

Indian Council of Social Science Research has constituted an Advisory Committee on Women's Studies, under whose auspices, studies about various aspects relating to women are made and promoted. These studies are designed to enable policy making and initiation of remedial action. Government have seen the observations made to the Press in April 1977, by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Women's Studies. The studies, on which his statement is based, are still in progress. As such, at this stage, it can neither be accepted nor denied that there is alarming deterioration of the status of village women.

(b) Of the 52 recommendations made by the Committee on the Status of Women in India for urban and rural women, many are of long term duration and are in essence, continual programmes. The recommendations which are being implemented or have been implemented are as under:—

Mobilising public opinion and strengthening social effort against polygamy, dowry, ostentatious expenditure etc. (Recommendation No. 1); the Hindu Marriage Act has been extended to the Union Territory of Pondicherry (Recommendation No. 4); steps for amending the dowry law—six States have taken action and the Central Government is to review the Central law; in addition Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 have been amended for making the giving and taking of dowry an offence (Recommendation No. 7); Marriage Law (Amendment) Act, 1976 has added "cruelty" and "desertion" as grounds for divorce; mutual consent for divorce has also been included in this Amendment; in addition repudiation by girl before attaining majority, of a child marriage, whether the marriage was consummated or not, has also been provided in the Amendment for (Recommendation No. 8); a sell has been set up in the Ministry of Labour to deal with implementation of Equal Remuneration Act 1976 (Recommen-

dation No. 19); the Ministry of Labour have suggested to State Governments/Union Territories to consider the Committee's recommendation for extending the Maternity Benefits' Act, 1961 to all the industries not covered by the Act at present, including agricultural labourers and home workers (Recommendation No. 20); The Factories Act has been amended to provide for provision of creches for a minimum of 30 women workers employed (Recommendation No. 21); The Equal Remuneration Act was passed in 1976 and notifications are being issued from time to time about the industries to be covered by the Act (Recommendation No. 24); co-education to be followed as a general policy at the primary level (Recommendation No. 33); common courses for general education for both sexes till class 10 (Recommendation No. 34); provision of primary schools within walking distance from the home of every child; provision of incentives to prevent drop outs (Recommendation No. 36); part-time education for girls who cannot attend schools (Recommendation No. 36); non-formal education for women in the 15—25 age-group (Recommendation No. 41), equality of sexes as a major value to be inculcated through the educational process (Recommendation No. 42); promotion of research in the field of female disorders (Recommendation No. 47); and changes needed in the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971 (Recommendation No. 48).

N.C.E.R.T. Scholarship Scheme

*9. SHRI SHEO SAMPAT: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the N.C.E.R.T. awards scholarships to talented science students every year at the national level; if so, the particulars of the scheme;

(b) whether the payment of this scholarship amount is stopped if the student joins medical or engineering courses;

(c) if so, the justification thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to restore the payment of the scholarship amount to those also who join the medical or engineering courses?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement containing the details of the scheme is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Yes, Sir, under the scheme which was in force up to and including the academic year 1976-77.

(c) As a deterrent to students switching over from basic sciences and agricultural sciences which did not attract a fair number of bright students,

(d) The scholarship amount being fixed for each year and having been utilised in full by awarding scholarships to those on the waiting list who filled up resultant vacancies on account of some switching over, to medicine and engineering, it is not possible to restore the payment.

Statement

The National Council of Educational Research and Training had been awarding a maximum of 350 scholarships every year from 1964 to 1976 for higher studies in basic and agricultural sciences. The awards are made on the basis of a test at the end of class XI and the awardees can progress upto Ph.D. level subject to validation at the terminal stages. The main objective of the scheme was to encourage brighter students to pursue higher education in basic and agricultural sciences.

On a review of the scheme and in response to representations of students,

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the scheme has been modified from 1977 and its scope has been expanded to cover courses in medicine, engineering and social sciences in addition to basic and agricultural sciences. From 1977 onwards, scholarships will be awarded to students on the basis of an examination held after standard X for pursuing courses of studies in basic, social and agricultural sciences and engineering and medicine after the plus 2 stage. The total number of scholarships under this scheme will also be 350.

Oustees of Turkman Gate Area, Delhi

*10. **SHRI F. H. MOHSIN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons ousted from the Turkman Gate Area during the time of emergency could be rehabilitated in the same area;

(b) if so, by what time;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct tenements for them; and

(d) whether it was considered as a 'slum' and not 'Jhuggi Jhonpdi' and that they were entitled to tenements under the existing provisions?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) The persons shifted from the Turkman Gate area during the time of Emergency, can be rehabilitated in the same area and areas in the vicinity.

(b) Subject to availability of funds, it is expected that the tenements could be completed before the end of 1978 for rehabilitating such persons.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The area was considered as slum area and as per Slum Clearance Scheme alternative tenements are to be provided to the affected bonafide families.