rural areas are suffering a lot. We expected that India would have been a leading country in the SAARC meeting in respect of welfare measures; but India had not taken any lead as far as the development of the women folk is concerned. More number of organisations are coming up in the rural areas. I want to know directly from the Hon. Minister whether these women organisations are going to get financial assistance and so far how much efforts have been put forth to alleviate the hardships of the women folk of this country.

For instance, in Karnataka State, the State Government has taken up certain measures to alleviate the hardships of the unfortunate women folk of the country. We have been giving widow pension. We have also been giving the maternity allowance for those who are working in the rural areas. Are they going to take up such measures from the Government of India side? As far as the SAARC is concerned, are they going to lead this movement?

SHRI P.V. NARASHIMHA RAO: In the first place, the question was about SAARC. The Hon. Member is not satisfied with the answer about SAARC. Now I have to tell him that Karnataka did not participate in SAARC, India did. He will be even more dissatisfied when I tell him that!

This is a question in regard to seven countries; it is not a question in regard to one State... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Because the SAARC meeting was held in Karnataka, he is asking that question.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: In the SAARC meeting, which was a meeting of seven countries, there is no question of a comparison between one country and an-

other. It was a cooperative effort. They just wanted to compare notes about the condition of women in all the seven countries and to see what could be done in order to ameliorate their condition.

They have come up with very good proposals. There are as many as 22 recommendations; I could even place them on the Table of the House, I have no problem in that. The point is that it was among seven countries; we hosted the meeting and it was very well organised, for four-five days there were indepth discussions and something very useful has come out. Now it is for the seven Government of these seven countries to action them and prepare action programmes. It has happened only one month back. This is the position.

DR. V. VENKATESH: My point is that because India is leading, as far as the Asian countries are concerned because India is the biggest populated country and its problems are more, why has the Government of India not taken up the real problems of the women folk and highlighted them. They would have also taken lead as far as solving these problems is concerned.

I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that women folk of our country are finding much difficulty as far as privacy for nature's call is concerned.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I think we are straying into a different field. But it is as well as to remember that when we have an international conference, firstly we do not make comparisons and secondly India as a large country should not pose as it she is taking a lead. That is not correct spirit. The spirit is one of cooperation. Whatever we have done, we have hosted the meeting, we have participated in the meeting; the recommendations have come, I could not and should not say as to how many of these 22 recommendations are relatable to India. This is a cumulative effort and this is the result.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Now he is satisfied!

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Is he satisfied now? I don't know.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Sir, it appears from the answer of the Minister that the answers are very much ironical. Of course, it is admitted that India is leading among the SAARC countries in so far as exploitation of women is concerned.

The women who have been engaged in private and public sectors have not been paid even minimum wages till today. Further, till today you have set up working womens hostels in some cities only and you have not done anything for the women which are there in the remote places.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have an appeal to make to the hon. Members that this question is concerned with an International conference. Let us not put supplementaries and drag into discussion, what happens within this country. Let him put another question I am prepared to come up with all the information.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tanti please put the question within the para-meters of this question. Please be pragmatic. There is no fun in having a 'sixer' here and there. It is not an internal problem.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Among the SAARC countries India is the leading one. You must see to your own problems. May I know how many delegates participated in this conference and what is the specific outcome of the conference?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have already told that. The training of senior personnel for the development of rural women is listed at serial No.6. The technical committee had decided that there should be a programme of meetings and out of that at serial No.6 they said this is the programme that has to be organised by India. This was done at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand from 12-18 October, 1987. The brochure on the workshop gives all the details about the programme. All SAARC countries except Maldives participated in the training programme. The list of the participants is with me. It is a long list. I have also all the details of the discussion but I wonder if I could read out all those things in connection with the supplementary.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU: I would like to know about the scope of the protocol relating to the SAARC. Today only very mundane affairs are discussed in the SAARC. There is no collaboration as far as finance, industry, trade or transfer of technology is concerned. How will these aspects be tackled in future?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: As the hon. Member are aware when the first SAARC idea came into being the idea was not accepted by many countries to start with. So, there were certain para-meters chosen for at least starting the SAARC and SAARC programme. Certain areas of cooperation were specifically chosen and the understanding was that the cooperation programme in the SAARC will be confined to these areas and no other until extended. Secondly, only unanimous decisions will be taken. If even one or two countries do not agree with a proposal that proposal would not go through. This is about 4-5 years ago. I am talking from memory as to what was the first understanding when SAARC came into being. Members would also recall that the areas have been added to from time to time. But it has not been possible to add any areas pertaining to economic matters as yet. We hope that if the spirits of SAARC pervades for some more time, it will be possible for us to add those areas also.

National Sports Talent Scheme

*500. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

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

(a) whether the National Sports Talent Scheme initiated by the Sports Authority of India has shown an encouraging results;

(b) if so, to what extent these schemes have been implemented; and

(c) the extend to which the students have been imparted sports training?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE