

Employment to Women

230. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ratio of women to men has declined since independence in the work force due to discrimination in employment opportunities;

(b) whether Government are also aware that number of women workers in agriculture has declined from 31 million in 1951 to 25 million in 1971; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide more employment opportunities to women?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c). The census figures from 1911 reveal that there has been a decline in the ratio of women to men workers upto 1951. There is an increase in the year 1961 and a drop again in 1971. The figures for 1961 and 1971 are however strictly not comparable because of the difference in definition of the term "worker" which included secondary workers in 1961 but excluded them in 1971.

The number of women workers in agriculture (according to the census) increased from 31 million in 1951 to 47 million in 1961 and then decreased to 25 million in 1971. Here again the figures are not comparable because of definitional differences.

A Working Group on Employment of Women has recently been set up to examine various issues relating to employment of women in the context of formulation of the next Five Year Plan.

श्रीशिवियों की खरीद संबंधी प्रक्रिया का पुनरीक्षण

* 231. श्री बयाराम शास्त्री: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग

ने सुझाव दिया था कि रोगियों को मुक्त और समय पर दवाइया उपलब्ध कराने हेतु दवाद्यों की खरीद के सम्बन्ध में अपनायी जाने वाली प्रक्रिया का पुनरीक्षण किया जाय; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस पुनरीक्षण के परिणामस्वरूप रोगियों को कितनी और क्या राहत मिली है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री राज नारायण) (क) वार्षिक और प्रशासनिक सुधार विभाग ने राष्ट्रीय सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवा के माध्यम से अत्यन्त कम के उपरान्त अपनी रिपोर्ट मिनस्वर, 1977 में प्रस्तुत कर दी जिसमें उन्होंने रोगियों को तत्परता से दवाइया उपलब्ध करने के लिए कुछ सुझाव दिए हैं।

(ख) अध्ययन रिपोर्ट में जो-जो सुझाव दिए गए हैं उन पर विचार किया जा रहा है और जो तक व्यावहारिक होगा, उन्हें कार्यान्वयन दिया जाएगा।

Amendment to Rule 71(4) of Drugs and Cosmetics Rule, 1975

*233. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARU-LEKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that amendment of Rule 71(4) to Drugs and Cosmetics Rules made in 1975 and published in extraordinary Gazette on 5-2-76 has caused great hardship to small manufacturing units and many of the manufacturers were forced to close down their units;

(b) the reasons for this amendment; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this connection and if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). On 5th

February, 1976, draft amendment to Rule 71(4) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules was published inviting objections and suggestions from the public. After considering the comments received from the various quarters amendment to the rule was finalised and formally notified on 16th July 1977. The said amendment provides that manufacturers of drugs should have their own testing laboratories. The object of this amendment is that the manufacturers should be able to assure themselves by their own tests regarding the quality of their products rather than depend upon reports of other, external laboratories.

Government are not aware of any small manufacturing units having been forced to close down their units as a result of the amendment referred to by the Hon'ble Member.

(c) Representations have been received from two small scale manufacturing units which are under consideration.

खनिजों का निर्यात और तैयार माल का आयात

* 234. श्री यज्ञवल्त शर्मा :

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा :

क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या खनिजों का निर्यात किया जाता है और उनसे बने तैयार माल का आयात किया जाता है, और

(ख) यदि हा, तो ऐसे खनिजों के नाम क्या हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रों (श्री बीजू पटनायक) : (क) और (ख) हमारे मुख्य खनिज निर्यात लौह-अयस्क, मैंगनीज अयस्क, क्रोमाइट, अश्रक तथा वैंगड्ट्स हैं। इस्पात की कुछ संश्लिष्ट किस्मों का जिनका देश में उत्पादन नहीं होता या जिनका

देशी उत्पादन अपर्याप्त है, तथा कुछ संश्लिष्ट किस्म के निमित्त अश्रक उत्पादों का, जिनका देश में उत्पादन नहीं होता है, आयात किया जाता है। विशेष किस्म की लौह-मिश्र धातुओं का भी थोड़ा सा आयात किया जाता है लेकिन उस आयात की तुलना में लौह-मिश्र धातुओं का निर्यात काफी अधिक है।

Employees' Provident Fund for Bidi Workers

* 235. SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to extend the Employees' Provident Fund to "bidi" workers; and

(b) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STAFF IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA): (a) and (b) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 has already been extended to the industry engaged in the manufacture of bids with effect from 31st May 1977.

Increase in Number of Passport Applications

* 236. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that applications for fresh passport have shot up considerably after the new, liberalised rules re. passport applications came into force from August 15, 1977; and

(b) if so, the full facts thereof, giving a State-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAJEE): (a) Yes Sir. The 9 regional passport offices received