

3. Women/ Gender Issues

3.1 Women Empowerment

Educating rural women

Dr Mamani Kalita

By educating a woman we educate the whole family. Napoleon says, "You give me a good mother, I will give you a good nation." An educated woman is better capable of taking care of the health nutrition and education of her children and she can be an active agent in the social and economic development of the country. Economic success is based on educational success. Literacy is the basic building block of education. It is the basic component of social cohesion and national identity. No society has ever liberated itself economically, politically or socially without a sound base of educated women. Education has a direct impact on women empowerment as it creates in them awareness about their rights, their capabilities and the choices and opportunities available to them.

Approximately 87 per cent people live in villages. So, it is very much important to educate the rural women. There is a strong correlation between female education and several developmental indicators such as increased economic productivity, improvement in health, delayed age at marriage, low-

er fertility, increased political participation and effective investment in the next generation. Rural women can take active part in sustainable development. In India, providing education to all the citizens is a constitutional commitment. So, rural women must be educated. The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution, in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles. The Constitution not only guarantees equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women.

Generally we see that tradition of India assigned only domestic duties to rural women. Girls are not provided the opportunities of education in rural areas. Most of the Indian people control over woman at all stages of her life. Women are controlled by parents in her first stage, they are controlled by husband after her marriage. Again they are controlled by sons in the last stage of their life. At the beginning of the 19th century, female education was practically unknown in most

parts of India. The British Government along with the Christian missionaries and the Indian reformers began their efforts to spread education among the Indian women in the later half of the 19th century. In the first phase, women belonging to the aristocratic families got elementary education. But as a general rule women education was discouraged. In the village it was regarded as being against the testimony of Hindu scriptures and there was also a widespread belief that education of girls leads to their widowhood.

It is only after the recommendations of the Indian Education Commission (1964) and the National Policy of Education (1968) that the education of girls was seen as a means of accelerating social transformation. The policy gave special emphasis on initiating programmes to give equal educational opportunities to all the groups and both sex. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 and its Programme of Action (PoA) gave

high priority to gender equality and committed the entire educational system to work for women's empowerment. Thus there is a careful certification of education for equality for women. It was emphasised to the States, that gender concerns must be built into all educational processes. Emphasis was laid on enrolment and retention of the girl child in formal and nonformal schooling, recruitment of rural women teachers and removal of gender bias in the curriculum. The main aim of educating the rural women is to create circumstances to enable women towards a situation in which they could determine their own lives and influence their environment.

Gender gap has been well documented and analysed by governmental agencies, international organizations, university departments, NGO's and individual researchers. There are also innumerable guidelines and policy statements on why gender gaps persist in education

and how these can be reduced. The 93rd Constitution Amendment with the insertion of new article (21A), "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6 and 14 years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine."

Of course, it is good news for us that the primary school attendance rate has increased by more than one percentage point annually since the beginning of the decade in 2001, 76 per cent of all children of primary school age (6-10 years) were in school. By 2006, this value has increased to 83 per cent. The attendance rate of girls increased by 9 per cent over the 2000-2006 period and the attendance rate of boys increased by 6 per cent. School attendance rates also grew in urban and rural areas.

India dreams of becoming a super power by 2020. The literacy rates for male and female (according to 2001 census) is 75.85 per cent and 54.16 per cent respectively. While the male literacy rate in urban areas is about 86 per cent, rural female literacy rate is just 46 per cent. So the scenery of

rural women is very pathetic. We should take some steps for educating the rural women.

The gap between the rural and urban and that between female and their male counterpart is quite substantial. The first and foremost point of the education of rural women is the way the parents perceive the female education. Since the very beginning the role of female is confined to domestic work and looking after children. Many parents don't encourage girls child because of the tradition of setting at husband's place after marriage. Many parents don't want to spend much on girls education. In rural areas it is difficult to find a groom for an educated girl.

There is gender gap in the educational states of boys and girls. We see a picture of contrasts when it comes to education and employment opportunities for girls in the rural and the urban areas. Cultural, social and economic factors still prevent girls for getting opportunists. The status of the girl child has been subject of discussion controversy and debate.

The Assam Tribune, August 18, 2012, P.6

Central Social Welfare Board enters a new era of women's empowerment

- **Family Counselling Centres:** For counselling, referral and rehabilitative services.
- **Condensed Courses of Education for Women:** To provide education to school dropouts.
- **Awareness Generation Programme:** To impart knowledge on issues related to health, nutrition and other rights.
- **Short Stay Homes / Swadhar Greh:** To provide shelter to homeless women on a temporary basis.
- **Creches for Children of Working Mothers:** To give daycare to the children of working women and provide employment to creche workers.
- **Pilot Projects:** To cater to uncovered groups and areas on need basis.

The Times of India, August 12, 2012, P.5

Eves grow in Indian boardrooms

New Delhi, Aug. 3: The number of Indian companies that have at least one woman on the board has witnessed a rise of 16 per cent over the last six years, a survey shows.

Women's presence in board rooms has increased to 46.5 per cent in 2011 from 30.4 per cent in 2005 — registering a rise of 16 per cent, according to a Credit Suisse research report.

In emerging Asia, barring Philippines, all the countries have witnessed a rise in women's presence on boardroom. In 2011, 80 per cent of companies in Thailand had at least one woman on the board, fol-

Women's presence in board rooms has increased to 46.5 per cent in 2011 from 30.4 per cent in 2005 — registering a rise of 16 per cent

lowed by China and India with 50 per cent and 46.5 per cent respectively. Till the end of 2011, all most all firms in New Zealand had women representation. The survey further

showed gender diversity is rewarded in the stock market with companies having female board representation outperforming those with no women on their boards in terms of share price performance over the last six years.

The report, which analysed the performance of 2,360 companies globally over the last six years, said in case of large-cap stocks, whose market cap is greater than \$10 billion, the companies with women board members outperformed those without women by as much as 26 per cent. There was, however, little difference in the performance of both

sets of companies during the 2005-07 period — before the economic crisis.

The share price performance of the companies with women on the board picked up pace with the onset of the bear market in the second half of 2008 and has been strong since then, as concerns over the global growth environment have continued to weigh on market sentiment, it said.

The study also said companies with women board members had the following four traits in common — higher ROE (return on equity), lower gearing, higher price/book value multiples and better average growth. — PTI

The Asian Age, August 04, 2012, P.16

महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष ने की बीबीपुर गांव की महिलाओं से मंत्रणा

जौद, 3 अगस्त (अस)। कन्या भूषण हत्या के खिलाफ अलख जगाने वाले बीबीपुर गांव की महिलाओं से विचार साझा करने के लिए शुक्रवार को हरियाणा महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष कुमारी सुशीला शर्मा तथा उपाध्यक्ष चन्द्रप्रभा ने बीबीपुर गांव की महिला पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों से बातचीत की।

स्थानीय डीआरडीए में अतिरिक्त उपायुक्त के कार्यालय में महिलाओं से विचार साझा करते हुए महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि बीबीपुर गांव की महिलाओं ने कन्या भूषण हत्या जैसे ज्वलंत मुद्दे को लेकर मुहिम छेड़ी है। आज यह मुहिम पूरे देश व प्रदेश में फल चुकी है। इस सामाजिक चुराई को समाप्त करने के लिए खाप पंचायत भी महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय ले चुकी है। इस महिला सशक्तीकरण की मुहिम में निश्चित रूप से बीबीपुर की महिलाओं की भागीदारी अन्य महिलाओं के लिए प्रेरणा का स्रोत बन रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि बेटे व बेटों में कोई फर्क नहीं है। बेटियां भी आज बेटों की तरह हर क्षेत्र में अपनी विशेष

पहचान बना रही हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि समाज में अच्छे संस्कार पैदा करने की आवश्यकता है। लड़कियों को अच्छी शिक्षा की ओर प्रेरित किया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने दोहराया कि राज्य सरकार ने महिलाओं को सशक्त करने के लिए उन्हें अनेक अधिकार दिए हैं। उन्होंने बैठक में उपस्थित महिलाओं को सुझाव दिया कि

वे अपने बच्चों को पारंपारिक संस्कृति के प्रभाव में न आने दें तथा उनमें नैतिक मूल्यों का सुजन करने के लिए महापुरुषों के जीवन से जुड़े दृष्टांत सुनाएं। इस मौके पर अतिरिक्त उपायुक्त अरविंद मलहान, खण्ड विकास एवं पंचायत अधिकारी नोलम अरोड़ा, बीबीपुर गांव के सरपंच सुनील जागतान मौजूद थे।



शुक्रवार को जौद के डीआरडीए हाल में बीबीपुर गांव की महिलाओं से विचार साझा करते हुए हरियाणा महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष सुशीला शर्मा। -अस

Dainik Tribune, August 04, 2012, P.10

50% QUOTA PROPOSAL FOR WOMEN IN URBAN LOCAL BODIES

NEW DELHI: The government might be finding it difficult to garner support for reserving 33% seat for women in Parliament but it seems it is doing its bit to empower women in municipalities.

The Union cabinet is likely to clear a proposal on Tuesday reserving 50% of the elected seats for women in urban local bodies (ULBs) across the country. At present, only one-third of the seats in the local bodies are reserved for women.

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa and Chhattisgarh have already reserved 50% seats in their ULBs for women.

In 2009, the cabinet had approved 50% reservation in panchayats for women.

The Constitution Amendment Bill, 2009 is being moved by the urban development ministry. Article 243 (T) of this amendment provides for

one-third quota in elected seats for women in ULBs. "This is being enhanced to 50%. It also includes reservation for women upto 50% in seats reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and 50% reservation for women for the chairpersons post," said an official.

Government officials said the move will not only result in increased representation of women in municipal corporations but will also result in higher priorities to women's issues.

Sudha Sundararaman, general secretary, All India Democratic Women's Association said, "The next logical step for the government would be to ensure reserving 33% of the seats in the top most decision making body of the country for women."

The Women's Reservation Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in March 2010, but is yet to be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Hindustan Times, August 28, 2012, P.11

TUG OF WAR

On the surface, more educated women seem to be stepping out to pursue careers, but in the past few years, several studies on work-life balance have revealed a

SURVEY OF LAWYERS

Last month, legal resources firm Rainmaker released a report on the challenges women in the legal profession faced in Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai.

The study revealed that more than half the women surveyed are afraid that a maternity break would hurt their career.

They cited the lack of flexible work hours, of day care and the pressure to start a family as the biggest barriers to the top.

women — the 'natural caregivers' — are expected to look after the home.

disturbing reality: Women occupy few positions in the mid- and upper-levels of corporate hierarchies; during recruitment, they are constantly asked about their plans to marry or have children; given a choice between qualified men and women, most companies would hire men.

At the base of the problem is a social backwardness that persists in the Indian family structure. Men are pinned to the role of breadwinners and

while gender role prejudices could take years to change in a society as complex as ours, workplaces can do a lot more to create a healthy work-life balance for women and men, say experts.

"Most Indian companies are way behind global benchmarks in changing their mindsets for creating women-friendly policies," says Poonam Barua, founder-chairman of the New Delhi-based Forum for Women in Leadership, which surveyed companies across India last year on their policies for women employees. This year, the forum has benchmarked more than 50 companies on this axis and published a handbook of best practices for mothers returning to the workforce. New Delhi-based Fleximoms has also been actively sensitising organisations about the importance of retaining women employees. "Workplaces must realise that happier families lead to more productive employees," says Anita Vasudeva, co-founder of Fleximoms. "Women bring value to the company. They also do the care-giving that enables men to step out."

Hindustan Times, August 26, 2012, P.14

Distance learning for empowering women

In a democratic country like ours everyone has the right to enjoy equal rights and equal opportunity, constitutionally guaranteed for all. The implementing of the rights under the social sectors such as right to education, right to employment, right to equal pay for equal work, right to health services, right to participate in the political life of one's community, right of access to health services, etc. has been launched for bringing the necessary upward mobility of different sections of people in our country. Although women constitute half of the total population of the country, yet, in India they are still relatively deprived of the equal rights as enjoyed by men.

Among the states in India, there are regional or local disparities existing between men and women in terms of accessing the basic human rights. The level of education, rate of work participation, usability and enjoyment of profits, etc. are some of the areas which show the lower status of women compared to that of men. These pictures should be focused in the national as well as international platform. Apart from the national picture, in Assam also

there is a rampant gender difference in all sectors such as social, economic, political, cultural and so on. According to the Census of 2011, in Assam, out of the total literacy (73.18 per cent) male literacy percentage is 78.81 whereas female occupies 67.27 per cent with the gap of 11.54 per cent. Even in the public sector, the total percentage of women employee is 16.65 per cent in the year of 2007. Although the involvement of women in politics is growing yet still the representative percentage to Legislative Assembly is less than 15 in the world as a whole, in India the figure is less than 10 and in Assam in particular, the figure that constituted 0.8 per cent in 1978 now increases to 10.31 per cent in the last Assembly election, i.e., the year of 2011. Women usually get lower wages than men for the same work.

Comparatively, they also suffer from poorer health status, lower educational status, and lower skill than the men. Actually, in a patriarchal society, women activities are considered as belonging mainly to private domain whereas men activities are considered as belonging to public domain.

Ritimoni Bordoloi

But, for the long term benefit as well as the development of a country, the economic security of each member of the country is very essential. Even for meeting the challenges like 'inclusive growth', achieving towards 'Millennium Development Goals' etc, it is high time for our country as a whole to make a rationalization towards the fact of gender discrimination and also measures should be taken for reducing the factors of social exclusion. To make women empowered is the practical way for boosting up their status in the society. Generally the term 'empowerment' includes self-strength, control, self-power, self-reliance, developing own choices, life of dignity in accordance with one's values, capacity to fight for one's rights, independence, own decision-making, being free and getting awakened about the one's capabilities, etc. Besides, today's society is regarded as knowledge based society. This knowledge-based society has the demand for human capital. Education is the basic way that can supply the skilled manpower

for generating development in a nation. Education develops a human being in the true sense of the term, developing all potentialities as well as capabilities through which a nation can benefit in its development. So we need such an institution or a mode of education through which education can be made accessible to all without any discrimination.

Education is the only way to boost up the positive social transformation for the welfare of the country. Education can build up women as economically empowered, educationally competent and make them self-reliant, self-dependent and in the control of her own decisions and choices. Life skills education is a practical way for developing the competencies of the women and thus finally it can make women empowered in their day-to-day life. Therefore, for disseminating information or knowledge in order to develop capacity building specifically for women, there is a need to explore the various modes of education. Open and distance learning

(ODL) is one of the most popular means or modes for achieving these targets. The basic idea of ODL itself indicates the importance of education for empowering the deprived as well as marginalized groups in a society. The motto of ODL system is to make self-strength, develop self-confidence and most likely to develop the power of women to take decision inside and outside the home for the welfare of a nation. Therefore, it is considered a vital way to make women empowered like men. Acknowledging this fact, it was rightly revealed by NPE (National Policy of Education in 1986) and POA (Programme of Action in 1992) that illiterate women have high levels of fertility and mortality, poor nutritional status, low earning potential and little autonomy within the household. A woman's lack of education also has a negative impact on the health and well-being of her children. Education makes them aware of their rights and strengthens them to realize their potentialities in a positive direction. Therefore, apart from the general education various professional and vocational courses

should be launched particularly for developing the capabilities of women through ODL. It is the ODL system through which a learner can take education irrespective of age, time, place, etc., because ODL means to get education at any time, anywhere and anyhow.

While introducing the courses for developing the life skills as well as soft skills particularly for the women learners there is a demand in conducting research on the validity of the courses as well as the availability of the local resources. Therefore, it is the role of the open universities as well as other institutions of ODL to focus in the following points: What courses should be included in ODL system particularly for developing the capacity building of women in our state? Why is distance education important for mobilizing the local resources in the society that can contribute to the overall socio-economic growth of a state? What should be the role of ODL institutions to gear up the present socio-economic condition as well as to mobilise the capacity of women in the state? Answers to these will surely help educate and empower women in general.

The Assam Tribune, August 31, 2012, P.6

Rough road to empowerment

Ninglun Hangal

Rosemary Dzuovichu, 50, wears many hats with élan. She is advisor to the Naga Mothers Association (NMA), an apex body of women in the State; teaches literature at Nagaland University; and is actively involved with organisations working on human rights and political empowerment. Earlier, this single mother of three became the first woman general secretary of the Lhisema Khel Council, a local administrative body, and she has even had a successful stint as president of the Kohima District Mahila Congress, which drafted its first-ever party manifesto on women during her tenure.

In a State ravaged by violence and where women traditionally do not enjoy equal status with men, Ms. Dzuovichu has not only managed to create an independent identity for herself, she is also fighting for the rights of others. Through the NMA, she is fervently working towards implementing the 33 per cent reservation for women in local governing bodies and the Assembly, even though the move has been opposed by various tribal apex bodies.

Being politically active and speaking up for thousands of voiceless Naga women is something Ms. Dzuovichu has learnt from the women in her family. Although she grew up in a secure environment, enjoying Hans Andersen's fairy tales and local folk stories as well as writing poetry, she was well aware of the turmoil around her. Living a few metres away from an Army camp in Kohima, firing between the armed forces and underground Naga groups was a part of everyday life. With everyone from her grandmother to her mother

involved in the political uprising, it was hard not to get involved. "During those peak years of militancy during the 1950s and 1960s, the Naga movement for sovereignty and self determination was very strong. Any non-sympathiser was instantly ostracised," she recalls. "State oppression" left a "deep imprint" on youngsters like her,

who grew up harbouring feelings of alienation. Even today, she has reservations about interacting with Army personnel.

An early influence on her life was her grandmother Zeliezhu, who was one of the first women leaders of the underground Naga National Council (NNC). In later years, her mother, Alhouu Al-

bina made sure to talk to the children about Zeliezhu's tough character and staunch beliefs. Her mother was her other idol. "I learnt a lot from her. She was the first woman member of the local council and the Naga People's Front (NPF) party," says Ms. Dzuovichu.

While the resistance movement influenced her early life — her father led a number of operations against the Army as the then secretary to General Thongti of the NNC, once the underground movement leaders decided to directly engage in talks after the Indo-Naga war of the 1950s, it was peace-time activities like going to church and doing social service that marked people's lives. Politics, however, did not take a

backseat even then for Ms. Dzuovichu, as the family home continued to be frequented by powerful Naga leaders like A.Z. Phizo, NNC's founder leader, and others.

Despite the freedom she enjoyed in her own home, Ms. Dzuovichu realised very early in life that traditional Naga society expected women to tow the line and play second fiddle to the men. She belonged to the upper strata of society, got the best of education and was given the option to choose her own career, but she was also constantly reminded about behaving like a typical Naga girl, "which meant washing our brother's clothes, cooking, weaving and respecting all the elders".

Political and social activism stayed with her even after marriage and motherhood. Eventually her 11-year-old marriage broke down as she refused to give up her work to become the perfect wife. "It was my traumatic divorce that taught me to stand up for women's rights and speak for those who dare not talk about their problems," she says.

After she filed for divorce, she faced many challenges — she was called names, discriminated against and even banished for a while from polite society. But today she seems to have overcome those odds and has emerged as a prominent women's rights activist. "I know I could not have managed to do half the things I have done, had I still been married," she says.

Last year, Ms. Dzuovichu's team, under the aegis of the NMA, filed a writ petition at the Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court, urging the court to direct the State government, State Election Commission and Urban

3.2 Marriage/ Dowry/ Divorce

एनआरआई दूल्हों की धोखाधड़ी पर संसदीय समिति चिंतित

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी)। एनआरआई दूल्हों द्वारा धोखाधड़ी की बढ़ती घटनाओं पर गंभीर चिंत जाहिर करते हुए संसद की एक स्थाई समिति ने मंगलवार को इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए संगठित प्रयास किए जाने की जरूरत पर बल दिया।

अनंत कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली विदेश मामलों संबंधी संसद की स्थाई समिति ने मंगलवार को लोकसभा में पेश अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि ऐसी महिलाएं विदेशों में सर्वथा बेआसरा छोड़ दी जाती हैं और उनके पास घर वापस आने तक का कोई साधन नहीं होता। इतना ही नहीं कई बार उनके पास विदेश में रहने की विधायी अनुमति भी नहीं होती और उनकी सहमति लिए बिना ही विदेशी न्यायालय से एकपक्षीय तलाक ले लिया जाता है। समिति ने कहा है कि कुछ महिलाओं को तो बुरी तरह मारा पीटा जाता है, घर में बंद करके रखा जाता है या बच्चों को जबर्दस्ती छीनकर महिलाओं

को जबरन भारत भेज दिया जाता है। समिति ने सिफारिश की है कि विदेश मंत्रालय, प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्रालय और महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय के साथ मिलकर प्रक्रिया संबंधी स्पष्ट निर्देश या प्रोटोकाल जारी करके दूतावासों और विदेशी मिशनो को ऐसी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण परित्यक्ता एनआरआई दूल्हों को सार्थक सहायता उपलब्ध कराने के निर्देश दे।

ऐसे मामलों में एनआरआई दूल्हों द्वारा एक के बाद एक दूसरा विवाह किए जाने को भी गंभीर चिंत का विषय बताते हुए रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि दोषी पतियों के संबंध में जानकारी प्रवासी भारतीय कार्य मंत्रालय की साइट पर विशेष लिंक के जरिए डाली जाए। समिति ने कहा है कि अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, कनाडा, आस्ट्रेलिया तथा न्यूजीलैंड में एनआरआई दूल्हों द्वारा भारतीय युवतियों को त्याग दिए जाने की अधिकतर घटनाएं सामने आई हैं।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 15, 2012, P.13

Taking dowry bigger crime than giving

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NEW DELHI The country's dowry law looks set to be overhauled. The changes proposed by the women and child development ministry will make accepting dowry a bigger crime than giving it.

It will be mandatory for the bride and groom to maintain a list of all gifts, including 'stridhan' worth ₹5,000 or more, and register it with the dowry-prohibition officer. Failure to comply could invite upto a year in jail.

Amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 also include reducing the jail term for those found guilty of giving dowry to one year from five years. The punishment for dowry-takers, however, will continue to be five years in jail.

Registration of gifts would help a woman seek compensation for the gifts given, if the marriage breaks down, the ministry has said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CHECKS ON GREED

Major changes proposed in the anti-dowry act

Proposal Mandatory for newly-weds to make a list of gifts and submit it to dowry-prohibition officer. Failure to comply may lead to 1 year jail

Present law Registration not enforced

Proposal 1 year in jail for giving dowry, 5 years for accepting it

Present law Both offences punishable with 5 years imprisonment

Proposal Dowry definition to include demand for property or valuable security under duress to keep marriage intact

Present law Merely states property or gifts given before or any time after the marriage

CONTINUED FROM P1

The definition of dowry is to be expanded to mean "any demand for property or valuable security before, during or after marriage, where the failure to meet such demand would lead to harassment, harm, injury or endanger the woman, or the property or valuable security given or agreed to be given under such threat".

The anti-dowry law is effective

seven years from the date of marriage.

At present, dowry is described as property or gifts given either directly or indirectly at, before or any time after the marriage in connection with the marriage. There is not talk of threat, harassment or injury.

The proposed amendments, recommended by a ministry's expert group, also identify the people who can inherit a

woman's property if she dies of unnatural causes within seven years of marriage.

Her children will be the first claimants followed by parents/siblings and then the state. The husband will be entitled to the property with the children, provided he is not prima facie charged for her death.

The panel, which was set up in May after the earlier proposals were opposed by activists

and women groups, submitted its report recently.

"We are going through the report and will move a cabinet note soon," said a ministry official on condition of anonymity.

The demand for changes in the dowry law has grown as has the menace.

Last year, India recorded 8,618 dowry deaths. The fact remains that many such incidents go unreported.

Hindustan Times, August 29, 2012, P.1, contd. On P.6

Court bid to curb 'fraudulent' divorces

ISSUES GUIDELINES High court asks trial judges to sign pictures of estranged spouses to stem divorces obtained by fraudulent means

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court, in a bid to curb divorce through fraudulent means, has issued a slew of guidelines, including asking trial judges to put their signatures on photographs of estranged spouses.

Justice Kailash Gambhir also imposed an exemplary cost of ₹2 lakh on a man who fraudulently secured a decree of divorce from his estranged wife.

Justice Gambhir dismissed the appeal filed by the man against the lower court which had set aside the divorce decree after it was established by his wife that she neither signed the joint petition nor appeared or consented to mutual annulment

THE JUDGE IMPOSED AN EXEMPLARY COST OF ₹2 LAKH ON A MAN WHO FRAUDULENTLY SECURED A DECREE OF DIVORCE

of their marriage.

The court issued a slew of guidelines to "ensure that such fraudulent acts are not committed again in matrimonial/family courts".

"All the matrimonial/family courts shall take care that they put their own signatures on the photographs of the parties at the time of recording statements of the parties in the joint

motion petitions under Section 13B(1) and Section 13B(2) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955," it said.

"The concerned ministerial staff attached with the matrimonial/family courts shall ensure the photographs on the joint motion petitions are pasted and not stapled," it added.

Hindustan Times, August 05, 2012, P.4

उम्र के लिहाज से बिहार में हर पांचवीं शादी गैरकानूनी

राज्य में आधी से ज्यादा लड़कियों की शादी बालिग होने से पहले हुई



मुकेश केजरीवाल, नई दिल्ली

मां-बाप को आज भी बेटियां बोझ ही लग रही हैं, जिन्हें वे जल्द से जल्द ब्याह कर मुक्त हो जाना चाहते हैं। फिर चाहे यह विवाह गैर-कानूनी ही क्यों न हो? ताजा अध्ययन के मुताबिक बिहार में आधी से ज्यादा लड़कियों की शादी उनके बालिग होने से पहले कर दी गई है। राज्य में हो रही हर पांच में से एक शादी लड़की के नाबालिग होने के कारण अवैध है।

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की ओर से बिहार के 37 जिलों में किए गए सर्वेक्षण में यह सच्चाई जाहिर हुई है। इसके मुताबिक राज्य की 20 से 24 साल की शादी-शुदा महिलाओं में से 54.6 फीसदी को 18 साल से पहले ही ब्याह दिया गया। ज्यादा उम्र की महिलाओं में तो यह अंकड़ा और भयावह हो सकता है। ताजा स्थिति में भी बहुत सुधार नहीं हुआ है। नव विवाहिताओं में 20 फीसदी महिलाएँ नाबालिग पाई गईं। वर्ष 2007 से 09 के बीच हुए हर पांच में से एक विवाह गैर कानूनी था। नाबालिग उम्र में हुई शादी के मामले में सबसे बुरी स्थिति नवादा जिले की है। यहाँ 24 साल तक की उम्र की तीन चौथाई से ज्यादा शादियाँ अवैध पाई गईं। इसी तरह शेखपुरा में 73 फीसदी और गया में 72 फीसदी शादियों में महिला

की उम्र 18 साल से कम थी। सबसे बेहतर स्थिति किशनगंज की पाई गई, जहाँ 24 साल तक की विवाहित महिलाओं में सिर्फ 31 फीसदी ऐसी थीं, जिनकी शादी कच्ची उम्र में हो गई।

नव विवाहिताओं के मामले में राज्य में सबसे बुरी स्थिति जमुई और नवादा जिलों की है। इन दोनों ही जिलों में वर्ष 2007 से 09 के बीच हुई शादियों में से 51 फीसदी अवैध पाई गईं। गया जिले में इस दौरान हुई शादियों में 44 फीसदी में लड़कियाँ नाबालिग थीं। इस लिहाज से राज्य में सबसे अच्छी स्थिति सिवान की रही। यहाँ इन दो वर्षों में सिर्फ 4.4 फीसदी बालिका वधुओं के मामले सामने आए। कानून तो विवाह के लिए लड़की की उम्र 18 और लड़के की 21 होनी जरूरी है ही, लड़की और उसके होने वाले बच्चे के स्वास्थ्य के लिहाज से भी यह अहम है। मैक्स (गुड़गांव) अस्पताल में सोनियर कंसल्टेंट कौशिकी द्विवेदी के मुताबिक इस से कम उम्र की लड़कियाँ गर्भधारण के लिए शारीरिक ही नहीं, मानसिक रूप से भी अपरिपक्व होती हैं। ऐसे मामलों में गर्भ के गिरने की आशंका ज्यादा होती है। प्रसव के दौरान अत्यधिक रक्तस्राव से उनकी मीत भी हो सकती है। ऐसी महिलाओं के बच्चों के न सिर्फ कमजोर पैदा होने की आशंका होती है, बल्कि ऐसे शिशुओं की मृत्यु दर भी ज्यादा पाई गई है।

सबसे ज्यादा बालिका वधुएं

- नवादा : 76.1 फीसदी
- शेखपुरा : 73.4 फीसदी
- गया : 71.5 फीसदी

सबसे कम बालिका वधुएं

- किशनगंज : 30.9 फीसदी
- सिवान : 40.9 फीसदी
- गोपालगंज : 41.7 फीसदी

Dainik Jagran, August 18, 2012, P.7

3.3 Violence and Abuse Against Women



The Assam Tribune, August 01, 2012, P.1, contd. on P.3



Jansatta, August 09, 2012, P.3

Gender violence rising but political apathy persists

Crimes against women, especially re-

lating to rape and sexual assault including molestation are steadily rising in the country. This is notwithstanding the fact that due to social stigma, many sexual crimes go unreported in official records. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reveals that the proportion of IPC crimes committed against women to the total IPC crimes has increased from 8.8% in 2007 to 9.4% during the year 2011.

However, there has been no radical overhaul of the laws relating to rape and sexual assault, but rather a steady decline in the conviction rates of rapists with ever-fewer victims getting justice. Despite important High Court and Supreme Court mandated guidelines on dealing with rape cases, the systemic inadequacies of an ill-equipped, understaffed police and investigative machinery are reflected in a shameful 26% rape conviction rate nationwide, as reported by the NCRB in 2011.

It is clear from some of these statistics

that the Indian State continues to play a passive role in tackling the prickly issue of gender violence in society. There have been a number of government-mandated commissions including the National Commission of Women (NCW) and the Law Commission of India that have called for a fundamental overhaul in the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act and Code of Criminal Procedure to deal with the specific phenomenon of sexual crimes against women. But most of these proposals have been placed on the backburner for want of political will, with the result that prevailing laws of the land fail to reflect and adequately deal with the myriad ways in which women are routinely humiliated, denigrated and assaulted.

In this regard, section 375 of the IPC which deals with rape, understood purely in terms of non-consensual sexual intercourse, remains highly problematic. The 172nd report of the Law Commission in

2000 recognised this definitional limitation and called for a thorough review of this provision, favouring a more gender-neutral and broad-based definition to cover other forms of acts like unlawful sexual contact, crimes of molestation and sexual assault, that fall outside the purview of rape. Further, it widened the gamut of sexual assault committed by people in positions of authority, private as well as public, and prescribed an enhanced punishment under section 378 of the IPC, which included imprisonment for life as well. Many of the commission's recommendations were incorporated in the home ministry's draft Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill 2010, which is still pending Cabinet approval.

In addition, section 354 of the IPC, which deals with assault and use of criminal force with the intent of outraging a woman's modesty, urgently needs revision. In fact, the NCW in its recommenda-

tions on amendments to laws relating to rape and related provisions called for its deletion. The penalty of two years' imprisonment, or fine, or both, is trifling in comparison to the brutal violation and degradation that the victims endure.

Similarly section 509 of the IPC that focuses on insulting a woman's modesty through words, sounds, gestures and exhibitionism that intrudes upon her privacy obscures other forms of sexual harassment like eve-teasing and stalking that are equally grievous. In other words, forms of sexual harassment, which do not take place in a public space or involve physical contact, are not treated as substantive offences under the law. The penalty of simple imprisonment of one year, or with fine, or both, stands testament to this fact. The Law Commission's 2000 report sought to stringently deal with such offences by making them cognizable and non-bailable, increasing the punishment

to three years' imprisonment and fine.

To conclude, one hopes that the Indian government will adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based violence and sexual crimes against women. Surely, in the absence of political consensus on women's reservation, all political parties can at least unequivocally agree on stringent punishment for perpetrators of crimes against women and speedy judicial relief for victims. The first step in that direction would be to fulfil many of its pending proposals that include not simply legal reforms but also addressing systemic failures of the police and judiciary in ensuring gender justice in society.

Nripendra Misra is director, Public Interest Foundation (PIF) and ex-chairman, TRAI. Nidhi Sen is research associate at PIF.

पुलिस में यौन उत्पीड़न रोकेगी महिला 'ब्रिगेड'

■ अशोक कुमार, बरेली

- सूची में जौनल स्तर पर की जा रही शिकायत समितियां गठित
- दोषी पुलिस कर्मियों पर होगी कार्रवाई

जिन पर दूसरी महिलाओं की सुरक्षा का दायरेमदार है, खुद उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट को पहल करनी पड़ी है। यानों में लगातार महिला सिपाहियों के यौन उत्पीड़न की शिकायतों को कोर्ट ने गंभीर मानते हुए जिम्मेदार अफसरों को ऐसी घटनाएं रोकने की सख्त हिदायत दी है। कोर्ट के रुख को देखते हुए जौन स्तर पर शिकायत समिति का गठन शुरू कर दिया गया है। इनमें महिला सिपाहियों के यौन उत्पीड़न संबंधी शिकायतों को सुनवाई होगी। आरोप साबित होने पर आरोपी पुलिसकर्मियों को बर्खास्तगी तक संभव है।

जनता के साथ होने वाले अपराध की रोकथाम और उनके निस्तारण के लिए निरसंदेह पुलिस काम करती है,

लेकिन अक्सर विभाग के अंदर होने वाले अपराध को दबा दिया जाता है। महिला सिपाहियों का यौन उत्पीड़न इनमें से एक है। पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने विशाखा एंड स्टेट्स के अपने निर्णय में महिला सिपाहियों के यौन उत्पीड़न के खिलाफ सख्त आदेश जारी किए हैं। इसके अनुपालन में जौन स्तर पर शिकायत समिति का गठन किया जा रहा है।

बरेली जौन में शुक्रवार को शिकायत समिति का गठन कर अध्यक्ष एसएसपी बदायूं मंजिल सैनी को बनाया गया है। शिकायत समिति पुलिस विभाग में कार्यरत महिला कर्मियों के यौन उत्पीड़न से संबंधित जौन स्तर पर प्राप्त शिकायतों को सुनेगी। विधि सम्मत कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

दोषी पुलिस कर्मियों के खिलाफ पुलिस आचरण नियमावली के अंतर्गत जांच के बाद कार्रवाई प्रस्तावित

को जाएगी। ध्यान रहे कि पुलिस विभाग में कुछ समय से शर्मसार करने वाली वारदातें बढ़ी हैं।

देवेंद्र सिंह चौहान, आईजी जौन बरेली ने बताया कि यौन शोषण रोकने की चार सदस्यीय शिकायत समिति का गठन जौन स्तर पर हुआ है। दोषी पुलिस कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

मुसदाबाद का है ताजा मामला

मुसदाबाद के थाना छजलेट में करीब दस दिन पहले मुजफ्फरनगर निवासी महिला सिपाही ने थानेदार पर दुराचार के प्रयास का आरोप लगाया था। आरोपी को सर्येंड कर उच्चस्तरीय जांच कमेटी गठित की गई थी। आईजी ने बताया कि जांच रिपोर्ट के आधार पर दोषी के खिलाफ जल्द विभागीय कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

Dainik Jagran, August 05, 2012, P.6

3.4 Women in Difficult Circumstances/ Women in Distress

वृंदावन में विधवाओं की हालत पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जताई नाराजगी

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली, 3 अगस्त। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने वृंदावन में विधवाओं की दयनीय स्थिति के प्रति राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग और उत्तर प्रदेश महिला आयोग के उदासीन रवैए की कड़ी आलोचना की है। अदालत ने राज्य सरकार को इन महिलाओं को खाना और रहने के लिए स्वच्छ वातावरण मुहैया कराने का निर्देश दिया है। न्यायमूर्ति डीके जैन और न्यायमूर्ति मदन बी लोकुर की एक खंडपीठ ने वृंदावन की विधवाओं की स्थिति को लेकर दायर जनहित याचिका पर सुनवाई के दौरान शुकवार को यह कदम उठाया। साथ ही राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग और राज्य महिला आयोग दोनों को दो हफ्ते के भीतर इस मामले में हलफनामा दाखिल करने का आदेश भी दिया।

अपने हलफनामे में राज्य सरकार को दयनीय स्थिति में जीवन बसर कर रही वृंदावन की इन विधवाओं की स्थिति सुधारने के लिए अब तक किए गए उपायों और भावी प्रस्तावों का विवरण देना होगा। अदालत ने इन विधवाओं को चिकित्सा सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने का निर्देश भी राज्य सरकार को दिया है। अदालत ने मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी को निर्देश दिया कि वह सुनिश्चित करें कि हफ्ते में कम से कम दो बार चिकित्सकों का दल इन विधवाओं के सदन में जाएगा। अदालत ने इस मामले में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के वकील का बयान

भी दर्ज किया। राज्य सरकार के वकील ने अदालत को भरोसा दिलाया कि राज्य परिवीक्षा अधिकार और समाज कल्याण अधिकारी की समिति विधवाओं के रहने के स्थान पर भोजन और पीने के पानी की समुचित व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित करेगी।

अदालत में दायर याचिका में वृंदावन में विधवाओं के लिए बेहतर सुविधाएं मुहैया कराने का अनुरोध किया गया है। याचिका में दावा किया गया है कि इन विधवाओं को उनके परिवार के सदस्यों ने वृंदावन में छोड़ दिया है और अब वे दयनीय स्थिति में जीवन बसर कर रही हैं। इस मामले में अदालत ने नौ मई को मथुरा के जिला विधिक सहायता प्राधिकरण के अध्यक्ष की अध्यक्षता में सात सदस्यीय दल गठित किया था। इस दल को इन विधवाओं की सामाजिक और आर्थिक स्थिति के बारे में आंकड़े एकत्र करने थे। इस दल ने अदालत को सौपी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि वृंदावन की विधवाओं की हालत बेहद दयनीय है।

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग ने अदालत को सौपी रिपोर्ट में माता पिता और वरिष्ठ नागरिकों की देखभाल और कल्याण कानून 2007 के तहत इन विधवाओं के बच्चों की जिम्मेदारी निर्धारित करने की सिफारिश की थी। आयोग का अनुमान है कि पांच से दस हजार विधवाएं आश्रमों में भिक्षुणियों जैसा जीवन गुजार रही हैं और इनका यौन शोषण भी हो रहा है।

Jansatta, August 04, 2012, P.8

'Rehab of sex workers mus gender-neutral'

The rehabilitation of sex workers should be gender-neutral and male sex workers and transgenders should also be involved in it, the Supreme Court held on Wednesday.

"Transgenders are totally marginalised. Nobody looks after them. Rehabilitation should also include male sex workers

and transgenders," a bench of justices Altamas Kabir and Gyan Sudha Misra said.

While making the oral observations, the top court directed the states to file their responses on the steps taken for rehabilitation of the sex workers. It also directed the National Aids Control Organisation (Naco) to ensure that free condoms are supplied to areas inhabited by sex

workers.

The bench asked the chief secretary of the NCT government and secretary of the social welfare department to be present at the next hearing to assist the court on the issue as it wanted Delhi to take the lead in launching the rehabilitation project which could be a role model for other states.

The top court said states could also consider the

"Prabhat" rehabilitation project launched by the Goa government under which educational needs of the sex workers are taken care of.

The bench passed the order while examining the

sixth and seventh report submitted by a committee appointed by the top court last year for evolving rehabilitation measures for sex workers.

The top court had at the

last hearing clarified that it should not be seen as giving its seal of approval to prostitution. A special bench of justices modified its earlier order.

Modifying its earlier order, the bench clarified that it would only examine the "conditions conducive for sex workers to work with dignity in accordance with provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India."

The Asian Age, August 23, 2012, P.4

महिला आयोग ने वृंदावन की विधवाओं की सुध ली

अशोक बंसल

मथुरा, 18 अगस्त। धर्मनगरी वृंदावन में निवास कर रही असहाय और निराश्रित महिलाओं की जिंदगी बेहतर बनाने के लिए अब राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग तैयार है। आयोग की अध्यक्ष ममता शर्मा के निर्देशन में आई टीम ने विधवा महिलाओं की दुर्दशा पर गंभीर चिंता जताते हुए जिला प्रशासन और उन सभी स्वयंसेवी संगठनों को सवालों को घेरे में खड़ा किया, जो विधवाओं के नाम पर फूल-फूल रहे हैं। आयोग की अध्यक्ष ममता शर्मा ने दुखियारी महिलाओं को हर संभव मदद दिलाने का भरोसा दिलाया है।

वृंदावन में रहने वाली करीब तीन हजार असहाय महिलाओं की दुर्दशा का मामला इन दिनों राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर सुर्खियों में है। महिलाओं की बदतर हालत को लेकर कुछ महीने पहले राष्ट्रीय विधिक सेवा प्राधिकरण से जारी रिपोर्ट के बाद मथुरा के प्रशासनिक महकमे में हड़कंप मचा है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि वृंदावन की विधवा महिलाओं की स्थिति काफी दयनीय है और उन्हें मूलभूत सुविधाएं

मुहैया नहीं कराई जा रही है। इस रिपोर्ट को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी गंभीरता से लिया और तत्काल केंद्र और राज्य सरकार को महिलाओं की वास्तविक संख्या और सर्वे के आदेश दिया है।

जानकारी के मुताबिक राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की टीम ने वृंदावन के परिक्रमा मार्ग स्थित राधेश्याम आश्रम पहुंच कर प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों और एनजीओ के कार्यकर्ताओं के साथ बैठक कर जानकारी हासिल की और वृंदावन की सभी महिलाओं का सर्वे करने, उनके नाम, पता, उम्र, के अलावा उनके राज्य से आने और घर छोड़ने के कारणों को भी अंकित करने के आदेश दिए। अधिकारियों से जानकारी लेने के बाद टीम ने चैतन्य बिहार स्थित महिला आश्रय सदन में महिलाओं की दुर्गति को खुद अपनी आंखों से देखा।

मौके पर मौजूद महिलाओं ने महिला आयोग टीम के सामने अपना दुखड़ा रोया तो प्रशासनिक अधिकारी बगले झोंकते नजर आए। इस दौरान सुप्रीम कोर्ट की ओर से नामित अधिवक्ता निर्मला सावंत, चरिष्ट अधिकारी विनोद कुमार शर्मा, विशेष

अधिकारी श्याम पवार के अलावा जिलाधिकारी आलोक तिवारी, चरिष्ट पुलिस अधीक्षक एन पद्मजा भी मौजूद थे।

जानकारी के मुताबिक वृंदावन में सबसे ज्यादा संख्या बंगाली विधवाओं की है। सोलह से सत्तर वर्ष की उम्र की विधवाएं स्वर्ग की आस में बची-खुची जिन्दगी जीने आती हैं लेकिन यहाँ नरक जैसा जीवन भोगती हैं। यह सिलसिला सैन्दी सालों से बना हुआ है। इन बदकिस्मत महिलाओं का सबसे ज्यादा फायदा स्वयं सेवी संस्थाएं उठा रही हैं। करीब अस्सी साल से इन विधवाओं की सेवा में जुटी ब्राह्मणवाण भाज्नाश्रम ब्राह्म नाम की संस्था के वारे न्यारे हो गए हैं लेकिन विधवाओं को खाने पीने और कफन की मुसीबतें आज भी झेलनी पड़ रही हैं। संस्था के पास पास कई अरब की संपत्ति है। यह संपत्ति विधवाओं के नाम पर आई दान की रकम से खड़ी की गई है। दान की रकम से बनाए गए शानदार भवनों में ये दुखियारी रह भी नहीं सकती संस्था के मालिक इन्हें अपने मन माफिक चला रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष ममता शर्मा ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि वृंदावन में धार्मिक भावना के बशीभूत होकर आने वाली महिलाओं की दुर्दशा के लिए सरकारी संस्थानों के साथ-साथ एनजीओ भी जिम्मेदार हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि आजादी के 65वर्षी बाद भी लोगों की मानसिकता में बदलाव नहीं आया है, यह हम सबका दुर्भाग्य है। लाखों रुपया प्रति माह व्यय होने के बावजूद भी महिलाओं को न भोजन मिल रहा और न सिर ढँकने के लिए छत। समाज में मिलने वाली मूलभूत सुविधाएं उनसे कोसों दूर हैं। यहाँ तक कि अब उनका अंतिम समय भी विधवाओं के घेरे में आ चुका है। उन्होंने कहा कि थोड़े से प्रयास से ही सब कुछ ठीक हो सकता है, इसके लिए केंद्र एवं राज्य सरकार, स्थानीय प्रशासन व इस काम में जुटे एनजीओ को सही ढंग से अपनी जिम्मेदारी का निर्वहन करना होगा। उन्होंने बताया कि जल्द ही केंद्र और राज्य सरकार के सामने इन मुद्दों को रखकर महिलाओं की मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में गंभीर प्रयास किए जाएंगे।

Jansatta, August 19, 2012, P.9

Ensure Vrindavan widows live in dignity: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Abandoned by relatives and living in abject poverty in humiliating conditions, Vrindavan widows will have some dignity restored.

The Supreme Court on Friday ended the age-old indifference and neglect of these hapless widows by asking the UP government and Mathura authorities to provide proper food, medical facility and

clean toilets at four government-run shelter homes at Vrindavan, which house more than 1,700 women.

After the National Commission for Women (NCW) showed little interest in ameliorating their condition, the National Legal Services Authority stepped in, conducted a detailed survey of the condition of these women and suggested several improvements. Many of these abandoned



women make a living by begging, noted the survey.

Before passing the order, a bench of Justices D.K. Jain and

Madan B Lokur made known their anguish at the failure of the authorities and the NCW. "It is worse that in spite of your (NCW) visit (to Vrindavan), you have not done anything," the bench said.

But what pained the SC most was a report by District Legal Services Authority of Vrindavan which narrated how inmates who died were packed into gunny bags and dumped away. The bench or-

dered that a team of doctors will visit the shelter homes twice a week and the chief medical officer will provide a doctor in case of any emergency and will ensure last rites were conducted of any deceased inmates. The court also constituted a panel to ensure that "proper food is supplied" and the head of the health department "shall ensure toilets are kept in good condition," said the bench.

The Times of India, August 04, 2012, P.10

Ensure at least proper last rites for Vrindavan widows: Supreme Court

It is shocked to hear that bodies are cut into pieces and disposed of for lack of money

J. Venkatesan

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed shock at the inhuman disposal of the bodies of widows, who lived in government shelter homes at Vrindavan, by chopping them into pieces on the plea of lack of money for proper cremation.

A Bench of Justices D.K. Jain and Madan B. Lokur directed the Uttar Pradesh government to at least ensure that proper last rites were performed to 'Vrindavan widows' as per their religion.

"The Chief Medical Offi-

• Nalsa counsel brings this inhuman act to court notice

• Bench pulls up NCW, U.P. women's commission for doing nothing for destitute women

cer of the civil hospital [Mathura] is directed to ensure that the last rites of the deceased in the shelter homes are performed as per their religion."

Senior counsel L. Nageswar Rao, appearing for the National Legal Services Authority (Nalsa), which had filed a public interest litigation petition on the pathetic conditions of the widows, told

the court: "After death, they could not be cremated for lack of funds. The widows who die are cut into pieces and put in gunny bags and then disposed of."

The Bench also gave directions for providing Vrindavan widows immediate relief, including supply of proper food, mandatory visits by a team of doctors from the Mathura civil hospital twice a

week and ensuring basic sanitation in the shelter homes.

The court pulled up the National Commission for Women and the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission for "doing nothing" for the destitute women except preparing some reports about their pathetic conditions.

Centre should play proactive role

It wanted the Centre to play a proactive role in the matter. "Now at least channels of communications between the Centre and U.P. are open, which were jammed [earlier during the Mayawati

regime]," the Bench observed in a lighter vein.

The Environmental and Consumer Protection Foundation, an NGO, also filed a PIL petition for providing basic minimum facilities to the destitute women.

The Bench asked the Nalsa counsel to contact the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and Sulabh International, an NGO, which had set up public toilets all over the country, to find out whether they could come forward to help the 1,790-odd widows living in deplorable conditions in the four government shelters at Vrindavan.

The Hindu, August 04, 2012, P.13

Sulabh to Play Good Samaritan to Vrindavan Widows

Mathura: After the Supreme Court expressed shock over the plight of Vrindavan widows and inhumane disposal of their bodies, NGO Sulabh International on Sunday announced that it would take proper care of them.

"From today onwards, no widow of Vrindavan will sleep without food. Each and every widow will get food every night," Sulabh founder Bindeshwar Pathak said while launching a programme for destitute here.

The apex court had recently taken a strong exception to

the manner in which the bodies of widows, who lived in government shelter homes at Vrindavan, were disposed - by chopping them into pieces and putting them in gunny bags - on the plea of lack of money for proper cremation. The court had expressed serious concern over lack of provision of food as well.

The court asked the NALSA (National Legal Service Authority) to contact the Sulabh International to find out whether they could come forward to help the 1,780-odd widows living in four govern-

ment shelters at Vrindavan.

"Now, we will take care of every need of the widows and orphans who roam about and beg on the streets of Vrindavan. Sulabh will ensure food, clothing, proper health care and hygiene," said Pathak.

With his vast experience in the field of low-cost sanitation and social uplift of the manual scavengers, the Sulabh founder said his first task would be to motivate the orphans and able-bodied widows to undergo vocational training so that they can earn their livelihood.

"Sulabh will arrange training and provide employment to able-bodied widows," he said. "This will be the new mission of Sulabh, which is hitherto known for waging the cause of untouchability," said Pathak, who has worked in fields of sanitation technology, social enterprise and healthcare education.

He said the organisation would arrange regular health check ups for the widows so that their physical ailments could be minimised. "We cannot remove their mental agony, but at least we can ap-

ply a healing balm on their physical sufferings," he said. "Right now we will start on our own, but at the same time we will approach central as well as state governments and big corporate houses for help. The idea is to ensure a dignified life to the widows," he added.

The SC Bench of Justice D K Jain and Justice Madan B Lokur had recently directed the Uttar Pradesh government to at least ensure that proper last rites were performed to Vrindavan widows as per their religion. PTI

TO PROVIDE VOCATIONAL TRAINING

"My first task will be to motivate the orphans and able-bodied widows to undergo vocational training so that they can earn their livelihood. Sulabh will arrange training and provide employment to able-bodied widows. This will be the new mission of Sulabh, which is hitherto known for waging the cause of untouchability," said Sulabh founder Bindeshwar Pathak.

The New Indian Express, August 13, 2012, P.11

स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर तिहाड़ जेल में आधी महिला कैदियों की सजा में रियायत

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। स्वतंत्रता दिवस के मौके पर तिहाड़ जेल में कैद 100 में से 50 महिला कैदियों को सजा में रियायत दी गई है। इसके अलावा 700 पुरुष कैदियों की सजा में भी छूट दी गई है। सजा में यह छूट पांच साल तक की सजा काट चुके कैदियों को दी गई है। तिहाड़ जेल में स्वतंत्रता दिवस और गणतंत्रता दिवस के मौके पर अच्छे चाल-चलन वाले कैदियों को छोड़ने या उनकी सजा में छूट देने की परंपरा है। इसे आगे बढ़ाते हुए नवनिर्मुक्त तिहाड़ जेल की महानिदेशक विमला मेहरा ने 750 कैदियों की सजा में रियायत दी है। विमला मेहरा ने बताया कि तिहाड़ जेल में 100 महिला कैदी हैं, जिनमें से 50 को सजा में छूट दी गई है। जेल में अच्छा व्यवहार और विशेष कार्य करने वाले कैदियों को ही सजा में रियायत दी गई। इस

► पुरुष कैदियों को 15 दिन से लेकर 45 दिन तक सजा में मिली छूट

तरह की माफी देने से पहले कई चीजों पर गौर किया गया है। एक साल के भीतर कैदियों के आचरण को पैमाना बनाया गया है। तिहाड़ जेल के प्रवक्ता सुनील गुप्ता ने बताया कि दिल्ली जेल नियमावली के तहत माफी के नियमों के मुताबिक डीजी कारागार ने यह माफी दी है। जेल में बंद 100 महिला कैदियों में से 50 को माफी दी गई। गुप्ता ने बताया कि पांच साल से ज्यादा की सजा काट चुके कैदियों को 45 दिन की छूट दी गई। एक से पांच साल तक जेल की सजा काट चुके कैदियों को एक माह की छूट दी गई है। एक साल से कम जेल की सजा काट चुके कैदियों को 15 दिन की रियायत दी गई है।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 15, 2012, P.6

Lost daughters of the soil

Aloka

Sugiya, a native of Mander Taluka in Jharkhand, is missing. Along with her parents, the entire Chatwal village is frantically searching for her. Born in an adivasi community, Sugiya migrated to Delhi three years ago in order to provide her family with the financial support they desperately needed; but till date, neither Sugiya nor any information related to her has reached the distressed family.

"Three years ago, in the absence of rains and support from the government, a famine like situation arose. Helpless, we were forced to send our daughter to an unfamiliar place to find some work," rues Sugiya's mother Puniya Uraany, her moist eyes yearning to see her daughter again.

Sugiya, along with four or five girls and one Vineeta who promised to find work for the girls in Delhi, had left the village in August. Days passed by and there was no news of the girls even after a month. Their families became restless and started searching for them with Vineeta's address being their only lead. While the search was on, the body of a young girl was found in the village well in November; shockingly, it was Vineeta's. She was believed to have killed by rogue-burglars for unknown reasons. Though the villagers could finally trace four girls after several months' search, Sugiya remained untraced.

Every village located in this land of forest has lost many more Sugiya due to poverty and hunger. The number of girls in these tribal communities is on an ever declining mode but where are they disappearing?

Since time immemorial, the adivasi communities have lived their own life at odds with the mainstream. They have their own distinctive culture, are geographically isolated and live in poor economic conditions. They have, for centuries, remained outside the realm of the general development process. Infrastructure and development facilities in tribal areas for education, accessibility, healthcare, communication, drinking water and sanitation have historically lagged behind compared to other areas — resulting in further widening of the gaps between the tribals and the general population.



VULNERABLE: Women bear the brunt.

Driven to cities by poverty to earn a living, tribal women from Jharkhand are an easy target for exploitation at workplace and trafficking

The tribal communities are mostly engaged in occupations like hunting, fishing, gathering of forest products and agriculture. Heavily dependent on growing crops for their livelihood, they are reduced to a hand-to-mouth existence in a year when the rains do not turn up or other unfavourable conditions affect the land.

With no options left, family members migrate to other places in search of work. A large proportion of the migrants are women. In a democratic tribal set-up,

women have always been equal partners with the men. Be it the contribution to household economy or the physical labour in their agricultural fields and forest, women were always at the forefront and enjoyed a higher social status in their own communities than Indian women in general.

They, however, are caught in the web of exploitation the moment they step out of their forest land. In Jharkhand, according to 2001 Census, 61 per cent of the tribal women migrants in search of employment are in the age group of 19-25 years, indicating that either those women who are in marriageable age or just married are migrating to urban areas in search of job opportunities. It should be noted that some of these women never contacted their families after leaving home — raising fears of trafficking.

Similar has been the fear of Sugiya's family since she has gone missing. Exploitation is common for tribal women as every other day horrid stories of employers harassing their domestic help, locking them in the house and beating them up when they protest continue coming out.

According to a survey in three metropolises Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata, tribal migrant women have reported that sexual harassment is the predominant (62 per cent) form of exploitation followed by economic exploitation in the form of paying lower wages than that agreed (25 per cent), mental harassment by supervisors and employers in terms of quality of work and working conditions (7 per cent). Even physical abuse and feeling of bondage was reported by 3 per cent of the women in the three cities.

The disturbing data is only a mirror to the reality many young women are living in various cities of the country.

(Charkha Features)



DISTURBING DATA: Migration is rampant.

The Hindu, August 07, 2012, P.8

3.5 Women Safety/ Support Services

City roads, bylanes still unsafe for women

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 3 – How safe are the city's roads and lanes for girls and women? A spate of recent incidents would indicate that many women, pedestrians in particular, are increasingly at the mercy of anti-social elements.

A few days ago as two young women were walking in the Uzan Bazar area, a bike rider groped one of them before making a quick getaway. The young woman filed a complaint

in the nearby police station.

Similar reports of reprehensible conduct have of late become more frequent, and disturbingly some of the incidents have occurred in broad daylight. In several areas of the city, eve-teasing incidents have added to the nervousness of young women. Victims are traumatised by the incidents which make them feel humiliated and helpless.

Mrinali Das (name changed), a young professional reported an episode in which she had to endure lewd remarks from a

middle-aged man while she was waiting for a bus at Bhanga-gari. "It was shocking to hear such filthy words from a much older person," she remarked. In her office she related her experience with women colleagues, some of whom had also suffered such indignity.

The appalling incident involving the assault on a young woman on GS Road should have been an eye opener to society, but for anti-social elements nothing has changed. Some women who have to walk to workplaces be-

lieve that they are most vulnerable while on the road.

"The streets need to be made safer for women. Today, we have some people whose activities have made the city's streets dangerous for women and girls..." said Anurita Pathak Hazarika, of North East Network. She underlined the need for society to become sensitive to the issue and called for adequate police response to the growing menace.

A string of crimes involving snatching of jewellery and mo-

bile phones have also taken place across the city. Youths on bikes who have targeted women on the city's roads are rarely caught, and the possibility that the criminals go on repeating their acts appears quite high.

The age profiles of victims vary from the young to the senior citizen in cases of snatching. In July, an elderly lady walking with her retired husband was made to part with her chain by a bike rider. The incident took place in broad daylight not very far from the State Secretariat.

Kolkata Women Most Unsafe

Kolkata: July 27, 2012, Barasat: An 18 year-old girl gets abused and molested by a group of 10 men near Barasat police station. When the girl's father rushed to her aide, he was slapped and pushed.

July 25, 2012, Basari: The body of a 15 year-old girl was found raped and killed at Basari in Hoogly district. Villagers find her dead body near a pond. Girl was strangled after being raped, say police.

Countless incidents such as these keep streaming in from across West Bengal with even the once-considered-safe Kolkata falling prey. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), in 2010, West Ben-

gal reported 26,125 cases of crimes against women, behind Andhra Pradesh, which topped the list with 27,244 cases.

In 2011, West Bengal briskly moved past 28,246 cases in Andhra Pradesh and recorded 29,133 cases.

The NCRB figures have blown the cover, revealing a state which is steadily showing an unprecedented increase in the rate of crimes committed against women in the last five years.

While Didi has been publicising her 14 month-old government's achievements, she has also made a concerted effort to deflect limelight from the deteriorating law and order issue, especially crimes against women. West

Bengal recorded 2,363 incidents of rape in 2011, over the previous year's 2,311.

"It is sad and scary to see the way women are being treated in the state now-a-days. The number of crimes has increased substantially and it's a matter of concern," said West Bengal Pradesh

Congress Committee (WB-PCC) president Pradip Bhattacharya. The state tops the

list once again with 3,711 cases of kidnapping and abduction and 19,772 cases of cruelty by husbands.

The Asian Age, August 22, 2012, P.4

3.6 Other Miscellaneous Issues

25 पार बेटा-बेटी को भी पारिवारिक पेंशन

जयपुर

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राज्य कर्मचारियों या पेशानों की अविवाहित, विधवा तथा तलाक़शुदा बेटों, मानसिक या शारीरिक अक्षम, नेत्रहीन, मूक-बधिर होने के कारण कमाई नहीं करने वाले 25 वर्ष से अधिक के बेटे-बेटियों को भी पारिवारिक पेंशन मिलेगी। ग्राम सेवकों को एक सितम्बर 06 से पंचायत प्रसार अधिकारी के चयनित वेतनमान के साथ ही इनके कार्य को देखते हुए गुरुवार से इनको 500 रुपए प्रतिमाह विशेष भत्ता भी दिया जाएगा। इसके अलावा सहरिया आदिवासियों को पुलिस कॉन्स्टेबल पद के लिए ऊंचाई व सीने की नाप में छूट दी जाएगी। मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत की अध्यक्षता में बुधवार को यहां मुख्यमंत्री कार्यालय में आयोजित मंत्रिमण्डल की बैठक में इन सहित कई महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लिए गए। बैठक में तय किया कि अविवाहित पुत्री, विधवा पुत्री तथा तलाक़शुदा बेटियों के साथ ही 25 साल से उमर के उन बेटों को पारिवारिक पेंशन दी जाएगी, जिनका अपंगता या मानसिक विकार के कारण तलाक़ या विवाह विच्छेद हो गया हो। पारिवारिक पेंशन के लिए अब 6 हजार रुपए अधिकतम मासिक आय वाले व्यक्ति भी पात्र होंगे।

1600 नए पदों को मंजूरी

मुख्यमंत्री अशोक गहलोत ने पटवारी व फार्मासिस्ट सहित विभिन्न सेवाओं के करीब 1600 नए पदों को मंजूरी दी है। इनमें से 800 पद पटवारियों के होंगे, जबकि 363 पद फार्मासिस्ट के हैं। राजस्थान पुलिस सेवा के 129 पद क्रमोन्नत किए जाएंगे। पुलिस सेवा के क्रमोन्नत पदों में 76 सुपर टाइम वेतनमान और 53 पद उच्च सुपर टाइम वेतनमान के होंगे। इनमें से अधिकतर पदों की मंजूरी बजट घोषणा के तहत सृजित पदों के लिए दी गई है। मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा मंजूरी पदों में सहायक कलक्टर स्तर की 50 फास्ट ट्रेक अदालतों के लिए स्टेनो, रीडर, लिपिक व चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के 250 पद मंजूरी किए हैं। भ्रष्टाचार निरोधक ब्यूरो के मामलों के लिए जयपुर, श्रीगंगानगर व अलवर में खुलने वाले तीन विशेष न्यायालयों के लिए 27 पद स्वीकृत किए हैं।

अल्पसंख्यक मॉनीटरिंग के लिए 28 पद

अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण कार्यक्रमों की प्रभावी मॉनीटरिंग के लिए 28 नए पद मंजूरी किए गए हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ने बजट घोषणा में संभागीय आयुक्त कार्यालयों में इस कार्य के लिए उप निदेशक स्तर के अधिकारी को लगाने की घोषणा की थी, इसके तहत उपनिदेशकों के साथ पदों के साथ ही स्टेनो, वरिष्ठ लिपिक व चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारी के भी सात-सात पद सृजित किए गए हैं।

फार्मासिस्टों के 363 पद

मुख्यमंत्री नि:शुल्क दवा वितरण योजना के तहत दवा केन्द्रों पर फार्मासिस्टों की नियुक्ति के लिए 363 पदों की मंजूरी दी गई है, मुख्यमंत्री की बजट घोषणा के तहत स्वीकृत इन पदों के लिए 2 करोड़ 22 लाख 88 हजार रुपए मंजूरी किए गए हैं।

दरगाह कमेटी को आवंटित भूमि का नियमन

मंत्रिमंडल ने यह भी निर्णय किया कि अजमेर में ख्वाजा मोईनुद्दीन चिश्ती दरगाह कमेटी को विश्राम

स्थली के लिए 2003 में मुफ्त आवंटित 150 बीघा भूमि का नियमन किया जाएगा।

Rajasthan Patrika, August 03, 2012, P.9

Women demand food security, better conditions

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: Demanding food security, universalisation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) and expressing their concern over the increasing violence against women in the country, the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) on Thursday announced that it will hold two major national protests on September 18 and October 2 on the issues.

Explaining the decision, which was taken at the Federation's recently concluded all-India conference held in Chennai, NFIW president Aruna Roy said: "We need to focus on the systematic rise in violence against women, including molestation, rape, witch hunt, moral policing and a whole range of structural social and economic oppression. There is also an urgent need to speak of women's rights not exclusive to, but in conjunction with other human and development rights."

She added: "Even the representation of women in the media which is tied to the project of consumerism unleashed by the new economic policy is also an urgent issue that we will focus on. While the visibility of women in



ON HUMAN RIGHTS: National Federation of Indian Women president Aruna Roy, general secretary Annie Raja (left) and vice-president Primla Loomba addressing the media in New Delhi on Thursday. - PHOTO: V. SUDERSHAN

media is increasing, what is missing is empowerment. We need to link the two."

She also questioned the efficacy of the National Commission for Women and said, "The Commission needs to reflect on its role and work on gender-based issues. There is an urgent need for some serious evaluation and thinking on what

it is doing for women's issues in India."

NFIW working president Gargi Chakravarty said: "Violence against a woman starts even before she is born and continues through all the phases of her life. Even after 66 years of Independence and 60 years of Indian Parliamentary Democracy, it is a shame that victimisation

of women in various horrific forms still continues throughout the country."

Meanwhile, pointing to the rising levels of hunger and malnutrition especially among women and children in the country, NFIW general secretary Annie Raja said: "The United Progressive Alliance lacks political will and social commitment to bring

a comprehensive and Universal Food Security Bill. The Bill which was tabled in Parliament or the reported "Plan-B" proposal cannot ensure access and availability of food to the people. The NFIW has decided to intensify its campaign and struggles on these issues. As a part of this, it has been decided that September 18 -- World Food Day -- will be observed as a demand day and the slogan will be 'Food Must Be Our Fundamental Right' and it has to be guaranteed."

She added: "On this day dharnas and picketing of the Central Government offices will be organised. This will be done from village to the National Capital."

Ms. Raja noted that to protest against the uncontrolled and escalating violence against women, the NFIW will observe October 2 as a day to protest. She said, "The main slogan for this campaign is 'Stop violence against women, ensure their safety and security'. On this day human chain in front of the Central and State Government offices will be organised. We also appeal to all organisations and movements who support our issues of struggle to join in both these agitations."

The Hindu, August 24, 2012, P.4

तमिलनाडु में बहादुर मां-बेटी को कल्पना चावला पुरस्कार

चेन्नई (एजेसी)। तमिलनाडु की मुख्यमंत्री जे जयललिता ने स्वतंत्रता दिवस के अवसर पर बहादुरी के लिए कुड्डलोर जिले की एक मां-बेटी को कल्पना चावला पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया। जयललिता ने राजधानी तमिलनाडु में आयोजित मुख्य समारोह में तिरंगा झंडा फहराने के बाद सेट जार्ज किले की प्राचीर से प्रदेशवासियों को संबोधित भी किया। बाद में उन्होंने कल्पना चावला पुरस्कार समेत विभिन्न राज्य स्तरीय पुरस्कार प्रदान किए। कल्पना चावला पुरस्कार कुड्डलोर जिले की निवासी डी राजलक्ष्मी और उनकी बेटी डी शिवरंजनी को दिया गया जिन्होंने गत फरवरी में डकैतों का बहादुरी से सामना किया था। इस पुरस्कार के तहत पांच लाख रुपए का नकद राशि दी गई।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 16, 2012, P.11

NCW bid to sensitise families on gender issues

Bindu Shajan Perappadar

NEW DELHI: Encouraging community leaders and sensitising them to the rising number of cases of violence against women, the National Commission for Women (NCW) will be organising a national consultation titled "Natal family violence against females in India - Right to bodily integrity and autonomy" at Rohtak in Haryana this Sunday.

Said NCW member Dr. Charu Walikhanna: "An inquiry committee of the Commission, set up to look into the rising cases of violence against women in the country, had advised that sensitisation seminars should be organised in vulnerable areas specially in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh where participation of community leaders should be encouraged."

The committee had also noted that state governments should be directed to constitute a committee to make recommendations for better and more effective enforcement of law of the land. This is in addition to local leaders and politicians being sensitised to gender issues so that they raise their voice against injustice.

Dr. Walikhanna added: "The real challenge now is on

how to deal with situations where amidst widening social aspirations the right of a woman to live as she desires is threatened. If someone is not happy with the behaviour of their daughter or other person, the maximum they can do is to cut off social relations with her, but cannot take the law into their own hands by committing violence or giving threats of violence. And that is the message we want the leaders to understand and in turn communicate with the members of the society."

She noted that the national consultation on 'Natal Family Violence' will also consider, whether a separate Bill is the solution to eradicating the problem and what should be the title, or whether special provisions/chapter in Indian Penal Code need to be inserted to prevent such crimes.

A release issued by the NCW noted that though the Constitution of India guarantees equality to all citizens yet for many girls/women gender justice and equal rights is not a reality.

NCW chairperson Mamta Sharma said: "Though women are moving ahead in all sphere of life including education, public services, politics and have better access to basic healthcare there is still the denial of basic human rights."

The Hindu, August 26, 2012, P.11

"Intensify efforts to protect women"

Pranab calls for eradication of social evils of female foeticide and dowry

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: As the nation celebrated Raksha Bandhan on Thursday, President Pranab Mukherjee interspersed his greetings with a call for intensifying efforts to protect women in the country.

Mr. Mukherjee urged the people to re-double their efforts for protection and wel-

fare of women. He was speaking at a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan here to mark the festival of Raksha Bandhan, where school children came in to tie Rakhi to him.

"Rakhi is a thread of affection that sisters tie on the hands of their brothers. We must remember that this gesture is not a mere ritual

but a powerful act that obligates every man to ensure the safety and security of our women. I would like to call upon the nation to re-double efforts for the protection of women and their welfare. We must ensure that the women of our country feel safe and secure at all times," the President said.

In his message, the first

since he assumed office, Mr. Mukherjee said, "Necessary steps must be taken to ensure that the full rights of women are protected." He also made a pitch for eradication of "abhorrent" practices such as female foeticide and dowry.

Mr. Mukherjee said the welfare of the girl child should be a priority. "May

this festival be an occasion for all of us to pledge that we will dedicate ourselves to the well-being of the women of India, particularly the girl child," he added.

Students and children from various schools and social organisations from Delhi and adjoining areas participated in the function.

The Hindu, August 03, 2012, P.2

Govt to study sexual harassment men face

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Taking note of a **TOI** report highlighting the fact that the Bill for Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace was silent on similar treatment meted out to men, the minister for women and child development (WCD) plans to conduct a study on the issue.

"I want to get a study conducted to find out what kind of harassment of males is prevalent and to what extent at workplaces, though till now only the harassment suffered by the women has been spoken about," WCD minister Krishna Tirath said on Monday.

Tirath told reporters in New Delhi that she had al-

WCD minister Krishna Tirath said she had already discussed the issue with her ministry and that there should be a study as there have been suggestions that the law should be gender-neutral

ready discussed the issue with her ministry and that there should be a study on the issue because there have been many suggestions that this law could have been gender neutral.

Tirath was responding to a question on whether the

ministry was looking into aspects related to the problems faced by men at their workplace. "There is no problem in getting a study conducted. Since it is the issue of harassment at workplace, we can get a study conducted," Tirath said.

The minister said that though her ministry worked primarily for the welfare of women and children, other aspects could also be looked at. "The bill for the protection of women is ready but this study is for the future," Tirath said. The WCD minister hoped the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill would be presented in Parliament and passed in the current session.

The Times of India, August 21, 2012, P.7

4. Demography and Vital Statistics

4.1 Budget Allocation/ Funding

Ministry to build 'pucca' anganwadis

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry for Women & Child Development has consulted the Planning Commission to re-look and re-haul its anganwadi centres and fine-tune them to meet the changing challenges of women and child welfare activities that it conducts across the country.

Union Women and Child Development Minister Krishna Tirath said: "We have consulted the Planning Commission for additional funds to undertake this restructuring which is aimed at making the anganwadi centres more effective and enhance their outreach. The centres across the country are today facing problems and challenges of a dynamically changing society and we have to ensure that our programmes are packaged in a manner that takes into account the requirements of women and children. The Ministry will also be reviewing the functioning of the anganwadi centres in the North-East and North India."

"The Ministry has already formulated a comprehensive proposal for strengthening and restructuring Integrated Child Development Schemes. Under this we have set up a provision for additional anganwadi worker-cum-nutrition counsellor for focus on children under three years of age and to improve the family contact, care and nutrition counselling for pregnant and lactating mothers in the selected 200 high-burden districts across the country," she added.

Women & Child Development secretary Prem Narain said: "We are ensuring that there are functional anganwadi centres which cater to women and children. There are complaints from various areas in North India where women have told us about not having good 'pucca' buildings where they can go for contact and information of health and nutrition schemes etc. The Ministry is looking at building permanent anganwadi centres and will start with States like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan."

The Hindu, August 31, 2012, P.4

Health infrastructure poor in states

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

The shortfall of medical personnel in several states tells a sorry state of affairs of the health machinery. This is the situation after the Centre spent Rs 33,390 crore, that is 52% of its total NRHM budget, on human resources.

The picture is grim on physical infrastructure too, consisting of the gigantic network of health sub-centres (SC), primary health centres (PHC), community health centres (CHC) and district hospitals (DH). There are supposed to be 1,78,267 SCs in the country on the basis of about one per 1,000 population. In reality, there are only 1,46,124 — about 17% short. Even among the functional ones, more than 40,000 are working out of rented buildings; buildings for 13,000 sub-centres are still being made. A quarter of them don't have water and a simi-

AILING SET-UP

	Target	Actual
SC	1.8L	1.5L
PHC	29,213	23,887
CHC	7,294	4,809
DH	640	613

Source: Rural Health Statistics 2011 in 12th Plan draft chapter; SC: Sub-centre, PHC: Public health centre, CHC: Community health centre; DH: District hospital

lar proportion has no electricity.

The situation is no different as one goes up the ladder: There is an 18% shortfall in PHCs, and an alarming 34% shortfall in CHCs. District hospitals are only 4% short of the target but since all lower centres are short and ill-equipped, the rush to district hospitals causes

Times View

The figures make it quite clear how abysmally successive governments have performed in putting in place a working public healthcare system. No wonder then that Indians spend more out of their pockets for illnesses than almost any other nation. This is a shame for 65-year-old independent India. More needs to be done to beef up the infrastructure. Much more importantly, the infrastructure that does exist must be adequately staffed. This is what our government must focus on urgently. If we do not provide for this very basic need for our citizens, we would have failed to keep the trust with destiny that Nehru so eloquently spoke about 65 years ago.

massive crowding. This is the result after the government spent Rs 17,380 crore or about 27% of its total NRHM budget on setting up infrastructure in the last five years.

Even the physical infrastructure available is unevenly spread across the country. In states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and many states in the northeast, there is no shortfall of CHCs. But in states like Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, MP, Maharashtra, UP and Bengal, the shortfall

ranges between 33% and 91%. This clearly shows that as much as finances, political will at the state government level is also a key determining factor in the fate of public healthcare.

So, by under-investing in key areas like infrastructure and deployment of qualified personnel, the government appears to have constrained the spread of health facilities for all — and apathy at the state governments' level has further worsened the situation.

The Times of India, August 16, 2012, P.11

Ministry opposes plan to overhaul healthcare

The health ministry has opposed the Planning Commission's proposal for a radical overhaul of the public healthcare system, saying it deviates from the government's primary goal of providing health coverage to all.

The ministry has asked the apex planning body to rewrite its chapter on health in the 12th five-year Plan document that covers FY12-17, a top ministry official said, asking not to be identified.

Several of the commission's suggestions contradict recommendations of the high level expert group (HLEG) on universal health coverage, or UHC, set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in October 2010 with the mandate of developing a framework on affordable healthcare for Indians, this official said. The bone of contention is the Planning Commission's proposal to switch to a "managed healthcare network" model in which

Under the managed-care model, while networks of largely private hospitals will be paid per patient registered, doctors will be paid per prescription, according to the Plan document. The transition to this model is proposed to happen over two Plan periods

public and private hospitals may have to compete with each other for patients.

Also, under the plan, the government's primary healthcare function will be limited to

essential interventions such as immunization, antenatal care and disease-control programmes, leaving clinical services to the managed-care model. The government's role will in effect diminish from providing health services to managing the network.

"We have to learn from the Chinese experience where reform led to creating of public doctors with a private mindset. China is now revising its health policy because of growing inequity," said Dr. Srinath Reddy, who headed the HLEG.

"We have to ensure the public sector remains committed to providing quality healthcare without chasing money in any and every manner. We need to develop a model of UHC wherein the private sector will assist the public sector in serving a public purpose rather than privatising the delivery of public sector healthcare," he added.

HLEG members will meet on Thursday to discuss the health plan and will give their feedback to Montek Singh Ahluwalia, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

The health ministry will within 10 days send its feedback strongly advising the Planning Commission to rewrite certain aspects of the health chapter, said health secretary P.K. Pradhan, who was also a member of the HLEG that drafted the report on providing UHC in India.

"Our main objective is to strengthen the public health sector. At this juncture, we are convinced that a network-based approach will be very

difficult to achieve that objective," he said.

"Having read both documents, I know that some of the strategies made in the plan document are far removed from the basic tenets proposed by HLEG," said Abhay Shukla, public health activist with Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, a non-governmental organization.

"The Plan document gives two scenarios of India's public health reforms. Either the public health system should start behaving like the private sector, with performance-based remuneration, etc., or it should compete with the private sector and reshape itself in the image of the private sector to compete effectively," Shukla said. "In both cases, privatization and corporatization of healthcare in India appear as the dominant direction. They (Planning Commission) are using HLEG's name to push these recommendations."

The Plan document also proposes a significant expansion of publicly funded insurance schemes such as the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana to provide universal health coverage whereas the HLEG had recommended strengthening public sector hospitals instead of using the insurance route to provide health services.

Inequality rising in India, shows data on spending

Nitin Sethi | TNN

New Delhi: The economic divide between the richest and the poorest, irrespective of the massive surge in economic activity, is persisting, as revealed by the figures of the 68th National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) survey, where 90% of rural Indians spend less than Rs 68.47 per day per person and 90% of urban Indians spend less than Rs 142.70 to survive in cities, where costs of living are exponentially higher.

Two years ago, the NSSO report had revealed that 90% of rural Indians were spending less than Rs 55 per day per person, while 90% of urban Indians had expended less than Rs 122.

Considering the average inflation levels prevalent over the last two years, the comparison suggests that a majority continue to live with stagnant or reduced spending power.

The numbers also show



RISING INEQUALITY

► Poorest 10% living in rural India spend ₹16.8 per day on average while richest 10% spend about ₹115

► In urban India, poorest 10% spend ₹23.4 per day while richest 10% spend ₹255

► 90% of rural Indians spend less than ₹68.5 per day per person

► 90% of urban Indians spend less than ₹142.7

► Since 2009-10, monthly expenditure of poorest 10% in rural India has risen by only 11.5% while that of the richest 10% has gone up by 38%

► Monthly expenditure of poorest 10% of urban population has risen by 17.2%, that of richest 10% by 30.5%

that the gap between the poorest in villages and the richest in cities is rising at a fast clip.

The poorest 10% living in villages spends, on an average, 15 times less than the top 10% living in cities. And, the gap between the two segments has increased with successive surveys.

Even the affluent in rural India are no match for the rich in urban centres.

The monthly expenditure of the creamy layers in urban India (the top 10% of the population) is 221% that of the rich in rural India.

The affluent urban Indians' (the top 10% of the population) average monthly expenditure is Rs 7,651.68, and the expenses of their rural counterparts are Rs 3,459.77.

Preliminary results underscore a widely-held per-

ception that the top 10% of the population in both rural and urban India is a class far apart from the rest.

And, the 10% just below the creamy rural Indians spend almost half of the rich. In cities, the rich class spends more than twice the amount on an average that the next 10% richest decile can afford to spend.

While the detailed report from the survey is not expected till next year, the preliminary results shed some light on how growth may not have trickled down.

The average monthly expenditure for 2011-12 has been estimated at Rs 1,281.45 in rural India (Rs 42.72 per day) and Rs 2,401.68 in urban India (Rs 80.06 per day).

The figures reassert the fact that agriculture and rural economy remains highly unfavourable, with the per capita expenditure level of the urban population, on an average, 87.4% higher than that of Indians living in rural areas.

Nitin Sethi | TNN

New Delhi: India's growth story is undeniable. But the 68th National Sample Survey Organization's (NSSO) findings seem to reaffirm that the benefits from this boost in the economy have been cornered by the upper crust, while the poorest continue to languish in near destitution.

Compared with the previous survey, which was conducted in 2009-10, the monthly expenditure of the poorest 10% population in rural India has risen by only 11.5%, while that of the richest 10% has gone up by 38% in the two years. A similar widening of gap is witnessed in urban India as well. While the monthly

expenditure of the poorest 10% of urban population has risen by 17.2%, that of the richest 10% is up by 30.5%.

The poorest 10% living in rural India spend on an average only Rs 16.8 per day to survive, and half the rural population in India spends less than Rs 35 per day, says the provisional results of 68th round of the NSSO conducted in 2011-12 to find out the monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE).

The MPCE is considered a good proxy to measure social inequality and prevalence of poverty. It covers the money spent in a month by a household on the entire gamut of life — from food, education, medicines to consumer durables and entertainment.

In urban India, the poorest 10% spend Rs 23.4 per day on average while the richest 10% spend Rs 255.

The Times of India, August 02, 2012, P.1, contd. on P.9

Ahead of polls, govt shifts priority

P M Raghunandan

BANGALORE: There appears to be a clear shift in the government's priorities for expenditure ever since Jagadish Shettar took over the reins of power about a month ago.

With fast-approaching Assembly elections on the one hand and constant goading by the party strongman Yeddyurappa on the other, Shettar has generously loosened purse strings to please the voters. The expenditure on almost all major beneficiary-oriented schemes, as a result, is likely to shoot up.

The increasing expenditure, it is feared, would even impact the plan schemes of the current budget.

The plan expenditure for the year has already been squeezed for giving a salary hike to government employees.

Whether it is crop loan subsidy, Bhagyalakshmi scheme (distribution of insurance bonds to girl child) or social security pensions (old age pension, destitute widow pension, disability pension and Sandhya Suraksha Yojane), the Jagadish Shettar government has either increased the budgetary allocation or taken measures in such a way that they will drain the State coffers in coming days.

And, there is every indication that the government may become more 'generous' in the days to come as the Opposition Congress is ready to take to streets on the 'failure' of the

ruling party in helping the poor.

Contradiction

The generosity being displayed by the government contradicts its own stated goal of cutting mounting expenses on eight major beneficiary-oriented programmes to ensure fiscal discipline. The government has in its 2012-13 budget document listed out these schemes, which had impacted the revenue balance in 2011-12 fiscal.

In 2011-12 fiscal, the government had spent an estimated Rs 9,561 crore on these schemes, covering 1.81 crore people. And, going by the announcements and additional allocations made so far, the government will end up spending about Rs 4,141 crore more in the current financial year on these schemes compared to last year.

Besides Rs 3,600-crore loan waiver schemes announced recently (the actual made for the crop loan subsidy in the budget this year was Rs 300 crore), the

government has made additional allocation of Rs 250 crore for Bhagyalakshmi scheme under the supplementary budget. The scheme had got Rs 468 crore in the main budget. With the additional allocation, the total budget for the scheme has increased to Rs 718 crore. The allocation in 2011-12 fiscal was Rs 408 crore.

The government, official sources said, has issued a strict instruction to the Women and

Child Development department to clear all 1.31 lakh pending

applications under the scheme by February next year — ahead of the Assembly polls. In the recently concluded Legislature session, Yeddyurappa had pulled up the department Minister Kalakappa Bandi for not clearing backlog applications under the scheme.

The government has increased social security pensions — the total number of beneficiaries has increased from 31.90 lakhs in April, 2012 to 32.71 lakhs in July.

The ceiling imposed by the Finance department for sanctioning fresh pensions was withdrawn. Increased number of beneficiaries mean increase in expenditure; additional burden due to this is expected to be around Rs 100 crore, officials said.

The government's move to accept manually generated income certificates for issuing new BPL ration cards, is likely to undo efforts it had made so far to weed out bogus cards. It is easy to get fake income cer-

tificates if it is manually generated.

Hitherto, the Food and Civil Supplies department used to accept only computer-generated income certificates from the applicants and used to verify their authenticity online.

The government had in 2011-12 weeded out about 10 lakh bogus beneficiaries under social security pension schemes, and it was expecting to

down the expenditure by about Rs 400 crore in the current fiscal.

Similarly, the government had cancelled about 30 lakh bogus ration cards last year.

As far as free power to IP sets, which consumes lion's share of the budgetary spending on subsidies, the government is in no mood to cut down expenditure in this regard in the election year. It has allocated Rs 4,450 crore for this purpose, against Rs 4,156 in last year — an increase of Rs 394 crore.

DH News Service

Wooring voters

SCHEME	PRESENT YEAR	LAST YEAR
■ Bhagyalakshmi scheme	718	408
■ Crop loan subsidy	3,600	300
■ Social security pension	2,318	2,242
■ Free power to IP sets	4,550	4,156
■ Food subsidy	850	850
■ Seed subsidy	120	60
■ Bicycles to children	225	225
■ Incentives to milk farmers	274	320

(Note: All figures in rupees, crores)

Deccan Herald, August 16, 2012, P.5

4.2 Census Data (Evaluation Report/Survey/Other Monitoring Reports)

NSSO figures

Subodh Varma | TNN


Whichever way you slice and dice the data, Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi's statement about causes of malnutrition in the state is wrong. In an interview to the Wall Street Journal, Modi had said malnutrition exists in Gujarat because it is "a vegetarian state" and also because it is a middle-class state which is "more beauty conscious than health conscious". So, he was implying that vegetarians are more likely to be undernourished, and pursuit of beauty will lead to undernourishment and bad health.

He also raises a doubt over earlier figures saying "we still have to measure, conduct surveys". He was referring to the National Family Health Survey 3 conducted in 2005-06 which found that among children under 3 years of age in Gujarat, 42.4% were stunted, 17% were wasted and 47.4% were underweight. Over 55% of ever-married women between 15-49 years of age were found anemic, while 61% of pregnant women in the same age group were anemic. Among men of the same age group, 22% were anemic.

But here are some facts from surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2009-

NUTRITION FILE

WHEN DOES MALNUTRITION OCCUR?
When your body doesn't get enough nutrients. Malnourished children are stunted, underweight or wasted (extremely low weight for height)



FORMS OF PROTEIN-ENERGY MALNUTRITION

Kwashiorkor: Identified by swelling of extremities and belly, depigmentation of skin and hair

Marasmus: Causes severe wasting. Traditionally seen in famine, also among those with food restrictions or anorexia

WHERE DOES IT OCCUR?
More common in developing countries. In wealthier countries, generally caused by unhealthy diets with excess energy, fats & refined carbs


TACKLING MALNUTRITION

- > Fortify foods with micro-nutrients (vitamins & minerals)
- > increase food availability through high-yielding seeds
- > Encourage youngsters to eat healthy
- > Prevent overeating

THOSE AT HIGHEST RISK

- > Lower income groups
- > Elderly people in hospital or convalescents, socially isolated
- > Those with eating disorders

HOW SERIOUS?
WHO estimates malnutrition accounts for **54% of child mortality**. Single biggest threat to global health



WHY IS IT A KILLER?
Even mild malnutrition doubles risk of mortality from malaria, respiratory and diarrheal diseases

SYMPTOMS

Loss of fat | Breathing difficulties | Depression
Abnormal low body temperature | Longer healing time for wounds | Tiredness, fatigue | Pale, inelastic skin | Fertility problems | Low sex drive | Reduced muscle mass | Dry or sparse hair, hair loss

10, published earlier this year. The survey on consumer expenditure by households shows that in urban Gujarat, 60% of the population spends less than the state average of Rs 1,909 per month per head, which is lower than the national average of Rs 1,984 per month per head. In rural Gujarat, too, 60% of the population spends less than the state average of Rs 1,110 per capita, which is slightly higher than the national average of Rs 1,054. With about two out of three Gujaratis spending less than the state norm, which is itself lower or only slightly higher than the national average, it is a far stretch to call Gujarat a middle-class state.

Another NSSO report, on nutritional intake, shows

CAUSES

- > Inadequate or unbalanced diet (lacking calories and protein)
- > Problems with digestion, absorption
- > Certain medical conditions
- > Starvation
- > Eating a single vitamin in diet
- > Abnormal nutrient loss (due to diarrhoea or chronic illness) or increased energy expenditure
- > Eating too many calories (overnutrition)

from 2,142 Kcal in 1972-73. In urban areas, the calorific intake was 1,983 Kcal, down from 2,058 Kcal in 1999-2000 and 2,172 Kcal in 1972-73. This shows that the average intake of food in Gujarat is declining steadily, and in rural areas it is now considerably lower than even the national average of 2,020 kcal.

So, people in Gujarat, on an average, are not getting enough nutrition. That this has nothing to do with vegetarianism or "beauty-consciousness" driven dieting is clear if you look at average food intake across income levels: the poorer a family, the less nutrition they are getting.

Average daily intake in urban Gujarat is shockingly low for the poorest 10% of households at just 1,484 Kcal per person, while in the richest 10% households it is more than double at 2,971 Kcal per person. The situation is similar in rural areas: households in the poorest income decile get 1,430 Kcal while the richest get 2,777 Kcal. Going by Modi's interpretation, it would seem the poorest are most beauty conscious.

Clearly, Modi's claims on vegetarianism and dieting fads being responsible for the state's nutritional indices do not square with the data. Whether they wash with his target audience is another matter.

For full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com



that the people of Gujarat are eating worse than before, and it is poverty that is causing this. In Gujarat's rural areas, the average daily calorific intake was 1,982 Kcal, slightly down from 1,986 Kcal in 1999-2000, and substantially down

The Times of India, August 31, 2012, P.13

हकीकत : सामाजिक सुविधा संगम व 'यूएसएआइडी' की रिपोर्ट में हुआ खुलासा

5वां जन्मदिन नहीं मना पाते गरीब बच्चे

राहुल आनंद, नई दिल्ली

गरीब के घर पैदा होने वाला बच्चा अभाव की जिंदगी तो जीता ही है, युरुआत के पांच वर्षों में उसकी जिंदगी पर भी कम खतरे नहीं मंडगते। हकीकत तो यह है कि दिल्ली के गरीब परिवारों में पैदा होने वाले 74 फीसद बच्चे अपना पांचवां जन्म दिन नहीं मना पाते। ऐसे परिवारों से ताल्लुक रखने वाले 55 फीसद बच्चे तो पहले ही साल दम तोड़ देते हैं। यह खुलासा दिल्ली सरकार के 'सामाजिक सुविधा संगम' तथा अमेरिकी संस्था 'यूएसएआइडी' द्वारा राजधानी में जारी एक रिपोर्ट में किया गया है। इबाला वर्ष 2006 में जारी यूनिवर्सल हेल्थ रिसोर्स सेंटर का दिया गया है।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक अन्य परिवारों में शिशु मृत्यु दर पहले साल में 38 फीसद है जबकि 5वें साल तक ऐसे परिवारों के भी 42 फीसद बच्चे दम तोड़ देते हैं। दिल्ली के गरीबों के घर में पैदा होने वाले बच्चों की हालत देश के दूरदराज के क्षेत्रों में पैदा होने वाले बच्चों से कहीं अधिक बुरी है। आकड़ों



- चिकित्सकीय जानकारी नहीं ले पाते हैं गरीब परिवार के लोग
- राजधानी की हालत देश के दूर-दराज क्षेत्रों से भी बदतर

के आधार पर दावा किया गया है कि देश के गरीब से गरीब इलाके से भी दिल्ली की स्लम बस्तियों में रहने वालों की जिंदगी सेहत की दृष्टि से बेहद बदतर है।

दिल्ली की मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित तथा भारत में अमेरिका की राजदूत नैन्सी पॉवेल द्वारा जारी इस रिपोर्ट में गरीब परिवारों में बच्चों की इस हालत के कई कारण गिनाए गए हैं। बेरोजगारी, सराब की लत, लिंग भेद तथा शिक्षा का खराब

स्तर प्रमुख आर्थिक व सामाजिक कारण हैं। इन गरीबों को न तो स्वच्छ पानी मिलता है और न ही इन क्षेत्रों में साफ सफाई होती है। छोटे-छोटे घरों में काफी लोग रहते हैं तथा स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं को हासिल करने की जानकारी भी नहीं होती। कई झुग्गी झोपड़ी बस्तियां ऐसी भी हैं जिनका सरकार के पास कोई रिकार्ड ही नहीं होता, लिहाजा उन्हें कोई चिकित्सा सुविधा भी नहीं उपलब्ध कराई जाती।

बच्चों में डायरिया, बुखार और कफ की शिकायतों का खतरा ज्यादा होता है। सामुदायिक रूप से सुविधाएं हासिल करने की पहल भी नहीं होती। गरीब परिवार की गर्भवती महिलाओं को प्रसव पूर्व चिकित्सकीय सहायता नहीं मिलती। इतना ही नहीं इनमें से महज 17 फीसद महिलाएं ही अपने बच्चों को किसी अस्पताल अथवा क्लीनिक में जन्म देती हैं। दूसरी ओर खाते पीते परिवारों की गर्भवती महिलाओं में 71 फीसद अपने बच्चों को किसी न किसी अस्पताल में जन्म देती हैं।

Dainik Jagran, August 29, 2012, P.1

India ranks second in prevalence of underweight children

NEW DELHI, Aug 21 – India has the second highest percentage of underweight children below the age of five years, Health and Family Welfare Ministry told the Rajya Sabha today.

Referring to the World Health Statistics report 2012, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Sudip Bandyopadhyay said, "India stands second in the field of underweight children below the age of five years."

In a written reply to a question, the Minister said that malnutrition is multidimensional and intergenerational which requires intervention through various ministries to address its many underlying causes in different stages of

life cycle. In reply to a separate question, he informed the House that pneumonia and diarrhoea are the leading causes of death among the children below five years of age.

"As per report Countdown to 2015, Pneumonia contributes to 11 per cent of deaths and diarrhoea accounts for another 11 per cent of total under-five deaths in India."

For prevention and control of these diseases, he said awareness is being created amongst mothers on sanitation and hygiene and in the communities about causes and treatment of diarrhoea through health education.

"Antibiotics for treatment of pneumonia and dysentery are made available through

the public health system," Bandyopadhyay added.

To check high infant mortality rate, he said under the universal immunization program, various vaccines such as DPT, Measles and BCG are provided to children to protect them against diphtheria, pertussis, measles and tuberculosis.

He also tabled reports on steps taken by the government to decrease prevalence of malnutrition among children of various age groups and their impact.

A recent survey shows that in the 100 focus districts, the prevalence of child underweight has decreased from 53.1 per cent in 2002-04 to 42 per cent in 2011, the Ministry said. – PTI

The Assam Tribune, August 22, 2012, P.10

C-section - Survey -

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

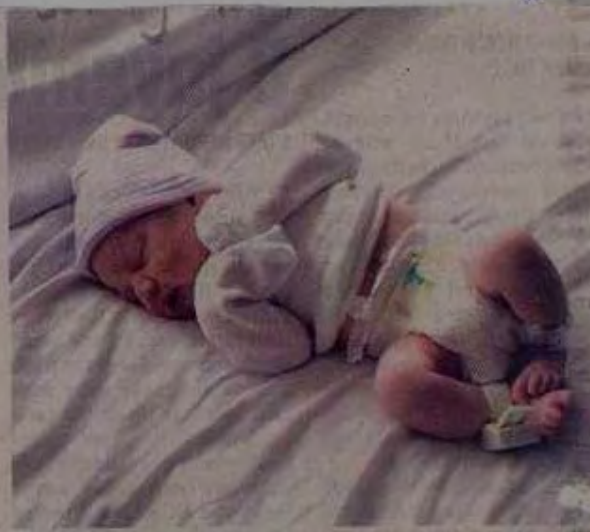
Caesarean delivery is no longer an urban trend. An alarming report shows that women in rural areas too are increasingly seeking surgical intervention during childbirth.

According to an exhaustive survey conducted recently by the Registrar General of India (RGI) in nine States, which account for about 48 per cent of the country's population, the percentage of C-section was found to be above 15 per cent with Odisha recording the highest rate at 41 per cent. Who says that only 10-15 per cent of the births require surgical intervention in the country? At 22 per cent, Bihar reported minimum C-sections among the nine States.

The Annual Health Survey 2010-11 was done in 248 districts of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Overall the deliveries through surgery was high in urban areas and in private hospitals, but in many districts, the percentage of deliveries in private hospitals in the rural areas was way ahead compared to those in urban hospitals. A total 1.8 crore people across the 284 districts in the country were surveyed.

For instance, in rural hos-



pitals in the districts Palamau, Pakur, Sahibganj, Giridih and Bokaro districts in Jharkhand, Karbi-Anglong, Barpeta in Assam, Aurangabad, Gaya, Gopalganj, Jehanabad, Katihar, Nalanda in Bihar, Bastar, Bilaspur, Koriya, Mahasamund, Surguja in Chhattisgarh, high C-section rate was reported as compared to their urban counterparts. Same was the case in SR Nagar (Bhadohi), Bahraich, Barabanki, Bareilly, Etawah and Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh, and Champawat in Uttarakhand.

Clearly, while the C-section trend indicates increasing institutionalised deliveries both in the rural and urban areas, the

Caesarean deliveries in private hospitals were three to 10 times higher than in Government hospitals, says the first-ever Annual Health Survey 2010-11.

In Assam, 10.3 per cent of deliveries in Government hospitals were by C-section while in private hospitals, the percentage was 40.8 per cent. Likewise, in Bihar only three per cent of deliveries were done by C-section in Government hospitals while this share was 22 per cent in private hospitals. (See Box on P4)

This data was collected by the Census office during the period between July 2010 and March 2011.

Continued on Page 4

From Page 1

Though the survey is silent on the reasons for the growing trend for C-section, experts say that pregnancy complications apart, lack of knowledge, the labour pain associated with normal deliveries are also among various reasons for women to go under the knife. Also, there are a few who prefer Caesarean for astrological reasons i.e., wanting a child to be born on an auspicious day.

However, various studies note that delivery through surgery has its own risk.

According to a study published online in the Archives of Disease in Childhood, babies born by Caesarean section are twice more likely to face the risk of

REALITY CHECK

STATES	CAESAREAN OUT OF TOTAL DELIVERY IN PVT HOSPITALS			CAESAREAN OUT OF TOTAL DELIVERY IN GOVT HOSPITALS		
	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN	TOTAL	RURAL	URBAN
Rajasthan	20.3%	18.5%	22.6%	4.9%	3.3%	10.9%
Chhattisgarh	34.4%	34.4%	34.5%	8.3%	6.5%	16.0%
Uttar Pradesh	24%	21%	29%	4.8%	3.7%	11.4%
Odisha	40.4%	41%	39.2%	7%	6.7%	12.1%
Uttarakhand	30.4%	28.4%	32.5%	10.1%	8.1%	15.1%
Madhya Pradesh	30.9%	26.5%	33.4%	3.8%	2.6%	7.3%
Bihar	22%	20.5%	27.1%	2.5%	2.3%	4.6%
Assam	40.8%	32.7%	54%	10%	8.6%	18.1%
Jharkhand	29%	27%	30%	8.6%	7.3%	11.7%

obesity as compared to infants delivered vaginally.

It says that Caesarean section delivery has already been associated with an increased

risk of subsequent childhood asthma and allergic rhinitis.

According to a study published in the Lancet, women who undergo a Caesarean

section without requiring it were 10 times more likely to be admitted to ICU than those opting for natural delivery.

Kids under three to come under childhood care strategy

NEW DELHI: The Centre is all set to restructure Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to give special focus on children under three years, and pregnant and lactating mothers. The ICDS will soon have a Revised Framework for Implementation and will be put in a 'mission mode'.

According to Human Development Report 2011, India is far behind in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) set by the United Nations for Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) of 42 per 1,000 live births by 2015. In 2009, the U5MR of India was 64 per 1,000 live births compared to 31 in China.

"The National Advisory Council (NAC) has made a number of recommendations which call for new strategies and reforms that address institutional, programmatic and managerial gaps in the delivery of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme," Women and Child Development Minister Krishna Tirath informed Parliament on Friday.

"While formulating the proposal on strengthening and restructuring of ICDS, the recommendations of NAC have been given due consideration," Tirath said.

"The recommendations relating to child nutrition include

balanced and nutritious diet including proper food and freshly cooked meals, early childhood care and development, growth monitoring, care of severely malnourished children, education and counselling, convergence through Village-level Fixed Health and Nutrition Days (VFHND), convergence through community-managed Health, Nutrition and Day-Care Centres (HNDCCs) etc," she informed.

The NAC gave its recommendation in June 2011 and suggested an urgent need of reform and strengthening of delivery of ICDS. It recommended a wide range of reforms.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, August 25, 2012, P.9

CENSUS TOWNS ACROSS STATES ACCORDING TO CENSUS 2011					
STATE	2011	2001	STATE	2011	2001
J&K	36	2	MEGHALAYA	12	1
HIMACHAL	300	1	ASSAM	126	31
PUNJAB	74	16	WEST BENGAL	780	85
UTTARAKHAND	42	NA	JHARKHAND	188	33
HARYANA	74	13	ORISSA	116	13
NCT DELHI	110	35	CHHATTISGARH	14	18
RAJASTHAN	112	16	MP	112	24
BIHAR	60	2	GUJARAT	153	22
UTTAR PRADESH	267	42	MAHARASHTRA	279	NA
SIKKIM	1	1	AP	228	NA
ARUNACHAL	1	7	KARNATAKA	127	NA
NAGALAND	7	NA	GOA	56	NA
MANIPUR	23	4	KERALA	461	NA
MIZORAM	0	NA	TAMIL NADU	376	NA
TRIPURA	26	6			

THE YEAR THESE FAMILIAR PLACES BECAME CENSUS TOWNS					
NEW CT	STATE	CENSUS	NEW CT	STATE	CENSUS
Sohana	Punjab	2011	Aligarh	UP	2011
Rishikesh	U'Khand	2011	Greater Noida	UP	2011
Manesar	Haryana	2011	Khajuraho	MP	1981

SOURCE: REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA

Hindustan Times, August 05, 2012, P.10

10 per cent rural folks live on less than ₹17 a day: NSSO survey

This is much lower than Plan Panel's BPL for rural India at ₹22 a day

SEEMA SINDHU ■ NEW DELHI

Even though the country apex think tank Planning Commission claims that its inclusive social sector schemes have helped the country reduce the number of people living below the poverty line (BPL) by seven per cent in the last five years, a National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey says that 10 per cent of the rural population in India still lives on less than ₹17 a day.

According to the 68th NSSO survey for 2011-'12 on household consumer expenditure, "The poorest 10 per cent of India's rural population had an average monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) of ₹503.49 per month." This translates to around ₹17 a day.

The scene in urban India is not any better. The poorest 10 per cent of urban population lives on daily per capita expenditure of ₹23 — that is, ₹702.26 a month. This is only close to

the Plan Panel's BPL for rural areas at ₹22.40.

These provisional numbers provided by NSSO portray a very different picture than the Plan Panel's statistics. In March, releasing the poverty numbers for 2009-'10, the Plan Panel had said that proportion of BPL people in the country has gone down by 7 per cent between 2004-'05 and 2009-'10. The numbers were calculated on the basis of a poverty line of ₹22 per day/person in rural areas and ₹29 per day/person in urban areas. The Plan Panel claimed that UPA's social sector schemes, particularly Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, had helped in reducing poverty by 7.3 per cent points from 37.2 per cent in 2004-'05 to 29.85 per cent in 2009-'10.

Only consolation the NSSO survey gives is that that average per capita expenditure is better than respective BPL thresholds fixed by the Plan Panel. It says average per capita expenditure in rural areas is ₹42.71 a day while it is ₹80.05 per day in urban areas.

Continued on Page 4

10 per cent rural folks...

From Page 1

However, this indicates sheer disparity in consumption pattern between Bharat and India.

This also belies UPA's slogan of "inclusive growth" which it adopted in its first term and still tom-toms about it. The NSSO survey aims to measure the living standards of people in the country and is widely used by the Government for policy formation. The Plan Panel uses NSSO consumption expenditure data for calculating poverty numbers.

The survey further shows that in rural areas half of the population is living on a per capita daily expenditure of ₹34.33, while top 10 per cent of folks are living on ₹68.46 a day. The survey also indicates that poverty is more abject in urban India as in urban areas 70 per cent of the population lives on a daily expenditure of about ₹43.16 while top 20 per cent of population consumes more than Rs 100 a day. This also asserts more disparity in income level in urban India. The provisional results of the survey are based on sample of 59,070 households in 7,391 villages and 41,602 households in 5,223 urban blocks.

The Pioneer, August 02, 2012, P.1, contd. on P.4

केवल आंकड़ों से नहीं बनेगी बात

गरीबी की समस्या

रविशंकर

सरकार जहाँ वर्ष 2020 तक गरीबी पूरी तरह से मिटाने की बात कर रही है, वहीं बीते दो दशकों के हालात कुछ और ही हकीकत बयां कर रहे हैं। विदंबना यह है कि ग्रामीण भारत को दस फीसद आबादी का औसत मासिक खर्च महज 503.49 रुपये है; या वृ कहें कि ग्रामीण आबादी के 10 फीसद लोग 17 रुपये से कम में गुजारा करने के लिए मजबूर हैं। यह खुलासा नेशनल सैपल सर्वे अग्रानाइजेशन (एनएसएसओ) के जुलाई, 2011 से जून, 2012 के दौरान हुए 68वें दौर के सर्वेक्षण से हुआ है। इस सर्वेक्षण का मकसद 1991 में आर्थिक सुधारों की शुरुआत के बाद देश में लोगों के जीवन स्तर में आए बदलाव को मापना था। एनएसएसओ के जांच सर्वेक्षण के मुताबिक शहरों में रहने वाले गरीबों की स्थिति भी बहुत अच्छी नहीं है। शहरों में रहने वाली सबसे गरीब 10 फीसद आबादी रोजाना महज 23.40 रुपये यानी औसतन 702.26 रुपये मासिक पर गुजारा कर रही है। ये आंकड़े 7,391 गांवों के 59,070 परिवारों और 5,223 शहरी क्षेत्रों के 41,602 परिवारों की ली गई वास्तविक स्थिति पर आधारित हैं। अहम बात यह है कि इन आंकड़ों के आधार पर ही योजना आयोग देश में गरीबों की संख्या तथा गरीबी रेखा तय करता है। जरा सोचिए, यह एक ऐसे देश को तस्वीर है, जो 2020 तक सुपर पावर बनने का सपना देख रहा है।

यह समझने के लिए किसी फ्रॉमूले को जरूरत नहीं है कि आज महज 17 या 23 रुपये में गरिमायुक्त जीवन नहीं जिया जा सकता है। हाल में योजना आयोग ने भी अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा था कि देश की शहरी इलाकों में प्रतिदिन 28 रुपये 65 पैसे व ग्रामीण इलाकों में 22 रुपये 42 पैसे खर्च करने वाले व्यक्ति को गरीब नहीं कहा जा सकता। यह ठीक है कि योजना आयोग की उस रिपोर्ट पर संसद से लेकर सड़क तक विरोध हुआ। बवाल के बाद सरकार ने एक बार फिर से नई गरीबी रेखा निर्धारित करने की बात की। जरा गौर फरमाइए, आजादी के समय देश की आबादी 32 करोड़ थी।

अभी उससे काँची बड़ी आबादी गरीबी रेखा से नीचे रहने वालों की है। यह तब है जबकि गरीबी रेखा बहुत नीचे रखी गई है। इसकी तुलना अमेरिका से करें, जहाँ 11,139 डॉलर यानी करीब 46 हजार रुपये से कम मासिक आय वालों को गरीब माना जाता है। इस प्रसंग में विश्व बैंक की पिछले साल की रिपोर्ट भी प्रसंगिक है जिसमें कहा गया है कि गरीबी उन्मूलन के भारत सरकार के प्रयास पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।

हालांकि गरीबी रेखा से नीचे की जनसंख्या की गणना हर पंचवर्षीय योजना से पहले की जाती है। 1992 में पहली बार गरीबी रेखा के नीचे की आबादी की जो गणना की गई थी, उसमें 11 हजार रुपये वार्षिक आय को



मानक बनाया गया था, जो गरीबी की गणना के लिए आज प्रयोग किए जा रहे पैमाने से ज्यादा बँटती है। तब योजना आयोग ने गरीबों की इस गणना को बहुत ज्यादा बतकर इस आंकड़े को मानने से ही इनकार कर दिया था। अब तो हालात यह हैं कि सर्वेक्षण चाहे कुछ भी हो, किसी राज्य में गरीबों की संख्या योजना आयोग द्वारा तय सीमा से अधिक नहीं जानी चाहिए।

भारत की सबसे बड़ी विदंबना है कि आज भी करोड़ों

लोग भुखमरी और कुपोषण के शिकार हैं। ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स-2011 के मुताबिक 81 देशों के सूची में भारत का स्थान 67वां है, जो अपने पड़ोसी मुल्क पाकिस्तान और बोलिविया से भी नीचे है। मौजूदा वक्त में देश की लगभग एक तिहाई आबादी भूखी व कुपोषित है। ऐसे में यह अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि देश में गरीबी, भुखमरी, कुपोषण की क्या स्थिति है। दूसरी तरफ लाखों टन अनाज सरकारी गोदामों और अन्य स्थानों में दोषपूर्ण रख-रखाव के कारण हर साल सड़ जाता है। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, जनवरी 2010 में 10,698 लाख टन अनाज एफसीआई के गोदामों में खराब पाया गया, जिससे दस साल तक छह लाख लोगों का भेट भरा जा सकता था।

ब्रह्महत्या, सरकार और सरकारी तंत्र को गरीबी रेखा तय करते समय यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि भारत में गरीबी रेखा के निर्धारण का सीधा असर लोगों के जीवन पर पड़ता है। अपनी शीर्ष वरीयता के अनुरूप योजना आयोग द्वारा किया गया कोई मनमाना फैसला यह तय करेगा कि झुगियों या गांवों में रहने वाला कोई परिवार राशन सुविधा व सब्सिडी दर पर स्वस्थ सेवा पाने का हकदार है या नहीं। यही नहीं, गरीबों की संख्या इसलिए भी मायने रखती है क्योंकि इसके आधार पर ही राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताएँ और नीतियाँ तय होती हैं।

दरअसल, सरकार में बैठे योजनाकारों द्वारा गरीबी मापने का जो पैमाना तय किया गया है, वह गरीबी को छिपाने का काम करता है। यह कितनी अचरज की बात है कि गरीबी की परिभाषा वे लोग तय कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें गरीबी का सामना नहीं करना पड़ता। देश में गरीबी और भुखमरी की समस्या भयावह हो गई है। पिछले छह दशक से हम गरीबी और भुखमरी से छुटकारा पाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। ऐसे में सवाल अहम है कि क्या सरकार सही दिशा में प्रयास कर रही है। भले ही सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी प्रयास हर स्तर पर किए जाते हैं लेकिन आंकड़ों की माने तो भूमंडलीकरण के बावजूद स्थिति में कोई क्रांतिकारी बदलाव नहीं आया है। इसलिए सरकार और योजना आयोग को अब बेवजह आंकड़े गढ़ने की बजाए हकीकत स्वीकार करनी चाहिए। साथ ही गरीबी भी हकीकत बताते आंकड़े सरकार के लिए आत्मसम्यक का भी आधार होने चाहिए, ताकि गरीबी के खिलाफ पूरे देश में प्रभावी कदम उठाए जा सकें।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 24, 2012, P.10

4.3 Birth Rate/ Mortality Rate/ Morbidity Rate

State tops South in infant, mother mortality rate

BANGALORE: The infant mortality rate (IMR) is higher in the State compared to other South Indian states, according to S Selva Kumar, State mission director of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

For every 10 lakh children born every year in the State, nearly 35,000 die even before completing one year. This compares poorly with Kerala, which has reported 12,000 infant deaths, said Kumar. The officer said folk dance and drama were an effective means to create awareness on health among the people.

He was addressing folk artists from the song and drama division of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, at the inauguration of an orientation-cum-workshop on the public health awareness campaign in the city on Wednesday.

"We are not able to bring down the infant mortality rate



and maternal mortality rate as we have failed to change people's attitude to mother-child healthcare. Folk artistes can influence people to a large extent through their campaign better than health workers," he said.

According to NRHM reports, the IMR for 2011 in the State is 31, which means for every 1,000 live births, 31 babies die before completing one year. The mother mortality rate (MMR) stands at 125 (125

deaths for every one lakh live births). The State NRHM has an IMR target of 25 and an MMR target of 100 by the end of 2012.

Kumar said they had been able to achieve only a 43 per cent success in the mass campaign about the importance of breast feeding soon after child birth, despite involving Asha workers. This means 57 per cent of the mothers do not feed their children soon after delivery, Kumar said.

He said most of the MMR cases were expectant mothers with a history of anaemia.

The government supplies IFA (Iron Folic Acid) tablets, but there have been cases of anaemic mothers refusing to take the tablets, as they have side effects initially.

Cultural troupes will perform Dollu Kunittha, Veeragase, Gee Gee pada and other folk art forms to create awareness about healthcare in the days to come.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, August 23, 2012, P.4

Activists up in arms against new proposal on health care

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: Activists are up in arms against the Planning Commission for its proposal in the 12th Five Year Plan document that seeks to restructure the health care system in a way that it would be handing it over to the corporate sector.

"It is particularly problematic that the Plan document to be adopted by the end of this month, invokes the concept of Universal Health Care, while it actually proposes a strategy that is far removed from the basic tenets of universal health care," Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, a conglomerate of rights-based health activists, said here on Wednesday.

The activists claimed that the Universal Health Coverage report had been "distorted and misinterpreted" by the Planning Commission.

Meeting today

Taking serious note of the issue, Srinath Reddy, chairman of the now disbanded High Level Expert Group (HLEG), set up by the Planning Commission to draw a road map for universal health coverage, has convened a meeting of the HLEG on Thursday to respond to the proposal.

At a press conference, the Jan Swasthya Abhiyan activists claimed that the Plan document recommends increase in public expenditure on health from the present one per cent to 1.58 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product, which is in sharp contrast to the HLEG recommendations of increasing it by at

- It recommends only an increase in expenditure on health from the present 1% to 1.58% of GDP

- Centre's share in additional health expenditure to be less than half of what States contribute

least 2.5 per cent of the GDP.

The document proposes that the Centre's share in the additional health expenditure be less than half of what the States contribute.

"What is of greater concern is the strategy that proposes a transition from the present system which is a mix of public sector service provision plus insurance, to a system of health care delivered by a managed network. There is thus a road map envisaged where the government would abandon its central role of providing health care and become primarily just a manager of the new system," Amit Sengupta of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan said.

He pointed out that the document envisaged 'universal provision of public health care' through preventive interventions which the government would be both funding and universally providing (like vaccination, neonatal care and other non-profit services), defined in an essential health package, which the government would finance but not necessarily directly provide.

"This would mean that the government would over time confine itself to providing a small package of services and would be primarily a purchaser of virtually all clinical services from the corporatised private sector. The government would thus finance

[with public money], strengthen and bolster an already resurgent corporate sector providing medical services," Jashodhara Dasgupta of Sahyog and member of the HLEG said, adding that it would also decisively halt and eventually reverse the moderate achievements of the National Rural Health Mission in expanding public health infrastructure and services.

Also, the public health system will now be asked to compete with the private sector to attract patients. A system is envisaged where each family would be entitled to an essential health package in the network of its choice. Besides, public facility networks, NGOs would also be empanelled to give a choice to the families by strengthening the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana. Whereas, the HLEG in its report had recommended against any kind of insurance as it often resulted in inferior health outcomes and high health care cost inflation.

Dr. Reddy told *The Hindu* that the public sector should remain the main provider of universal health coverage and it was necessary to strengthen the public health infrastructure from the sub-centre to district level. The private health care providers may be contracted to supplement the services if needed through a well-defined regulatory process, he added.

The Hindu, August 09, 2012, P.13

Delay in mother's milk cause of high infant mortality

30% of newborns do not even get to taste it within 1 hour of birth, finds study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■
NEW DELHI

There is nothing better than mother's milk for an infant. But, an exhaustive Government's survey—the world's largest given that it covered over 20 million people in India's 284 districts—has found that an alarming 30 per cent of newly born do not even get to taste their mother's milk within one hour of their birth. This leads to their slim chances of survival and is one of the main reasons for India's high Infant

Mortality Rate (IMR).

Also, as per the first ever Annual Health Survey (AHS) 2010-11 by the Registrar General of India (RGI), more disturbingly, 70 per cent tiny tots during the first six months of their birth have to be content with water or other foods such as formula milk, vegetables and fruits instead of mothers' milk rich with antibodies which is essentially needed for protecting them from viruses and bacteria.

The survey covered 20.1 million people in the nine largest States including Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Bihar and Odisha which together account for nearly 50 per cent of the country's population.

Experts say that if immediate corrective measures such

as creating awareness among lactating mothers and ensuring their health are not

ensured, India will not be able to achieve its Millennium Development Goal (MDG)

HEALTHY INDIA STILL A FAR CRY?

(Figures in %)

States	infants breastfed within one hour of birth	infants breastfed for at least six months
Odisha	71.5	37.9
Uttarakhand	63.2	38.2
UP	32.9	17.7
Assam	69.6	39.2
Chhattisgarh	63.9	47.5
Rajasthan	48.6	24.7
Bihar	30.3	28.5
MP	61.5	36.8
Jharkhand	37.9	45.6



for IMR at 28 deaths per 1000 live births in 2015.

Incidentally, some of the States surveyed like Uttar Pradesh (61), Bihar (48), Madhya Pradesh (62), Rajasthan (55), Odisha (61), Assam (58) and Chhattisgarh (51) still have IMR above the national estimates of 57.

Dr Vinod Paul, head of Paediatrics department at AIIMS said, "Breast milk provides all the energy and nutrients that the infant needs for the first six months of life, and it continues to provide up to half of a child's nutritional needs during the second half of the first year, and up to one-third during the second year of life."

He attributed low breast-feeding rate to unawareness of the mothers about its advantages as well as falling health of the pregnant women who are

unable to feed milk to their babies.

This apart, babies surviving on plain water or other food instead of breast milk in the first six months after they are born are at a greater risk of diarrhoea. Over 23 of the 1,000 deaths among children zero to five years of age are due to diarrhoea.

The data suggests that the percentage of the babies who are breastfed within one hour of their birth is significantly low in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand while babies in Odisha and Uttarakhand are more fortunate comparatively. In States like Uttarakhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, the percentage of rural women was higher than their counterparts in urban areas in so far as ensuring their babies get their milk within one hour of birth is concerned.

Health min targets 2.1 fertility rate by 2017

Also Aims To Reduce Infant Mortality Rate to 28

Mahendra Kumar Singh | TNN

New Delhi: India aims to meet the much-awaited goal of reaching the total fertility rate (TFR) — the average number of children born to a woman — to 2.1 by the end of 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-17).

The Planning Commission is likely to set the TFR target of 2.1 in its 12th Plan document, which is likely to be cleared by the National Development Council (NDC) in October. "India is on track to achieve the target of 2.1 by 2017, which is necessary to achieve net replacement level of unity," said the Plan panel's steering committee on health. The move aims to realize the long cherished goal of the National Health Policy, 1983, and National Population Policy, 2000, the committee said.

The panel, however, noted that stagnant TFR over the last two years is a matter of concern. The commission is likely to set the target of reducing infant mortality rate (IMR) to 28. IMR is the number of deaths per 1,000 live births.

"At historical rate of de-



cline, India is projected to have an IMR of 38 by 2015 and 34 by 2017. An achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing IMR to 27 by 2015 would require an even further acceleration of this historical rate of decline," the steering committee said. "If this accelerated rate is sustained, the country can achieve an IMR of 19 by 2017," it added.

The commission aims at reducing malnutrition among children (0-3 years) by half of NFHS-3 figures, along with reducing anemia among girls and women by 50%.

According to NFHS-3 (2005-06), around 23% of children were wasted and the percentage

of children who were underweight stood at 40%. NFHS-3 had found high-prevalence of anemia at 70% in children aged between six and 59 months and in 55% of women. Though the commission has set the ambitious targets in the health sector for the 12th Plan, the government had failed to meet the targets in the 11th Plan. Plan panel's steering committee noted that India trails in health outcomes behind its neighbours like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The 11th Plan had set six health outcome indicators as time-bound 'goals' that included lowering maternal and infant mortality rate, malnutrition among children, anemia among women and girls, fertility, and raising child sex ratio.

The review of 11th Plan health targets revealed low public spending on health (1% of GDP), high out-of-pocket payments (71%), high levels of anemia (56% among women in the 15-45 age bracket) reflect in high levels of malnutrition among children, high infant mortality (47 per 1,000 live births) and maternal mortality (212 per 1 lakh live births).

The Times of India, August 20, 2012, P.17

मातृ मृत्यु दर प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं पर 150 करने का लक्ष्य: आजाद

नई दिल्ली, 14 अगस्त (भाषा)। सरकार ने मातृ मृत्यु दर में तीन चौथाई की कमी ला कर 2015 तक इसे प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 150 करने का लक्ष्य रखा है। स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद ने राज्यसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान बताया कि मातृ मृत्यु दर में कमी लाने में सफलता मिली है। नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 2001-03 की अवधि के दौरान मातृ मृत्यु दर प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 301 थी। 2004-06 में यह दर घट कर प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 254 और 2007-09 में प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 212 रह गई। आजाद ने भाजपा की माया सिंह के पुरक सवाल के जवाब में बताया कि सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्य पांच के अंतर्गत मातृ मृत्यु दर में 2015 तक तीन चौथाई की कमी ला कर इसे प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 150 किया जाना है। भारत यह लक्ष्य हासिल करने के लिए प्रयासरत है।

सहस्राब्दी विकास लक्ष्य एवं उद्देश्य सितंबर 2000 के संयुक्त राष्ट्र सहस्राब्दी घोषणा पत्र में तय किए गए थे जहां 147 देशों के प्रमुखों और 189 देशों ने भागीदारी की थी। अतः इनमें भारत कोई एकपक्षीय बदलाव नहीं कर सकता। यह दर 1990 में प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर 600 थी जो 2010 में 200 रह गई। स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री ने बताया कि इस रिपोर्ट में देशों को चार श्रेणियों में रखा गया है। ये श्रेणियां क्रमशः मार्ग पर (ऑन ट्रैक), प्रगतिशील, अपयोज्य प्रगतिशील और कोई प्रगति नहीं है। भारत को 'प्रगतिशील श्रेणी' में रखा गया है। आजाद ने कहा कि केरल, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिम बंगाल और गुजरात जैसे राज्यों ने प्रति एक लाख शिशुओं के जन्म पर मातृ मृत्यु दर घटा कर 150 करने का लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया है। हरियाणा, पंजाब और कर्नाटक यह लक्ष्य हासिल करने के करीब है लेकिन असम, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, राजस्थान, ओडिशा जैसे राज्य अभी बहुत पीछे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के लिए यूएफ सरकार ने 70,000 करोड़ रुपए आवंटित किए हैं।

Jansatta, August 15, 2012, P.22

'शिशु मृत्यु दर कम करने की जरूरत'

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। गर्बियों के स्वास्थ्य को देखभाल व उपचार पर होने वाले निजी खर्चों को लेकर सोमवार को एक रिपोर्ट मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित और भारत में अमेरिका को राजदूत नैन्सी पावेल ने जारी की। सामाजिक सुविधा संगम तथा यूएसएआईडी के बीच भागीदारी के तहत किये जा रहे कार्यों पर आधारित इस रिपोर्ट में कार्यों का विवरण है। इस दौरान मुख्यमंत्री व अमेरिकी राजदूत ने इस भागीदारी को आगे जारी रखने पर बल देते हुए अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर शिशु मृत्यु दर को कम करने के लिए कार्य करने पर बल दिया।

राजधानी में गर्बियों को भले ही पांच सितारा स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं न मिल रही हों लेकिन गर्बियों के स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं पर आत इस रिपोर्ट को पांच सितारा होटल में जारी किया गया। मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित और भारत में अमेरिका की राजदूत नैन्सी पावेल ने गर्बियों के स्वास्थ्य को लेकर भागीदारी के तहत किये जाने वाले कार्यों पर विस्तार से चर्चा की।

मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने कहा कि नवम्बर 2011 में शुरू की गई इस भागीदारी से सरकारी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के उपयोग को बढ़ाने में मदद मिली है। इस भागीदारी का मकसद गर्बियों द्वारा उपचार में किये जाने वाले निजी खर्चों को कम लाना है। इस दौरान यूएसएआईडी के मिशन डायरेक्टर विलियम हेमिंग, सामाजिक सुविधा संगम के मिशन डायरेक्टर व मुख्यमंत्री के विशेष सचिव संतोष वैद्य और प्रधान सचिव स्वास्थ्य अंशु प्रकाश मौजूद थे।

अमेरिकी राजदूत ने कहा कि रिपोर्ट में सामाजिक सुविधा संगम व यूएसएआईडी की एक परियोजना से संबंधित अनुभवों को शामिल किया गया है। स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं में सुधार के लिए कई नई पहल की गईं। पावेल ने इस भागीदारी को महत्वपूर्ण बताया। उन्होंने सामाजिक सुविधा संगम के प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि इससे कल्याण सुविधाओं को दिल्ली के गर्बियों तक पहुंचाने में मदद मिली है। यह सरकारी और निजी भागीदारी तथा समुदायिक सहयोग का अनूठा उदाहरण है। उन्होंने कहा कि जीआरसी की मदद से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में सुधार हुआ है। अब समय है कि शिशु मृत्यु दर में कमी लाने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर काम किया जाए।

सामाजिक सुविधा संगम के मिशन डायरेक्टर संतोष वैद्य ने कहा कि सामाजिक सुविधा संगम के कार्यक्रमों में महिलाओं और गर्बियों के कल्याण को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है। समाज के कमजोर व उपेक्षित वर्ग के लोगों के जीवन स्तर को सुधारने के लिए 20 हजार लोगों को प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्ष 2011-12 में 12 हजार लोगों को शिक्षा दी गई, 20 हजार लोगों को व्यवसायिक प्रशिक्षण दिया गया, 79 हजार लोगों को कानूनी सहायता दी गई, दो लाख लोगों को स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराई गईं। इसके अलावा 2500 प्रशिक्षण शिबिर लगाए गए और 402 स्वयं सहायता ग्रुप बनाये गए जो सामाजिक सुविधा संगम को उपयोगिता साबित करता है।

सामाजिक सुविधा संगम के मिशन डायरेक्टर व मुख्यमंत्री के विशेष सचिव संतोष वैद्य और प्रधान सचिव स्वास्थ्य अंशु प्रकाश मौजूद थे।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 28, 2012, P.7

4.4 Miscellaneous Issues

UNICEF-backed study paints poor picture of Adivasi education

ANUBHUTI VISHNOI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

ADIVASIS in India receive the "lowest-cost, poorest-quality and indifferently administered education", a study backed by the UNICEF has revealed. Not only are the Adivasis marginalised, even affirmative action/reservation programmes for Adivasis (as Scheduled Tribes) in higher educational institutions have not had the desired effect, the report suggests.

Conducted by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, the study found that mainstream education has failed to recognise the aspirations, needs and predicament of Adivasis. The Naxal violence has made it worse, leading to "widespread destruction of Adivasi homes, livelihoods and larger support structure, including healthcare, schools and spaces for civic action".

Submitted to UNICEF last week, the report is a broad perspective on Adivasi education in India noting the "systemic" marginalisation and "invisibilisation" of adivasi interests across political, policy and administrative levels. Indigenous adivasi culture, knowledge forms and language find no place in the dominant education system, it notes.

The report uses the term Adivasi for groups identified as 'tribals', 'scheduled tribes' and 'denotified tribes' across India. There are more than 600 Adivasi/tribal communities in India and most of them are among the most disadvantaged social groups.

Reviewing a number of educational programmes for tribals in institutes and schools in educationally

backward blocks to fully residential Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and ashramshalas, apart from fellowships for ST students, the report points to how the many tribal specific schemes run by the government are mostly poorly implemented, go un-monitored, and are often parallel and inadequate.

The report cites the example of tribal-dominated Chhattisgarh where a significant proportion of the schools are by the roadside or highways, though most tribals live in forests and hilly tracts.

According to the study, factors such as these explain why tribals remain at the bottom of the ladder in terms of educational achievements and why there is a huge increase in the dropout rate even before students reach the secondary level of schooling. The dropout rate is higher among women.

The report also comments on the vacancy rate as well as lack of qualification among teaching positions.

The special programmes for Adivasis in higher educational institutions have not translated into assuring them "improved access to education nor have they resulted in net benefits for the community as a whole", adds the report, noting that the bulk of tribal student fellowships and opportunities in higher education end up being cornered by influential segments of the ST population.

To correct the situation, the report recommends broad-based, inclusive policies paying specific attention to Adivasis, as well as streamlining and converging of parallel tribal-specific programmes.

The Indian Express, August 28, 2012, P.5

5. Schemes/ Programmes Related to Women and Children

5.1 Schemes/ Programmes

Cases of caste bias mar midday meal plan

HRD Min Sends Teams To 4 States To Probe Incidents

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The flagship midday meal scheme in Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh is afflicted with large-scale caste and gender-based discrimination. Waking up to a series of reports of discrimination, the HRD ministry has decided to send central teams to specific districts in the four states from where such reports have come.

While the discrimination was gender-based in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar, Haveri and Uttara Kannada; it was both gender and caste-based in Orissa's Kandhamal and Boudh.

The maximum discrimination has been reported from Rajasthan where the HRD ministry's monitoring agency found that upper caste children were not sharing mid-day meals with lower caste children in Karauli.

In Dausa, scheduled caste children were made to sit separately and eat mid-day meals. In Sirohi too children were segregated on caste lines. "The teacher shouldn't have allowed such communalization in the MDM," monitoring agency Shiv Charan Mathur Social Policy Research Institute said.

The situation was worse in Dungarpur. The monitoring agency, Institute of Development Studies, said 85% school children were found sitting in caste groups. A similar story of caste segregation was found in Jaisalmer. Additionally, in urban areas of Jaisalmer, upper caste children refused to eat food with dalit children.

In Pali, 57.5% school children were sitting in caste-based groups and it was also found that in 10% schools, only upper caste children were served the mid-day meal.

could be seen in 12.5% schools as girls were made to serve the food.

In MP's Narsinghpur, the monitoring agency found that in 17.5% schools, upper caste children did not eat mid-day meal as cooks were of lower castes.

In Satna, upper caste, SC and OBC children sat separately. In Panna, dalit children were served food from a distance.

In some places, children of one social group for fear of their plates being touched by the lower caste got their own plates from home. In Hoshangabad, girls of higher castes sat separately from lower caste girls.



THE LINES THAT DIVIDE

The Times of India, August 05, 2012, P.17

18 साल तक के बच्चों का मुफ्त इलाज

हमारे प्रतिनिधि

चंडीगढ़, 5 अगस्त। हरियाणा में इंदिरा बाल स्वास्थ्य योजना के अंतर्गत सरकारी स्कूलों एवं आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों में नामांकित 0 से 18 साल तक के सभी बच्चों का हर प्रकार का इलाज राज्य सरकार नि:शुल्क करवाएगी। इसमें हृदय रोग तथा कैंसर जैसी गंभीर बीमारियों का इलाज भी शामिल है। राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के मिशन निदेशक डॉ. राकेश गुप्ता ने कहा है कि योजना के तहत इन गंभीर बीमारियों से ग्रसित बच्चों का इलाज पीजीआई, रोहतक तथा पीजीआई, चंडीगढ़ सहित अन्य बड़े संस्थानों में किया जाएगा।

योजना के तहत बच्चों को आँसू की जांच भी की जाएगी और जरूरत पड़ने पर बच्चों को मुफ्त चश्मे भी उपलब्ध करवाए जाएंगे। इसके अलावा शारीरिक निराकृता (विकलांगता) के बच्चों को डॉक्टरों की जांच कर उनकी क्षमताओं के मूल्यांकन के बाद उन्हें विकलांगता प्रमाण-पत्र दिए जाएंगे एवं सुधारक सर्जरी को सुविधा भी मुफ्त उपलब्ध करवाई जाएगी। डॉ. गुप्ता ने कहा कि राज्य में अनीमिया को निःशुल्क करने के लिए जरूरी है कि प्रत्येक स्तर पर इसकी जांच हो और इसका इलाज किया जाए। उन्होंने बताया कि इंदिरा बाल स्वास्थ्य योजना के तहत स्कूलों और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों पर 0 से 18 साल तक के बच्चों को अनीमिया की जांच की जाएगी और यह काम स्वास्थ्य विभाग और शिक्षा विभाग मिलकर करेंगे। इसके लिए शिक्षकों को वार्षिक स्तर पर बच्चों की जांच करने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया जाएगा।

शिक्षकों के द्वारा जांच किए जाने के बाद स्वास्थ्य विभाग के लैब टेक्नीशियन स्कूलों में जाकर बच्चों के खून की मात्रा की जांच करेंगे और खून मात्रा कम पाए जाने पर डॉक्टरों की जांच के तहत उन बच्चों को मुफ्त आयल फॉलिक एसिड की खुराक दी जाएगी। यदि कोई बच्चा गंभीर रूप से अनीमिया से पीड़ित पाया जाता है तो उसे इलाज के लिए बड़े स्वास्थ्य संस्थान में रेफर किया जाएगा एवं उसका उचित इलाज सरकार द्वारा मुफ्त उपलब्ध करवाया जाएगा।

इंदिरा बाल स्वास्थ्य योजना के तहत मिलेगा लाभ, आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों के बच्चे भी होंगे शामिल

अब हृदय रोग और कैंसर जैसी गंभीर बीमारियों का इलाज भी होगा

Dainik Tribune, August 06, 2012, P.6

EMPOWERING THE MINORITY WOMEN

To celebrate the true spirit of Independence

On the occasion of **66th Independence Day**,
Ministry of Minority Affairs takes a historical step for strengthening the
role of minority women in our society with the launching of

“LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITY WOMEN”.

VISION

- Gender empowerment.
- To ensure equality.
- To establish the economic and social rights of women.

OBJECTIVES

To empower and instill confidence in minority women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels.

TARGETS FOR 2012-13

- Number of women to be trained: 40,000.
- Coverage: All States/Union Territories.

Ministry of Minority Affairs

Government of India

Hindustan Times, August 15, 2012, P.17

Independence Day 2012


Highlights of important Schemes Implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes

Funding for education

- Promoting literacy among tribal women in 54 identified low literacy districts.
- Coaching for Scheduled Tribes.
- Strengthening Education among Scheduled Tribe Girls in Low Literacy Districts.
- Post-matric scholarship for ST students
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme (RGNF) to ST students on the pattern of UGC Fellowship to pursue higher studies - M.Phil. and Ph.D.
- Top Class Education for ST students for pursuing studies at degree and post degree level in 213 identified Institutes, covering the field of management, medicine, engineering, law and commercial courses.
- National Overseas Scholarship for ST students for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of Master level courses, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral research programmes.
- ₹ 2953 crore released for educational programme during 11th plan period.

Development / Education loans through National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

- Launched Adivasi Shiksha Rrinn Yojana giving loan of ₹ 5 lakh @6% p.a.
- Concessional finance for Income Generating Activities available through 14000 branches of State Bank of India, about 4000 branches of Central Bank of India amongst others.


Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India
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Hindustan Times, August 15, 2012, P.21

अन्नश्री योजना को मिली कैबिनेट की मंजूरी

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। अन्नश्री योजना के तहत दिल्ली के ज़रूरतमंद गरीब परिवारों को अब प्रति माह 600 रुपये की आर्थिक सहायता खाद्य सुरक्षा के लिए दी जाएगी। इस योजना को सोमवार को मंत्रिमंडल ने मंजूरी दे दी। इस योजना के तहत चालू वित्त वर्ष में दो लाख परिवारों को मदद मिलेगी, इसके लिए सरकार ने 150 करोड़ रुपये की राशि का आवंटन किया है। इसके अलावा सरकार ने विधानसभा का मानसून सत्र 4 से 7 सितंबर तक बुलाने का निर्णय लिया है। इस निर्णय को भी कैबिनेट ने मंजूरी दे दी है।

गरीब परिवारों के लिए अन्नश्री योजना को घोषणा मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने अपने बजट भाषण में की थी। इस योजना का प्रस्ताव आज कैबिनेट की बैठक में रखा गया जिसमें इसे मंजूरी दे दी गई। बैठक के बाद मुख्यमंत्री शीला दीक्षित ने बताया कि अन्नश्री योजना दिल्ली सरकार की अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण योजना है। सरकार सामाजिक सुरक्षा के दायरे को बढ़ाने के प्रति कृतज्ञ रहती है। नई योजना से दिल्ली को भूख मुक्त राज्य बनाने में बड़ी मदद मिलेगी। उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली में बीपीएल व एएवाई चार लाख कार्डधारक परिवार सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी पर अनाज प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। दिल्ली सरकार उन ज़रूरतमंद परिवारों को राहत प्रदान करने

की इच्छुक है जो बीपीएल और एएवाई श्रेणी के नहीं हैं। दिल्ली अन्नश्री योजना के अंतर्गत दी जा रही नई खाद्य सब्सिडी अन्य सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजना के अतिरिक्त है। उन्होंने बताया कि ऐसी अन्य योजनाओं

- अन्नश्री योजना के तहत गरीब को 600 रुपये मासिक सहायता
- परिवार की मुखिया महिला के नाम बैंक खाते में डाली जाएगी सहायता राशि
- चालू वित्त वर्ष में दो लाख परिवारों को मिलेगी मदद
- इस वर्ष के लिए 150 करोड़ रुपए का आवंटन
- विधानसभा का मानसून सत्र 4 से 7 सितंबर तक

में निःशुल्क शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य बीमा, वरिष्ठ नागरिकों, निशक्त व्यक्तियों और मुसीबतग्रस्त महिलाओं की मासिक पेंशन, विधवाओं की लड़कियों की शादी के लिए सहायता और शहरी गरीबों के लिए कम लागत के मकानों की योजना है। दिल्ली सरकार ज्यादा से ज्यादा गरीब, ज़रूरतमंद परिवारों को मदद पहुंचाने के लिए नई पहल करती रही है। इसका मकसद उनका

उत्थान करना और उनके जीवन स्तर को बेहतर बनाना है। उन्होंने बताया कि नई योजना के तहत ऐसे परिवारों के बैंक खाते में 600 रुपए प्रतिमाह सौंपे जा कर दिए जाएंगे। परिवार की सबसे वरिष्ठ महिला सदस्य का बैंक खाता खोला जाएगा। चालू वित्त वर्ष में दो लाख ऐसे परिवारों को फूड सब्सिडी देने के लिए 150 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया है। ऐसे परिवारों को पहचान मिशन कन्वर्जेंस के मानदण्ड के अनुरूप की गई है। ऐसे परिवारों को एक आवेदन करना होगा जिसमें फोटो, आधार कार्ड, फोटोयुक्त चुनाव पहचान पत्र, रेशन कार्ड की प्रतियां और बैंक खाते का विवरण देना होगा। इस आवेदन पर स्थानीय विधायक को संस्तुति लेनी होगी। इसके बाद ऐसे परिवारों को दिल्ली अन्नश्री योजना को फोटोयुक्त कार्ड मिलेगा ताकि योजना का दुरुपयोग न हो सके। फूड सब्सिडी की राशि का इस्तेमाल चावल, गेहूँ, चीनी और अन्य आवश्यक खाद्य पदार्थों को खरीदने के लिए किया जा सकेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली सरकार ने बीपीएल के दायरे में न आ रहे ज़रूरतमंद परिवारों को खाद्य सब्सिडी प्रदान करने की दिशा में पहल की है। उन्होंने बताया कि मंत्रिमंडल ने उप-राज्यपाल से दिल्ली विधानसभा का मानसून सत्र 4 से 7 सितंबर से बुलाने की सिफारिश की है। इस सत्र में चार बैठकें होंगी।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 14, 2012, P.7

Bhagyalakshmi leaves govt poorer

BSY's pet programme was implemented to empower women financially,

P M Raghunandan

BANGALORE: The Jagadish Shettar government's decision to obey BJP strongman B S Yeddyurappa's diktat to clear all pending applications under Bhagyalakshmi scheme, is costing it dear.

The government has agreed to pay a whopping Rs 15 crore to the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) towards interest for the delayed payment of premium with respect to 48,130 girls under the scheme, the applications for which were kept pending for many years.

This is over and above Rs 87

crore to be paid to the LIC towards the premium amount - Rs 19,350 for the first child and Rs 18,500 for the second child in a family.

Under the scheme, the parents have to submit the applications within a year of the child's birth. The pending applications were pertaining to the period between 2006-07 and 2009-10.

Though the parents had submitted applications within the stipulated period, the department had misplaced them in some cases and some others were kept pending due to errors in documents submitted by the parents.

The LIC, which issues insurance bonds for Rs 1,00,097 to be paid to the beneficiaries after 18 years, had refused to include the delayed applications under the scheme as it would incur loss. And the department, as a result, had given up pursuing these cases. However, former chief minister Yeddyurappa, whose pet scheme is Bhagyalakshmi, recently pulled up the department Minister Kalakappa Bandi for expressing difficulty in clearing these cases.

BSY's legacy

Interestingly, a large number of these applications were kept

pending during Yeddyurappa's tenure as chief minister.

Of the 48,130 applications, 33,519 were kept pending in 2008-09, when Yeddyurappa became the chief minister. In 2006-07, 4,223 applications were kept pending, 9,301 in 2007-08, and 1,087 in 2009-10.

The then government headed by Yeddyurappa did not take any interest to get insurance cover to these children. The scheme was started in 2006 when Yeddyurappa was the deputy chief minister in the JD(S)-BJP coalition government, official sources said.

Official sources said the

Deputy Chief Minister R Ashoka-headed committee, set up by the chief minister to oversee implementation of government programmes and schemes of certain departments, recently took the decision to pay Rs 15 crore to LIC for clearing all pending cases.

The committee also directed the department to immediately obtain the Finance department's approval and start issuing bonds to the beneficiaries.

When contacted, Principal Secretary to Women and Child Development department Ramesh Bindurao Zalki said that the government has given

directions to clear all pending applications by paying the interest amount to the LIC. Steps will be taken to issue insurance bonds to all 48,130 children soon, he added.

Jump in beneficiaries

The total number of beneficiaries under the scheme is estimated to go up from the present 14.57 lakh to nearly 17 lakh by the end of this financial year.

This is because the department has received 1.31 applications in the current year and about 53,000 applications of the previous year are yet to be cleared.

DH News Service

Deccan Herald, August 25, 2012, P.5

जननी शिशु सुरक्षा योजना का उड़ता मखौल

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सरकार ने खासी मशकत के बाद कुछ दिन पहले यहां सोनेलॉजिस्ट नियुक्ति किया, लेकिन उसने ज्वाइनिंग ही नहीं दी। सूत्रों का कहना है कि आए दिन कोर्ट के सेंज के कारण डॉक्टर यहां आने से बचना चाहते हैं।

नियुक्ति दी, पर ज्वाइन नहीं किया

कुछ तो करें

अस्पताल में खासी मशकत के बाद कुछ दिन पहले यहां सोनेलॉजिस्ट नियुक्ति किया, लेकिन उसने ज्वाइनिंग ही नहीं दी। सूत्रों का कहना है कि आए दिन कोर्ट के सेंज के कारण डॉक्टर यहां आने से बचना चाहते हैं।

इधर भी ढिलाई

अस्पताल रेडियोलॉजिस्टों की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं, वहीं दूसरी ओर राजस्थान लोक सेवा आयोग की ओर से रेडियोलॉजिस्ट की नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बावजूद अभी तक 7 पर्यो पर नियुक्ति नहीं दी गई है। जबकि प्रक्रिया पूरी हुए 4 महीने हो चुके हैं। जानकारी का कहना है कि नियुक्ति मिलने के बाद अस्पतालों में कमी स्वतः कुछ हद तक पूरी हो जाएगी।

अस्पताल सूत्रों के मुताबिक जेएसएसवाय के तहत अस्पताल में सोनेोग्राफी निःशुल्क होती है, जबकि बाहर इसके लिए 1 हजार रुपये तक चुकाने पड़ रहे हैं। अब तक सैकड़ों महिलाएं और अन्य मरीज बाहर जाकर महत्वपूर्ण जांच करवा चुके हैं। अस्पताल में पूर्व में कायरेत सोनेोलॉजिस्ट के स्वीचक संवर्धनवृत्ति लेने के बाद यह पद खाली हुआ था।

डॉ. डी.एस. मलिक, जननी, राजस्थान जयपुरीय अस्पताल

Rajasthan Patrika, August 20, 2012, P.4

Free health scheme seeks its pound of flesh

Hospital tells patient to pay for drugs, tests in violation of RGJAY provisions

Maitri Porecha

The state's much talked about cashless health insurance scheme for the poor is facing teething troubles barely a month after it was launched in July. Under the Rs1,000-crore Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayi Aarogya Yojana (RGJAY), poor patients are entitled to free treatment. However, all is not well as the city hospitals are flouting norms by charging poor patients enrolled under the scheme.

On Monday, Haribhau Kangude (59), a poor farmer from Solapur, heaved a huge sigh of relief as his 29-year-old son Mahadeo underwent a smooth surgery under the scheme. But his joy was shortlived as the hospital staff asked him to pay for injections and pathology tests.

Mahadeo became the first patient to undergo a kidney transplant under the scheme. Mahadeo's mother, Mangal Kangude, 46, donated one of her kidneys to the ailing son.

"I have spent close to Rs5,000 from the date of admission on medicines, injections and blood tests. The doctors in the kidney transplant unit had demanded for medicines on an urgent ba-

sis. My son was lying in the operation theater needing immediate attention. I had no choice but to purchase these from outside," said Haribhau.

The provisions of the RGJAY clearly mention that it is the duty of the hospital in which the patient has been admitted to make available the necessary medication and arrangements for pathology tests. "The hospital has not been following the norms. Many times the relatives of the patients purchase medicines from chemists, bills of which, KEM hospital has not raised with the RGJAY head office. Ultimately the patient suffers due to the lackadaisical approach of the hospital," said a RGJAY officer, requesting ano-

nymity.

When asked if the patient's family had to pay despite having a cashless cover, senior medical officer Dr Praveen Bangar, said, "I am not aware if the family has paid for medical expenses. I will look into the matter."

"Certain amount of seed money or corpus should be made available to the empanelled hospitals for incurring urgent expenses. Certain costly drugs are not available," said a senior doctor from KEM hospital, "We have been taking regular meetings with empanelled hospitals to implement the scheme effectively. We are working out a solution to seek their co-operation," said Dr K Venkatesham, CEO, RGJAY.

D.N.A., August 09, 2012

स्पांसरशिप स्कीम लागू, फास्टर केयर स्कीम ठंडे बस्ते में

रविशंकर तिवारी/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। राजधानी दिल्ली में जल्दतम बच्चों को परिवार में देखभाल करने की योजना आधी-अधूरी लागू होने जा रही है। केंद्र के साथ एमयू पर हस्ताक्षर करने और 75 फीसद धन मुहैया करने के बावजूद दिल्ली सरकार ने इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड प्रोटेक्शन स्कीम को पूरी तरह से लागू करने में असमर्थता ज़ाहिर कर दी है। फिलहाल स्पांसरशिप स्कीम को लागू कर विषम परिस्थितियों में रह रहे बच्चों को कवर करने की योजना है, जबकि फास्टर केयर स्कीम को ठंडे बस्ते में डाल दिया गया है।

बालबिधा वृत्ति, बाल अपराध, बाल नशाखोरी, बेघर, सेस्वागत और विषम परिस्थितियों में रह रहे बच्चों को सामाजिक व आर्थिक सुरक्षा मुहैया कराने के लिए वर्ष 2009 में केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल कल्याण मंत्रालय के साथ दिल्ली सरकार ने एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे। गवर्नमेंट ऑफ सिविल सोसायटी पार्टनरशिप के तहत संचालित स्कीम को इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड प्रोटेक्शन स्कीम का नाम दिया गया। एमयू पर हस्ताक्षर होने के बाद दिल्ली के महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग की ओर से पहले से संचालित जुबिनाइल जस्टिस को जुबिनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड का नाम दे दिया गया। इसी तरह किशु गृह को एडवॉकेट प्रोग्राम में शामिल कर लिया गया और स्ट्रीट चिल्ड्रेन को ओपन शेल्टर होम में शामिल कर लिया गया। बाल कल्याण समिति, जुबिनाइल जस्टिस बोर्ड और चिल्ड्रेन होम संस्वागत प्रोग्राम में शामिल कर लिए गए। लेकिन ऐसे बच्चों के पुनर्वास के लिए स्पांसरशिप स्कीम और फास्टर केयर स्कीम को अभी तक लागू नहीं किया गया। हालांकि महिला एवं बाल कल्याण विभाग इंटीग्रेटेड चाइल्ड प्रोटेक्शन स्कीम को लागू करने के लिए

बकायदा एक विभाग स्थापित कर दिया और इस प्रोग्राम को लागू करने के लिए दो साल से सरकार से पत्राचार किया जा रहा है। फिलहाल सरकार ने स्पांसरशिप स्कीम को लागू करने के लिए मंजूरी दे दी है। इस स्कीम के क्रियान्वयन के लिए जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई का गठन कर लिया गया है। आधिकारिक सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के मुताबिक दिल्ली सरकार की ओर से दो जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई खोलने का निर्देश प्राप्त हुआ था। जिसके मद्देनजर उत्तरी और उत्तरी-पूर्वी दिल्ली को मिलाकर एक जिला

- ▶ स्पांसरशिप स्कीम के तहत विषम परिस्थितियों में रह रहे प्रत्येक बच्चे को दिया जाएगा 750 रुपए मासिक
- ▶ स्कीम के तहत दिल्ली के हर जिले में 5 लाख रुपए सालाना खर्च करने की योजना

बाल संरक्षण इकाई का गठन किया गया है, जबकि मध्य और पूर्वी जिला को मिलाकर दूसरा जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई का गठन किया गया है। स्पांसरशिप स्कीम के क्रियान्वयन के लिए हर जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई को प्रत्येक साल 5 लाख वित्तीय मदद दी जाएगी। 75 फीसदी अनुदान केंद्र सरकार वहन करेगी। इस स्कीम के तहत जितने अधिक बच्चे कवर होंगे वित्तीय राशि में भी बहोतरी होगी। हालांकि फास्टर केयर स्कीम क्यों नहीं लागू हो पा रही है, को लेकर अधिकारी मौन साधे हुए हैं। सूत्रों का कहना है कि वित्त विभाग से इस स्कीम के लिए मंजूरी नहीं मिली है। जबकि प्रधान सचिव विन स्टेट चाइल्ड प्रोटेक्शन सोसायटी के गवर्निंग बॉडी के सदस्य भी हैं।

क्या है स्पांसरशिप स्कीम : किसी संस्था या चिल्ड्रेन होम में रहने वाले बच्चों के परिवार का पता लगाकर उन्हें परिवार

से जोड़ा जाएगा। इसके लिए महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग स्पांसरशिप स्कीम के तहत बच्चों की परवरिश के लिए 750 रुपए मासिक मदद करेगा। एक परिवार से केवल दो बच्चों को ही इसका लाभ मिल सकेगा। हालांकि इस धन का सदुपयोग बच्चों की पढ़ाई-लिखाई व पालन-पोषण के लिए ही किया जा सकेगा। लाभान्वित परिवार को आर्थिक और सामाजिक स्थिति के बारे में जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई पता लगाएगी। इसके बाद ही इन्हें शामिल किया जाएगा। हर स्तर पर फालोअप करने की जिम्मेदारी जिला बाल संरक्षण इकाई की होगी ताकि गलत लोगों को इसका लाभ न मिल सके। स्पांसरशिप स्कीम जल्द ही लागू हो जाएगी। गौरतलब है कि 18 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को ही स्कीम का लाभ मिलेगा।

क्या है फास्टर केयर स्कीम : बेसहारा बच्चों को फास्टर केयर स्कीम के तहत में लाने की योजना है। खासतौर से वैसे बच्चे जिनके मां-बाप नहीं हैं उन्हें मामा-मौसी, चाचा, बुआ इत्यादि से संबंधों के घर रखकर पालन-पोषण किया जाए ताकि इन बच्चों को पारिवारिक माहौल मिल सके। फास्टर केयर स्कीम के तहत 750 रुपए दिए जाने की योजना है। लेकिन दिल्ली सरकार ने इस योजना को ठंडे बस्ते में डाल दिया है।

हजारों बच्चों को है सरकारी सुरक्षा की दरकार : एक एनजीओ द्वारा कहा गए सर्वे के मुताबिक मलिन बस्तियां और सड़क पर गुजर-बसर करने वाले बच्चों की संख्या लगभग 50 हजार है। इसके अलावा चिल्ड्रेन होम और शेल्टर होम में मिलाने लगभग 4 हजार बच्चे हैं। जिन्हें सरकारी मदद की दरकार है। स्पांसरशिप स्कीम लागू होने के बाद कितने बच्चों को कवर किया जा सकेगा, यह भविष्य के गर्भ में है।

Rashtriya Sahara, August 29, 2012, P.8

3 health projects set up for infants, moms

SULOGNA MEHTA | DC HYDERABAD, AUG. 7

The state government has commenced three new health programmes from Tuesday on a pilot basis at Bhadrachalam and Khammam. The projects include *Sishu Sanjeevani* (special care for newborn babies) to cut down on infant mortality rate; *Akshya* project (nutrition rehabilitation centres for thousands of children with malnutrition); and *Ammakulana* (support for mothers) a screening programme for pregnant mothers.



SISHU SANJEEVANI PROJECT: 44 special care units set up for newborn babies at Teaching, Area and District hospitals.

AKSHYA PROJECT: 33 nutritional rehabilitation centres to be set up in hospitals in rural and tribal areas.

AMMAKULANA PROJECT: Regular prenatal check-ups to be conducted for pregnant women.

Elaborating on project welfare said, "Under the *Sishu Sanjeevani* project, 44 special care units for newborns will be flagged off in Teaching, Area and District Hospitals. The 12 to 24-bed units will have four trained staff including a paediatrician, staff nurses and lab technician, along with relevant equipment to take care of high risk and sick newborns." The aim of the programme is to reduce infant mortality, which, as per the latest registration survey, is 46/1000 live births or 66,000 deaths per year.

Under the *Akshya* project, 33 nutritional rehabilitation centres with 10 to 20 beds are being set up in hospitals in rural and tribal areas. The centres will have a medical officer, staff nurse and nutritionist for clinical management and monitoring the growth of children. Even mothers, who bring their children to the NRCs would be compensated for any wage loss, informed Mr Prakash.

Cases of child malnutrition-related deaths in AF are the highest among the southern states, with 52 per cent children dying.

The *Ammakulana* programme was also inaugurated at Bhadrachalan Area Hospital on Tuesday. It entails ante-natal check-up of pregnant women and regular mobile alerts and services by health advisors added the commissioner.

Deccan Chronicle, August 08, 2012, P.2

NAC meeting tomorrow to discuss National Health Mission

Government plans to roll out 12th Five Year Plan

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The National Advisory Council (NAC) is meeting here on Friday to sort out differences between the Planning Commission and the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare over the proposed National Health Mission.

The Government plans to roll out the 12th Five Year Plan. Implementation of the Universal Health Coverage, as recommended by the High Level Expert Group, will also be discussed.

The Planning Commission wants the scope of the existing National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to be expanded to towns and rename it as the National Health Mission, whereas the Health Ministry has been pitching for a separate National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) for the urban poor. The two could be subsequently merged into a National Health Mission, it has maintained.

Chaired by United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi, the task of the National Advisory Council is to provide inputs in the formulation of policy by the gov-

ernment and to provide support to the government in its legislative business.

The NAC has special focus on social policy and the rights of the disadvantaged groups. It comprises professionals from diverse fields of development activities who serve in their individual capacities.

The Health Ministry has made it clear to the Planning Commission that the draft of the chapter on health in the 12th Plan document proposes an omnibus National Health Mission and the way it has been articulated was fraught with the danger of neglect of rural areas, which require more attention.

"The health set-ups in rural areas, more or less, conform to a uniform pattern while in the urban areas the health set up varies widely not only from State to State but also for different categories of local bodies within a State such as mega cities, metropolitan cities or municipal town. Hence, there cannot be a uniform approach for both rural and urban areas," the Health Ministry said in a formal communication to the Planning Commission. It will stick to the same stand in the NAC meeting also.

The Cabinet has already approved the continuation of the NRHM during the 12th Plan and a separate proposal for the NUHM is under formulation.

'Report used selectively'

The Health Ministry has also pointed out that the HLEG report on Universal Health Coverage seems to have been used rather selectively and focus has been on a managed care approach with an enhanced role for the private sector. The suggested pilot models heavily promote corporatisation of health.

"The Ministry has been advocating developing a strong public health system to be supplemented by private sector participation. This has also been highlighted by HLEG, which advocates strengthening on primary care as well as district hospitals," it said.

On the issue of UHC, the Ministry strongly feels that it can become a reality only if requisite investment is made in the public sector, which now suffers from serious shortages in terms of infrastructure, machinery and equipment and human resources on account of histor-

ical underinvestment.

"Therefore, we must strengthen the public health systems at all levels while focussing on primary and secondary care. Though this could be supplemented through private sector participation, there is no denying that private hospitals are concentrated as well as interested only in urban centres. A vast majority of the population living in remote rural areas have no access to such facilities and cannot afford them. We need to build on the gains of the Eleventh Plan and guard against weakening of programmes that have yielded positive results, like the NRHM," the official note said.

The Approach Paper to the 12th Plan has clearly indicated that the government should aim at raising total health expenditure to 2.5 per cent of the gross domestic product by the end of the Plan. This fact has also been reiterated in different forum. However, the draft chapter on health indicates a total public investment on health in the 12th Plan to be only 1.58 per cent of GDP as against the suggested 2.5 per cent.

The Hindu, August 23, 2012, P.7

NRHM to be expanded to towns also, says Manmohan

Aarti Dhar

NEW DELHI: The government will expand the scope of the NRHM to all towns and cities, by converting it into a National Health Mission (NHM), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced on Wednesday.

In his Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort here, he said the government was also formulating a new scheme for distribution of free medicines through public hospitals and health centres.

The NHM would be launched in a couple of years by merging the National Rural Health Mission and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), which is likely to be put into place early next year.

"After the success of the NRHM, we now want to expand the scope of health services in our towns also. The National Rural Health Mission will be converted into a National Health Mission which would cover all villages and towns."

The NRHM, a flagship scheme of the Congress-led UPA government, was launched in 2005 to provide better health services in remote and rural areas.

"Today this Mission is being implemented with the help of 10 lakh health personnel, including 8.5 lakh ASHA workers," Dr. Singh said. The Accredited Social Health Activists are local women trained to act as health educators and facil-

itators in the community.

The then President, Pratibha Patil, made these announcements earlier, in her address to the joint session of Parliament in March. She said the government would endeavour to increase both Plan and Non-Plan public expenditure at the Centre and in the States taken together to 2.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), by the end of the 12th Plan period.

The government credits the NRHM with a number of successes and made a strong case for launching the NUHM to cover towns and cities with a large slum population. Since 2005, the infant mortality rate had declined from 58 per thousand live births in 2005 to 47 in 2010 and maternal mortality from 254 per one lakh deliveries in 2004-2006 to 212 in 2007-2009. The Janani Suraksha Yojana regis-

tered impressive gains with 1.13 crore women benefiting during 2010-11.

Thrust on urban areas

In its proposals to the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the NUHM would be taken up as a thrust area under the 12th Plan and launched as a separate mission for urban areas with the focus on slums and the urban poor. It will cover 779

cities and towns with a population of more than 50,000 each, including the megacities of Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

The budget allocation for the mission is envisaged at Rs. 30,000 crore which will be invested in recruitment of health professionals, creation and upgrade of infrastructure and strengthening of the health care service de-

livery system.

The NUHM will cover the entire urban areas (including the general population, and listed and unlisted slums), but outreach services will be targeted at slum or slum-like areas and other homeless people, street vendors, railway and bus station workers, street children, and construction site workers. Inter-sectoral convergence will be planned among the Jawaharlal Nehru National

Urban Renewal Mission, the Rajiv Awas Yojana and the NUHM, according to the proposal.

Primary care

At the primary care level, one Urban Primary Health Centre will be established for every 50,000-60,000 people.

At the community level, outreach services will be provided to urban poor slums with the help of Urban

Social Health Activists (USHA) – one for every 200-500 households – and activists from the Mahila Arogya Samiti (one for every 50-100 households). No sub-centres are proposed but communication will be made possible through the Mahila Arogya Samiti and the Rogi Kalyan Samiti, while secondary and tertiary level services will be provided through public or empanelled private providers.

The Hindu, August 16, 2012, P.10

'Defining adolescent won't help child rights'

CONTRADICTIONS GALORE NGOs say Union cabinet's decision on child labour law will only complicate matters

Chetan Chauhan

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NEW DELHI: A decision taken by the Union cabinet on Tuesday to define adolescents in the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition) Act may make its implementation more difficult, instead of providing a solution to the problem, activists feel.

Cases related to child labour are dealt under the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, which does not contain any definition for adolescents. "The new contradiction created in the two laws will only help child traffickers," said Raj Mangal Prasad of Pratidhi, an NGO.

According to the Juvenile Justice Act (JJ Act), all those below the age of 18 are children, and it has a specific clause that provides for prosecution of those involved in child labour and rehabilitation of child labourers. However, in cases pertaining to adolescents, prosecuting somebody under the JJ Act will become difficult because it does not identify this very category of children.

As per the cabinet decision, those in the age group of 14-18 years cannot be employed in hazardous industries listed under a schedule. It has banned any kind of labour until the person attains the age of 14.

Prasad, formerly the head of south Delhi's child welfare committee, said there was a need to harmonise the two laws for better implementation and, instead of adolescents, a sub-category of children could be created to make application of the JJ Act easy.

India has ratified the United Nations Convention on Child Rights in 1991, which defines

DIFFERENT DEFINITIONS

- **Child Labour Prohibition Act:** Adolescents are between 14 and 18 years
- **Minimum Wages Act:** Those between 14 and 18 years (allowing them to gain employment)
- **Factories Act:** Those between 15 and 18 years
- **Juvenile Justice Act:** No definition for adolescents. Defines those below 18 as children
- **United Nations Convention on Child Rights:** Defines those below 18 as children.

humans below the age of 18 as children. Consequently, the JJ Act was amended in 2000.

The recently approved Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Bill has just one definition of children - anybody below eighteen. The draft National Child Policy also defines a child as somebody below the age of 18.

The contradiction does not end here. Two laws governing employability - the Factories Act and the Minimum Wages Act - have different definitions for adolescents. While the Factories Act defines children in the 15-19 age group as adolescents, the Minimum Wages Act describes them as persons between 14 and 18 years.

Also, while the exposure draft of the national youth policy describes persons between 16 and 21 as adolescents, the national health policy terms them as those between 11 and 19.

Screening in the garb of interaction at NCR schools

Shasweti Das

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WHAT RTE?

NEW DELHI: This year, parents seeking admission for their children in the NCR schools must first brush up on their general knowledge, followed by gaining expertise in good parenting. For they would be expected express their 'views about the current education scenario' and articulate their understanding of the parenting skills during the interaction with the school authorities at the time of admission.

Some schools have even come up with questionnaires for screening the parents and children, which violates the Right to Education Act.

"The questionnaire was very detailed and had questions on the child's grandparents' qualifications, characteristics that best apply to our child, our parenting skills and what we would do if the child was involved in a particular situation in school," said Navneet Singh, who had been called for an interaction to Amity International School (Vasundhara).

Though Right to Education Act (RTE) states, "No school or person shall subject the child or his or her parents or guardian to any screening procedure," schools claim that they were not flouting the law, justifying the questionnaire as a "friendly interaction method".

"This questionnaire has been designed for admissions at all Amity Schools. Parents are asked to fill it up to get more information about the child and his family background. There are some parameters that we need to look at since we don't meet the child, but in this case no RTE guidelines are being violated," said a spokesperson for Amity International Schools. Parents who had been called



Children were asked to colour and identify objects. HI PHOTO

• Schools in NCR claimed that there is no clarity on RTE guidelines, because of which schools have to frame their own admission policies

skills and opinions on the education scenario

• Some other NCR schools asked the children to colour objects and identify them

• Schools that were following the lottery system, have asked parents to bring the child along, since it creates a 'pleasant atmosphere'

"Most schools are screening kids and parents. Some schools are even taking written tests. The schools are claiming that they have not received any notification regarding RTE."

Sumit Vohra, founder of www.admissionsnursery.com

"This interaction has been designed to make the child feel comfortable. We don't expect correct answers but the questions are so designed that the child answers spontaneously."

Kamini Bhasin, principal, DPS Noida

for interaction by other schools such as Delhi Public School (DPS), Noida, claimed that they were required to fill in a questionnaire after which the child was taken to a room where he/she was asked to colour, match and identify objects.

"Most of the schools are screening kids and parents and even taking written tests. The excuse given by the schools is that they have not received any notification from directorate of education regarding RTE," said

Sumit Vohra, founder of www.admissionsnursery.com

However, school officials defended the move, claiming that it was being done to acquaint the child with the school atmosphere. "This interaction has been designed as a casual talk with the child to make him/her feel comfortable. We don't expect correct answers but the questions are so designed that the child answers spontaneously," said Kamini Bhasin, principal, DPS Noida.

Hindustan Times, August 28, 2012, P.2

Hindustan Times, August 31, 2012, P.13

EDUCATION BILL: BAR COUNCIL DEFERS PROTEST

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Bar Council of India (BCI) has decided to defer its agitation against the controversial Higher Education and Research (HER) Bill after HRD minister Kapil Sibal assured that necessary amendments will be carried out to address the concerns of lawyers.

The BCI, which regulates legal profession and education in the country, was to organise a dharna at Jantar Mantar in the Capital against the bill on Wednesday followed by a rally across the country on August 27.

"Sibal agreed to make all necessary amendments in the Higher Education and Research Bill 2011 and other connected bills. He has also given assurance in writing that the powers vested with Bar Council of India and state bar councils will not be affected by the bills", BCI chairman Manan Kumar Mishra said in a letter to state bar councils. BCI contends the bill is aimed at usurping its control over legal education. It says the government is trying to undermine the authority of elected bodies of advocates.

Children aged 6-14 yrs shouldn't be paying fees

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 18

Specifying that it's easy for the government to pass Acts but difficult to implement them, Justice L. Narsimha Reddy of Andhra Pradesh High Court on Saturday said it's a "Western approach to just confer a bundle of rights".

Addressing a national seminar on 'Right to Education: Constitutional Dynamics' at Icfai University campus in Shankarpally, Justice Reddy said the ideal

teacher-student ratio in primary schools should be 1:30, and emphasised the need for education among school dropouts.

Speaking at the seminar, Professor Shanta Sinha, chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said: "Children between six and 14 years should be totally exempted from paying any school fee, not even on the pretext of library charges or for festivals. They shouldn't be forced to produce birth or transfer certificates, as this clause pre-

vents school admission and results in a large number of dropouts."

Professor Shanta Sinha also said children should be admitted in classes appropriate for their age with proper training, and that there shouldn't be any detention, screening test or corporal punishment for children.

Moreover, every institution should have a school management committee and most parents should have a role in them in a bid to democratise schools, Ms Sinha said.

Deccan Chronicle, August 19, 2012, P.2

Hindustan Times, August 08, 2012, P.13

Minority schools can't dodge RTE

Centre brings out a notification enforcing implementation of the amended RTE Act

Puja Pednekar

Now, even private minority unaided schools will have to take in 25% children from the weaker sections. The central government has issued a notification enforcing the latest amendment in the existing Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009).

Following the notification, the state will soon enforce the amendment across all schools except theological schools such as *madrassas* and *vedic pathshalas*.

DNA had exclusively reported about the amendment on August 3. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory



Education (Amendment) Act, 2012, that received the president's assent on June 19, states that only *madrassas*, *vedic pathshalas* and educational institutions primarily imparting religious instruction will be exempted from the Act.

As per the notification up-

loaded on the Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad website dated August 1, schools will have to enforce this amendment immediately.

Sanjay Deshmukh, currently holding additional charge as the special project director of the Sarva Shiksha

NO EXEMPTION

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2012 states only *madrassas*, *vedic pathshalas* & institutions imparting religious edu will be exempt

As per the notification uploaded on the state website on Aug 1, all schools must enforce the amendment immediately

While minority institutions have claimed the move to be against their constitutional rights, educationists have welcomed the amendment

in the state."

Minority schools are unhappy with the amendment. Rohan Bhat, head of Children's Academy Group of Schools said, "The government has not interpreted the amendment fairly. It goes against the constitutional rights of minority institutions."

However, educationists say that this is a welcome amendment. Jayant Jain, president of the Forum for Fairness in Education, said, "So far, schools had been unfairly seeking cover under the minority tag. One school even went to the heights of acquiring a minority certificate from the National Commission."

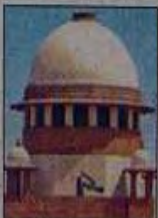
"In reality, these schools have less than 50% minority students. This amendment will ensure that such schools will be penalised if they do not follow the Act. The government should also ensure strict implementation," he added.

D.N.A., August 22, 2012, P.8

बलात्कार की शिकार बच्ची के आंसू कानूनी सबूत नहीं

विवेक वार्धोय/एसएनबी

नई दिल्ली। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि अदालत की चौखट पर बलात्कार की शिकार बच्ची की आंखों से बहने वाले आंसुओं के आधार पर अभियुक्त को दोषी नहीं ठहराया जा सकता। आंसू भले ही बच्ची के दर्द और पीड़ा की दस्तान बयां कर रहे हों लेकिन बालिका को अशुभरा को कानूनी सबूत में तब्दील नहीं किया जा सकता। इस तरह के केस यकीनन अदालत की अंतरात्मा को सालते हैं। लेकिन कानून अदालत को शक और अनुमान के बूते पर सजा देने की अनुमति नहीं देता।



► ऐसे केस अदालत की अंतरात्मा को सालते हैं पर उसे सिर्फ सबूतों पर गौर करना चाहिए

जस्टिस आफताब आलम और रंजना प्रकाश देसाई की बेंच ने विकलांग बच्ची से बलात्कार के आरोप में पुलिस कॉस्टेबल को सात साल की सजा देने के आग्र प्रवेश हाईकोर्ट के फैसले को फलटते हुए यह टिप्पणी की। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि ट्रायल कोर्ट में बच्ची का आचरण उसके साथ हुई वीभत्स और शर्मनाक वारदात को बिना कहे बयां कराता है। सात-आठ साल की बच्ची का अदालत के कटपरे में खड़े अभियुक्त को देखकर रोना और फिर भाग जाना, अपनेआप में सारी दस्तान कहता है। लेकिन जब बच्ची के माता-पिता ही पुलिस में दिए गए बयान से मुकर गए हों और मेडिकल सबूत अभियुक्त का दोष साबित करने में अপর्याप्त हों तो ऐसे में किसी को गुनहगर ठहराना कानूनी रूप से वाजिब नहीं है।

बेंच की ओर से फैसला लिखते हुए जस्टिस रंजना देसाई ने कहा कि शक की सुई निश्चित रूप से अभियुक्त पुलिस कॉस्टेबल के बोहद नजदीक है लेकिन अदालत में पेश किए गए सबूत सिपाही को जेल की सलाखों के पीछे भेजने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह भी कहा कि एक छोटे से गांव में सिपाही के रुतबे से हम सभी वाकिफ हैं। उसके भय या दबंगई के आगे गवाहों ने अदालत में घुटने टेक लिए हों, इस संभावना से भी इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता। माता-पिता, पीड़ित बच्चे के साथियों ने भी अभियोजन पक्ष का साथ नहीं दिया। सिपाही को उसके साथियों ने भी भरपूर सहयोग दिया। इसीलिए जांच में ऐसे अहम सबूत नहीं जुटाए गए।

(शेष पेज 2)

Govt to go textbook on RTI, extol its virtues in school

Chetan Chauhan

chetan@hindustantimes.com

IN THE CLASSROOM

NEW DELHI: On the very day the central government notified new rules diluting the Right To Information Act (RTI Act), the HRD ministry decided to make the ironical decision of telling school children that the transparency law was an effective tool for fighting corruption and effecting good governance.

The National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has decided to print an RTI message in textbooks for classes from VI to VIII, stating that the law combats corruption and "promotes transparency and accountability" in the government machinery.

The message - to be displayed on the inner side of textbook back covers - is expected to reach nearly one crore students in 2012.

Besides creating awareness, the initiative will encourage children to use the tool for seeking information from the govern-

ment. "The RTI message, printed on the back cover of textbooks, will list out its benefits - including ways in which the law can help curb corruption and increase transparency in government dealings

Encourage children to use the tool for seeking information

from the government

Elaborate on the ways in which one can fill out an RTI application, and send it to the authorities concerned.

Inform children of their rights, and the issues to keep in mind while making an query.



School, Lucknow, made headlines when her RTI application revealed that the government had not notified Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation.

The message tells students that the RTI application can be filed on plain paper, even though several government ministries have prescribed a particular format for using it. The application can be sent from a post office too, it adds,

Schoolchildren, however, are no strangers to the RTI Act.

They have used the tool to gain access to their answer sheets, and even seek information on facilities available to them. Aishwarya Parashar, a class VI student from City Montessori

Hindustan Times, August 20, 2012, P.10

बलात्कार की शिकार बच्ची के आंसू...

वारदात के पांच दिन बाद अभियुक्त को गिरफ्तार किया गया। बच्ची के साथ बलात्कार की पुष्टि विक्रमकोय जांच में हुई लेकिन बलात्कार किसने किया, इसके लिए अभियुक्त के कपड़ों पर पड़े खून और वीर्य के दाग को जांच के लिए नहीं भेजा गया। ऐसे में अभियुक्त को दोषी करार देना ठीक नहीं है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अभियुक्त को बरी करने के ट्रायल कोर्ट के फैसले को जायज बताया और हाईकोर्ट के निर्णय को गलत कहा।

Deccan Herald, August 20, 2012, P.4

NAC TO TONE DOWN RTE RIGIDITY

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• OUR BUREAU
New Delhi

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three years of implementation of the Act, i.e. in 2013.

The draft note prepared by NAC member and social worker Anu Aga from Pune, who became a nominated Rajya Sabha member in May, for discussion in the council's meeting on August 25 says some of the provisions in the Act are not realistic.

She points out the fundamental defect in the Act is too much input-driven, with very little stress on output in

terms of the quality education that children should get up to 14 years of age free of cost. Some of the provisions that the NAC will ask the government to tone down are, however, pursued vigorously by Human Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal who insists that no school should be allowed to provide even the minimum infrastructure necessary for imparting proper education. The note says some of the provisions mandatory in the

Act like the school to have a library, a playground, boundary wall and at least one classroom for each teacher are stringent criteria that all schools may not be able to meet and may face derecognition unless the Act is amended in time.

It points out that the Act should leave flexibility to the school managements as stressed by many educationists to remove too much stress on the infrastructure standards. "All such require-

ments are wonderful, but they do not ensure quality education," Anu Aga said.

Another NAC member Miral Chatterjee said, "While we want the government to enable adherence to norms, we also want them to allow the Act to be a little flexible. We don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water by forcing the government model of library boundary wall and all that."

She referred in particular the innovative schooling models such as Gyanashala schools in Ahmedabad run by an NGO and meant for out-of-school slum children. There are such schools in Delhi, Mumbai and many other cities, who will be

forced to shut down if the rigid criteria of the teachers' qualification and minimum 45 instruction hours a week are forced on them.

These schools are doing a great service to educate the neglected children, including rag-pickers and home workers, who are taught by the untrained teachers who may not have the requisite qualifications prescribed in the Act, the NAC members point out.

The NAC is also trying to prepare proposals for ensuring better integration of the poor students with the rest of the class in private schools. These students are admitted under the 25 per cent quota for economically

backward sections. As Anu Aga points out, the unaided schools have started admitting such children but they have no clue how to make them feel included. She suggests some guidelines for inclusive growth.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's
SARDAR PATEL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Mumbai Nagar, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400 058.
Tel: 26707440, 26708539 • Website: www.spiit.ac.in

ADMISSION FOR VACANT SEAT AFTER CAP ROUND III AND VACANT SEATS AT INSTITUTE LEVEL FOR 2012-13

Applications are invited for vacant seats in First Year Engineering from candidates satisfying eligibility as per DTE's FE Admission Information brochure for 2012-13.

The admission will be given strictly on the basis of Merit of MHT-CET-2012. The application forms can be obtained and submitted in person on payment of Rs. 800/- in cash on 17th, 18th & 21st August 2012 from 10.30 a.m. to 04.00 p.m. in the office.

Display of merit list on 21.08.2012 at 05.00 p.m. and admission by counselling on 22.08.2012 at 02.00 p.m.

The detailed schedule and vacancy position will be displayed on the notice board and college website on 21.08.2012.

PRINCIPAL

The Free Press, August 17, 2012, P.3

Success in NREGA should be carried on, says Manik

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, Aug 11 – Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar has said that the success in the process of implementation of MGNREGA should be continued in the days to come.

In the last year (2011-12), the total job generation was 86.47 percent, which was well ahead of the national average of 42 percent. Tripura had topped the NREGA implementation with creation of 86.47 mandays (average) and neighbouring Mizoram came up second with 72.48 mandays.

Whereas other big States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra are lagging far behind in implementing MGNREGA. Out of total

job card holders (6.02 lakh), about 94.15 percent card holders were given job under the national flagship programme.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a review meeting of the State Employment Guarantee Council at Civil Secretariat on Friday. In the meeting, Sarkar directed the authority of RD Department to increase the mandays compared to last the fiscal year.

"The job generation which was achieved last year should not be reduced during the current financial year," he told in the meeting, which was attended by Finance Minister Badal Chowdhury and RD Minister Jitendra Chowdhury.

In the financial year 2011-12, the Union Ministry for Rural

Development under MGNREGA had approved a budget proposal of Rs 104230 lakh but the sanctioned amount was Rs 99475.29 lakh. The minimum wage for last fiscal year was Rs 118 and from this year the wage will be Rs 124. Payments are made directly through various banks at present in all 994 village panchayats and village committees.

Under MGNREGA, 83,683 permanent assets have been created in the State in the last fiscal year. Among them significant assets include road connectivity in 18775 villages, 16909 water harvesting projects, 7373 micro irrigation projects, 6306 various irrigation projects and renovation of 4638 water bodies.

The Assam Tribune, August 12, 2012, P.7

Hindu Marriage Act amendments draw flak

TEENA THACKER
NEW DELHI, AUG. 10

The recently-cleared amendments to the marriage laws by the Cabinet, which allow equal share of residential property to wife and children, has not gone down well with NGOs as about 40 such organisations from all over India have decided to protest against the new divorce bill next week.

If passed, the amended bill will give women a

clearly-defined share in their husband's immovable property, including that acquired before marriage. As per the recent amendments, a wife would now be eligible to oppose the husband's plea for divorce under the new irretrievable breakdown of marriage clause, the husband on the other hand will not have such a right if the wife moves the court on the same grounds.

"This is total injustice and against any natural

justice system of the world. The property accrued before marriage, either spouse should not have any right, as there is no contribution of the other spouse to that, the contribution to be considered only on the property made after marriage and any claim to other's property to be allowed if only the marriage obligation is more than 10 years," said a senior representative from Save Family Foundation.

While, the new amend-

ments have already received flak from the BJP, many organisations working for the cause of men have also submitted their objections to a Parliament committee. Expressing that this the new amendments (if passed) will create disharmony, huge litigation in courts for property disputes, increase of crime, NGOs have decided to protest against the proposed amendments at Jantar Mantar next week.

According to another

proposed amendment — 13D (1) — where the wife is the respondent to a petition for the dissolution of marriage by a decree of divorce under Section 13C, she may oppose the grant of decree on the ground that the dissolution of the marriage will result in grave financial hardship to her and that in all circumstances be wrong to dissolve the marriage. The NGOs say that the right to "oppose" should be given to both the parties.

The Asian Age, August 11, 2012, P.4

'Implement guidelines against sexual harassment in courts'

Women Lawyers Demand Enforcement Of 1997 Vishaka Judgment

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Fifteen years after it laid down guidelines to protect women against sexual harassment at workplace, women advocates on Tuesday appealed to the Supreme Court to examine implementing them at their workplace — the court premises.

Pent-up frustration over the years against absence of any mechanism for protection at their workplace made the women lawyers seek intervention in an appeal filed by an advocate challenging his conviction by the Delhi high court on contempt of court charges for allegedly behaving indecently and assaulting a lady colleague in a courtroom on January 13, 2012.

When a bench of Justices T S Thakur and Gyan Sudha Mishra adjourned hearing on the appeal



SEEKING JUSTICE

to permit the contemnor to file reply to the victim's affidavit, senior advocate Indu Malhotra requested the bench to examine extending the protection of 1997 judgement in Vishaka case to women lawyers, who are proposing to file an application in this regard.

In Vishaka judgment, SC had said, "Each incident of sexual harassment of working women results in violation of fundamental rights of 'Gender Equality' and

the 'Right to Life and Liberty'....One of the logical consequences of such incidents is also the violation of the victim's fundamental rights to practice any profession."

The HC had taken serious note of the January 13 incident and sought an explanation from the advocate as to why he physically abused the woman lawyer. It even suggested recording of statement by the joint registrar in whose court the incident happened.

But the contemnor categorically stated there was no need of it as he was admitting the incident as reported by the lady lawyer. This led the HC to convict him for contempt of court. The contemnor appealed in SC, saying, "The HC order was not based on any inquiry. The appellant was denied the opportunity of a fair trial as his unconditional apology was inter-

preted as admission of guilt."

The victim in her affidavit told the SC that "the contemnor himself did not allow recording of statements because he was afraid the truth would be recorded in black and white, afraid that the independent persons who had narrated the incident in their own words would get the same reduced in writing and he would have to face full punishment under the IPC and other Acts. To avoid this, he admitted his guilt."

But the contemnor's advocate said heeding to the advice of senior members of the Delhi HC Bar Association to tender unconditional apology proved detrimental to him as he was punished for contempt of court, a charge of which the lady advocate was equally guilty of as she was the one who first assaulted him and he had reacted in reflex.

The Times of India, August 01, 2012, P.9

Celebrating the Spirit of Womanhood on Independence Day

Be - aware Be - assertive Be - empowered

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Constitution of India. There are legislations to help meet the concerns:

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 provides immediate protection and support to the victims of domestic violence
- The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 prohibits demanding and giving of dowry
- The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 prevents the improper representation of women through advertisement, publication, and writing or in any other manner
- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 does not allow the marriage of a girl below 18 years and a boy below 21 years
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 provides protection to children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography
- The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 prevents trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation.



Ministry of Women & Child Development
Government of India
www.wcd.nic.in



Deccan Chronicle, August 15, 2012, P.13

Don't disable her right to go to school

Many children with disabilities (not "disabled children" as they are children first and the disability happens to be one of their many characteristics) like Mira (name changed) have historically been excluded from mainstream education. Legislation has played a crucial role in changing this scenario. Parliament recently passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. This Act has been amended lately.

Also, India has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which mandates equal rights, outlines non-discrimination in the context of disability and inclusion. How have these moves impacted on children with disabilities like Mira who have been "pushed out" of the system and many others who have been invisible for too long?

Mixed response

Most often when we talk about educating a child, we think about school and believe that true learning can only take place within the four walls of a formal classroom. However education occurs in many different forms and environments. The recent amendments regarding an option for home-based education for children with severe and multiple disabilities are based on this latter outlook. The amendments have received a mixed response. What are the implications for children with disabilities like Mira? Although the law does give a choice and an option for home-based education to parents, did Mira's mother really have a choice? Parents of children with severe and multiple disabilities are particularly vulnerable because society often does not see the point of their child going to the school and thus may not provide the required support. Parents, particularly those with meagre resources, have an unequal relationship with the system and this is evident from how their children are "pushed out" of the system more easily.

Again Mira's story is an example in point.

Post-amendment, voices have argued that home is the natural and first place for life-long education for all children and thus why should we legally legitimise it for children with high support needs? If we are legitimising it, then why only for children with high support needs, and not for a child who is excessively shy or for a child with a different learning style? Should they also not be given an option? Why do we not think about asking children their own choice for the type of schooling they want to opt for? Should they not have a voice in a matter that affects their life?

Objective

Is education only for personal gain or does it also offer benefits for the general growth of an entire community providing a place for children, youth and adults to interact, socialise, and unify societies? If we agree with the latter, then clearly home-schooling cannot really provide for this goal. Having ratified the CRPD, will categorising children as those with "high support needs" or not be appropriate? The Convention sees disability as part of human diversity and therefore persons with disabilities as equally valued members of society. It underscores the fact that disability is not just a medical issue. People become disabled because of all the social, cultural, economic, political and other factors that prevent them from participating fully in society.

We also need to consider what are the opportunities available for children with disability from the large population of migrants. Who would identify and certify the children as severely disabled for providing the home-based education programme? What would be the kind of curriculum and standard of pedagogical principles followed? How often will these children be visited and by what kind of professionals? What kind of support will parents entrenched in the daily grind of making ends meet be able to provide? Furthermore, are we in a position to provide the required support such as rehabilitation services at home, social security for the family, and personal assistance for the child everywhere in the country? Who would monitor them if they are abused or given corporal punishment? How will the children in home-based education access the midday meal or other such incentives? Will not the state be shirking its responsibility to improve mainstream education systems to

better respond to differences and diversity of learning and learners if we start labelling children as "uneducable" within the education system? There is also a possibility of misuse. For example the parents of a partially deaf girl or a girl with low vision may not be able to escape the inclination to opt for home-based education possibly due to social or financial constraints. In addition, discrimination often has multiple dimensions such as a girl child with disability who may find herself "doubly disadvantaged" on account of her gender and disability and may remain uneducated for life.

Towards inclusion

Home-based education may have a negative or perhaps even a regressive impact on teachers' attitudes as the responsibility to address different learning needs is passed to

special educators in-charge of home based education. This will mean moving away from the principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. Many argue that the current regular schools do not offer any relevant service for children with high support needs. A few feel that children with multiple disabilities, low functioning intellectual disabilities, the deaf-blind, the autistic, and others such as those with a high level of osteoporosis will definitely need the home-based option. The counter argument is how can systematic changes be planned if these children remain hidden at home unseen, unheard and unknown to anyone? How will children learn to live together, respect differences and diversity and realise each other's strengths and weaknesses? How will we move towards building inclusive societies if our schools are not inclusive?

Home-based education cannot be the only alternative. It can at best be considered a preparation for including children with a strong will to bring them back into the mainstream. We will know how progressive this move is as we build research into the implementation of the RTE Act with its amendments. What stands out clearly though is the need for concerted efforts to make provisions in the Act a reality. And to make parents having to sign declarations absolving schools of their responsibility of children with disabilities (as Mira's mother had to do) an action of the past. Let us join hands to make schooling and life a happy experience for all children, acknowledging, respecting and celebrating diversity as enriching humanity and a normal aspect of society. Our efforts ought to be geared towards "All for the children, for all the children including Mira".

(Anupam Ahuja works in the Department of Groups with Special Needs at the National Council of Educational Research and Training and has three decades of experience in the field of education. ahujaa56@gmail.com)

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have no clue how to make them feel included. She suggests some guidelines for inclusive growth.

The Free Press, August 17, 2012, P.3

Children empowered to monitor RTE

BANGALORE: Schoolchildren are being empowered to oversee proper implementation of India's ambitious education-for-all law.

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore has created a Right to Education (RTE) Vigilance committee comprising children - since they are undisputedly the most important stakeholders in education.

"Numerous committees involving all other stakeholders are in existence. We felt there has to be a body comprising children themselves for better implementation of the Act," said Niranjan Aradhya, a fellow at the Centre for Child and the Law NLSIU, while speaking to *Deccan Herald*.

This comes close on the heels of a RTE Task Force involving parents formed by child rights activists in the City last week.

The Vigilance Committee has been currently set up in Bannikuppe of Ramangar taluk. From here it plans to ex-



pand to other towns across the state. If there are loopholes in the implementation of the Act, it is the children who will come to know about it first, argue its proponents. To identify these lacunae, students have to be empowered with relevant information. This is what the committee has set out to do, said Aradhya. The committee

would be studied for its effectiveness for about four months before taking it up in other places.

The committee, which is right now at the Bannikuppe Grampanchayat-level, covers 14 schools. From two representatives (a girl and a boy) each school were elected by students themselves.

Later, all the elected students representatives elected their leaders for the vigilance committee. The students were given training on the nuances and processes involving the RTE Act.

The children's vigilance committee will co ordinate with school teachers and the School Development Monitoring Committees (SDMC) to effectively implement RTE. The students will give written complaints to SDMC and Panchayat members if they come across violation of child rights. The children will also create awareness about child labour and child marriage in their villages apart from educating their peers about the Act and about child rights.

The Centre for Child and the Law at NLSIU also aspires to strengthen the movement of Bal Panchayat, which involves children in the decision-making process at the village panchayat level, through this move.

DH News Service

Dainik Jagran, August 19, 2012, P.1, contd. on P.2

5.4 Miscellaneous- Newsclips from Monthly Newspaper

Lok Panchayat (April-August 2012)

राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग ने उत्कृष्ट महिलाओं को सम्मानित किया

नई दिल्ली, लोप ब्यूरो
राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग (एनसीडब्ल्यू) ने आपदाओं के विरुद्ध लड़ने में अदम्य साहस की प्रतीक और महिलाओं के अधिकारों के लिए कार्य करने के प्रति समर्पित उत्कृष्ट महिलाओं को आज सम्मानित किया। सम्मानित की गई महिलाओं के नाम इस प्रकार हैं- आरती दीक्षित (कानपुर), डा अंजना गोस्वामी (गुवाहाटी), अरमा खानम, बेगिया

दीप्ति त्रको (अरुणाचल प्रदेश), चंदा जरीवाला (महाराष्ट्र), गीता देवी (राजस्थान), डा. इला पाठक, कृष्णा यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश), लिली थामस, मानसी प्रधान (ओडीशा), मंजुला रथ, मनु हरि पाठक, मीनाक्षी अरोरा, डा. एम. सिंह, मुकेश देवी (हरियाणा), प्रमिला देवी (बिहार), सिस्टर प्रेमा, रेहाना बेगम (पुदुचेरी), डा. सरोजिनी प्रीतम और डा. शकुंतला शर्मा।

यह कार्यक्रम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला

दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम के दौरान राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष ममता शर्मा ने "भारत में लिंग समानता की जानकारी" रिपोर्ट जारी की। यह रिपोर्ट भारत की जनगणना, जिला स्तर गृहस्थी सर्वेक्षण, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण जैसे अनेक स्रोतों से प्राप्त द्वितीयक आंकड़ों की विस्तृत प्रस्तुति और विश्लेषण है। समानता के सूचकों को तीन विशिष्ट श्रेणियों अर्थात् महिलाओं का अस्तित्व, महिलाओं की आजादी और महिलाओं की विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उपस्थिति में विभाजित किया गया है। इस रिपोर्ट में महिलाओं की विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उपस्थिति पर एक अध्याय में व्यावसायिक पेशे सहित राजनीतिक भागीदारी के सभी क्षेत्रों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी के आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं।



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महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री से मिले सामुदायिक संगठन



नई दिल्ली, लो.पं. ब्यूरो

केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ से विपरीत लिंगी, यौनकर्मियों और गरीब शहरी लोगों के लिए काम करने वाले आन्ध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिम बंगाल और महाराष्ट्र के सामुदायिक संगठनों ने मुलाकात की। इन संगठनों के प्रतिनिधियों ने अपनी समस्याओं और अपने काम की वजह से हो रहे सामाजिक भेद भाव और कलंक की समस्याओं और मुद्दों से उन्हें अवगत कराया। उन्होंने श्रीमती तीरथ को बताया कि उनकी बहुत सारी समस्याएं उनके काम की प्रकृति और स्थायी पते के अभाव की वजह से हो रही हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि इसी कारण वे सरकार की कई योजनाओं का लाभ नहीं उठा पाते। उनकी एक अहम आवश्यकता उनके और उनके बच्चों के लिए सुरक्षित आवास की है।

उन्होंने सरकारी अधिकारियों से अपनी मुलाकात के दौरान होने वाली समस्याओं से भी मंत्री को अवगत कराया। प्रतिनिधियों ने सामुदायिक संगठनों द्वारा मानव तस्करी खास कर बाल तस्करी रोकने की भूमिका के बारे में बताया। सामुदायिक संगठनों ने कहा कि उनके प्रयास से ही उनके क्षेत्रों में एड्स जैसी बीमारियों में 50 प्रतिशत की कमी आई है। उन्होंने और अधिक सरकारी योजनाओं में अपनी भागीदारी का आग्रह किया। इन योजनाओं में कौशल विकास, उनके बच्चों की शिक्षा और उनका सशक्तिकरण शामिल है।

श्रीमती तीरथ ने उनकी चिंताओं और मुद्दों को गौर से सुना और उन्हें समाज की मुख्य धारा में शामिल करने के वास्ते सरकार द्वारा किये जाने वाले प्रयासों के लिए उनसे सुझाव मांगे।

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2011-12 में सबला के अंतर्गत 105 लाख से अधिक बालिकाओं को लाभ

महिला और बाल विकास (ईसीसीई) नीति के प्रारूप पर मंत्रालय ने जानकारी दी है कि 2011-12 में महिला और बच्चों के समग्र विकास के कार्यक्रमों और योजनाओं के लिए विभिन्न एजेंसियों तथा राज्यों व केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को 16,100 करोड़ रूपए के अनुमोदित अनुदान का लगभग 97 प्रतिशत जारी किया।

समन्वित बाल विकास योजना (आईसीडीएस) का प्रमुख कार्यक्रम 10 करोड़ लाभार्थियों तक पहुंचा। इसमें 6 महीने से 3 साल की उम्र तक के 4.37 करोड़ बच्चे, 3-6 वर्ष की उम्र के 3.5 करोड़ बच्चे तथा 1.81 करोड़ गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाएं शामिल हैं। अनुमोदित 7076 परियोजनाओं में से कुल 6900 परियोजनाएं जारी हैं। इसमें अतिरिक्त 13.70 लाख अनुमोदित आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र व लघु आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों की संख्या में से लगभग 12.04 लाख आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र व लघु आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र चालू हैं।

मंत्रालय ने योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन को सुधारने के लिए वार्षिक कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन योजना (एपीआईपी) फॉर्मेट भी शुरू किया है। करिकूलर ढांचे और मानकों सहित शिशु की देखरेख और शिक्षा

सार्वजनिक संगठनों आदि की टिप्पणी और विचार जानने के लिए इसे मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर डाला गया है। केंद्र द्वारा प्रायोजित एकीकृत बाल सुरक्षा योजना (आईसीपीएस) की शुरुआत 2009 में बच्चों के कल्याण और पुनर्वास के लिए की गई थी। बाल कल्याण समितियों तथा जुवेनाईल न्याय बोर्ड की संख्या क्रमशः 240 तथा 211 से बढ़कर 548 तथा 561 हुई है।

मंत्रालय ने बताया है कि किशोरियों के सशक्तिकरण के लिए राजीव गांधी योजना 'सबला' के तहत 2011-12 में पोषण खंड में 84.4 लाख बालिकाओं को फायदा पहुंचा है जबकि गैर-पोषण खंड में 21.42 लाख बालिकाओं को लाभ हुआ है। इस योजना की शुरुआत नवंबर 2010 में हुई थी।

इसके अतिरिक्त राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष योजना से 6,94,415 जरूरतमंद महिलाओं को लाभ हुआ है। 31.12.2011 तक 315.32 करोड़ रूपए का कुल ऋण अनुमोदित किया गया। इसमें से 259.32 करोड़ रूपए सवितरित कर दिए गए। इस योजना की शुरुआत 1993 में गरीब महिलाओं के सामाजिक-आर्थिक उत्थान के लिए की गई थी।

Lok Panchayat, May 2012, P.12

राजीव गांधी किशोरी सशक्तिकरण योजना (सबला)

—अनीता पटनायक

किशोरियों का सशक्तिकरण सरकार की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकताओं में से एक है। राजीव गांधी किशोरी सशक्तिकरण योजना (आरजीएस ईएजी) के विस्तार को मंत्रिमंडल द्वारा स्वीकृति प्रदान किया जाना इसी दिशा में एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कदम है। 11 से 18 वर्ष की आयु वर्ग वाली किशोरियों को सशक्तिकरण हेतु इस योजना को देश भर के 200 चुनिंदा जिलों में समन्वित बाल विकास सेवा (आईसीडीएस) परियोजनाओं और आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों द्वारा कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है। पोषण और आर्थिक स्तर में वृद्धि के लक्ष्य के लिए मंत्री समूह (जीओएम) की सिफारिशों के बाद इस मंत्रिमंडल की मंजूरी मिली है। इस योजना के तहत किशोरियों को घर ले जाने के लिए राशन (टेक होम राशन) मुहैया कराया जाएगा। इसमें यह प्रावधान भी है कि यदि कोई राज्य गर्म पका पोषण उपलब्ध कराने पर जोर देना चाहे, तो भी मानव संसाधन को अलावा महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय 100 अन्य जिलों में किशोरियों को एक विकल्प के रूप में सशर्त नकदी हस्तान्तरण योजना कार्यान्वित करने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाएगा। न्यायद्वयी योजना में इस योजना से 11 से 18 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग की 92 लाख से 1 करोड़ 16 लाख किशोरियों के लाभान्वित होने की संभावना है।

प्रमुख विशेषताएं

योजना के तहत स्कूल जाने वाली 11 से 14 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग वाली लड़कियां तथा 15 से 18 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग वाली सभी लड़कियों को साल के 300 दिन पांच रुपये प्रति लाभार्थी की दर पर पोषण संबंधी प्रावधान (600 कैलोरी और 18 से 29 ग्राम प्रोटीन) है जिसकी आधी-आधी (50रु50 प्रतिशत) जिम्मेदारी केंद्र और राज्य वहन करेंगे। आई सी डी एस की एक परियोजना के लिए प्रत्येक

आंगनवाड़ी केंद्र में एक प्रशिक्षण केंद्र, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा,

जीवन कौशल शिक्षा, माताओं के लिए ऑयनर फॉलिक एसिड गोलियों की खरीद जैसे योजना के विभिन्न अंगों के लिए सालाना 3.8 लाख रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। सबला के कोष के लिए नियत जिलों से बचे हुए जिलों में किशोरी शक्ति योजना (केएसवाई) जैसे रखन तथा केएसवाई और आरजीएस ईएजी-सबला के तहत 200 जिलों में उपलब्ध बचत का उपयोग इस योजना की अन्य प्रमुख विशेषताएं हैं।

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने 11 से 18 वर्ष के आयु वर्ग वाली किशोरियों की बहु-आयामी समस्याओं के निराकरण के लिए सबला योजना शुरू की है। वर्ष 2010-11 में इस योजना के

तहत 1000 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए हैं। सरकार ने देश भर में कुल मिलाकर 7075 आईसीडीएस परियोजनाओं और 14 लाख आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों को मंजूरी दी है। इनमें से कुल 7012 परियोजनाओं और 13.67 लाख आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों को 31 मई 2010 तक स्वी.ति मिल चुकी है। स्वी.त आईसीडीएस में से 6560 चल रही हैं। इस योजना के तहत विस्तार को ध्यान में रखते हुए आईसीडीएस के लिए आबंटन बढ़ाया गया है और वर्ष 2009-10 के 6,705 करोड़ रुपये के बजट अनुमान को बढ़ाकर 8,162 करोड़ रुपये कर दिया गया है। वर्ष 2010-11 के लिए 8,700 करोड़ रुपये का आबंटन किया गया है, जो पिछले वर्ष के आबंटन से ज्यादा है।

कुपोषण पर सर्वेक्षण

कुपोषण प्रमुख समस्या है। राष्ट्रीय पोषण निगरानी ब्यूरो (एनएनएमबी) ने नौ राज्यों—केरल, तमिलनाडु, कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश, ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल की ग्रामीण (2005-06) एवं जनजातीय आबादी में (2007-09) आक्षर और पोषण की स्थिति पर नमूना सर्वेक्षण किया था। शून्य से चार वर्ष की उम्र में होने वाली मौतों के कारणों पर भारतीय महापंजीयक की 2001-03 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार पोषण संबंधी कमियों की वजह से

हानि वाली मौतें 2.8 प्रतिशत हैं। राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, तीन वर्ष से कम आयु के कम वजन वाले बच्चों की संख्या में

कमी आई है। वर्ष 1988-89 में यह संख्या 42.7 प्रतिशत थी जो 2005-06 में घटकर 40.04 प्रतिशत रह गई। हालांकि रक्त की कमी (अनीमिया) के मामलों में वृद्धि हुई है। बच्चों में (6 महीने से 35 महीने) अनीमिया 74.3 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 78.9 प्रतिशत हो गया है। इसी तरह 15 से 49 वर्ष की महिलाओं में अनीमिया के मामले 51.8 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 56.2 प्रतिशत हो गए हैं। कुपोषण शिशुओं की मौत का प्रमुख कारण नहीं है लेकिन इसकी वजह से संक्रमणों के प्रति प्रतिरोध क्षमता कम होने से बीमारियां और मौतों की संख्या बढ़ सकती है। भारतीय महापंजीयक की नमूना पंजीकरण प्रणाली (एसआरएस) के अनुसार शिशु मृत्यु दर में कमी आई है। वर्ष 2008 में एक हजार शिशुओं पर 57 मौतों से घटकर वर्ष 2008 में एक हजार शिशुओं पर 53 मौतें दर्ज की गईं।

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय की ओर से पांच वर्ष तक की आयु वाले बच्चों को विटामिन-ए की खुराक की आपूर्ति, 10 वर्ष तक की आयु वाले बच्चों, गर्भवती और

स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं को ऑयनर फॉलिक एसिड की खुराक, आयोडीन युक्त नमक को प्रोत्साहन, दो महीने से ज्यादा आयु के बच्चों के लिए अतिरिक्त कैल्शियम के लिए ऑयनर फॉलिक एसिड की खुराक जैसे कई उपाय किए गए हैं।

कुपोषण से मुकाबला

कुपोषण की समस्या विभिन्न क्षेत्रों और सभी स्तरों पर समन्वयन एवं तालमेल करार करने की जरूरत के लिहाज से बहु आयामी और बहु-वर्गीय समस्या है। सरकार, जो हमेशा से कुपोषण, विशेष तौर पर बच्चों, किशोरियों और महिलाओं में कुपोषण के मुद्दों का सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता देती आई है, विविध योजनाएं लागू कर रही है, जिनका लोगों की पोषण की स्थिति पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा। आईसीडीएस परियोजनाओं के अतिरिक्त इन योजनाओं में किशोरी शक्ति योजना (केएसवाई) और किशोरियों के लिए पोषण संबंधी कार्यक्रम (एनपीएजी), राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनआरएचएम), मध्याह्न भोजन योजना (एमडीएम), पेयजल एवं संपूर्ण स्वच्छता अभियान (टीएससी), स्वर्णजयंती ग्रामीण स्वरोजगार योजना (एसजीएसवाई), महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार

गारटी योजना (एमएनआरईजीएस) और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) शामिल हैं।

आईसीडीएस योजना में छह सेवाओं का पैकेज उपलब्ध कराया जाता है— पूरक पोषाहार, स्कूल पूर्व अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, पोषण एवं स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा, टीकाकरण, स्वास्थ्य जांच और रैफरल सेवाएं। इनमें से तीन सेवाएं (टीकाकरण, स्वास्थ्य जांच और रैफरल सेवाएं) स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय द्वारा सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं। सरकार ने कई कदम उठाए हैं, जिनमें योजना का सार्वभौमिकरण किया जाना शामिल है। इनमें अनुसूचित जातिलेखित जनजाति और अल्पसंख्यकों के इलाकों लागत मानकों की समीक्षा करने के साथ ही साथ आईसीडीएस के पूरक पोषण अंग के तहत पोषण एवं पोषाहार संबंधी मानकों पर विशेष ध्यान दिया गया है। केंद्र सरकार ने बच्चों में कुपोषण की पहचान करने के लिए विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) द्वारा ब्रह्मांडित मानकों को 15 अगस्त 2008 से अंगीकार किया है। 1993 की राष्ट्रीय पोषण नीति और 1995 की राष्ट्रीय पोषण कार्ययोजना में राज्यों में राज्य पोषण परिषदों की स्थापना की परिकल्पना की गई है।

हाल ही में राज्यों के साथ बैठकों

के दौरान इस पर जोर दिया गया है। सभी राज्यों के मुख्य सचिवों को यह सुनिश्चित करने की कहा गया कि आईसीडीएस के तहत एडवेंसुसी के माध्यम से उपलब्ध कराई जाने वाली सेवाओं में राज्य पोषण कार्ययोजना तो शामिल हो साथ ही यह भी सुनिश्चित किया जाए कि विस्तार इस तरीके से हो कि वह अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ लाभार्थियों विशेष तौर पर अधिक गरीबी और अभाव वाले इलाकों के उपेक्षित वर्गों की पोषण एवं स्वास्थ्य मांगों को पूरा कर सके।

महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने गर्भवती एवं स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं को कुछ विशिष्ट शर्तों को पूरा किए जाने के बदले नकद हस्तान्तरण मुहैया कराने के लिए इंदिरा गांधी मातृत्व सहयोग योजना (आईजीएमएसवाई) के नाम से दिए जाने वाले मातृत्व लाभों के लिए प्रायोगिक आधार पर सशर्त नकदी हस्तान्तरण योजना पर विचार किया है। इस योजना का उद्देश्य गर्भवती एवं स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं के स्वास्थ्य एवं पोषण की स्थिति में सुधार लाना है। चालू वित्त वर्ष में इस योजना के लिए 390 करोड़ रुपये का बजट आवंटित किया गया है।

शिक्षा के अधिकार कानून का अमल

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बच्चों को निःशुल्क और अनिवार्य शिक्षा कानून 2009 के पहली अप्रैल 2010 से लागू होने के बाद सर्वशिक्षा अभियान के तहत 16983 और उच्चतर प्राथमिक विद्यालयों के 12900 भवनों का निर्माण किया गया है। राष्ट्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा अभियान के अंतर्गत मार्च 2009 में इस योजना के आरंभ होने के बाद से 283 नये

माध्यमिक विद्यालयों के भवन तैयार किये गये है।

शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून लागू होने के बाद सर्व शिक्षा अभियान की रूपरेखा में भी इसके प्रावधानों के अनुरूप संशोधन किया गया है। केन्द्रीय शिक्षा के अधिकार कानून को 9 अप्रैल 2010 को अधिसूचित किया गया था, जो बिना विधानसभा वाले पांच केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में भी मान्य है। शिक्षा के अधिकार

संबंधी आदर्श नियमों को राज्यों तथा केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में अपनाने के लिए भेजा गया। विधानसभा वाले दो केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों सहित 28 राज्य सरकारों ने शिक्षा का अधिकार कानून अमल में लाने के लिए इस अधिनियम को अधिसूचित किया है। मानव संसाधन विकास राज्यमंत्री डॉ. डी. पुरंदेश्वरी ने राज्यसभा में एक प्रश्न के लिखित उत्तर में यह जानकारी दी।

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बाल विवाह पर राष्ट्रीय गोष्ठी



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महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय ने राज्यों, गैर सरकारी संगठनों, यूनीसेफ और विभिन्न विशेषज्ञों के साथ बाल विवाह को रोकने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विचार-विमर्श गोष्ठी का आयोजन किया। महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय की सचिव नीला गंगाधरन ने इस बैठक की अध्यक्षता की। विभिन्न राज्यों, गैर सरकारी संगठनों, विशेषज्ञों और संयुक्त राष्ट्र निकायों के साथ राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विचार-विमर्श गोष्ठी के आयोजन का लक्ष्य इस मुद्दे पर मिलकर विचार करते हुए वार्ता से निकलने वाले सामूहिक बौद्धिक निष्कर्षों से एक समग्र नीति और राष्ट्रीय रणनीति तैयार करना है।

इस मुद्दे से जुड़े विभिन्न पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए गोष्ठी की अध्यक्ष ने अपने सम्बोधन में कहा कि बाल विवाह बच्चों के विकास में गंभीर रूप से बाधा पहुंचाता है। इसका दुष्प्रभाव कन्या के मानसिक, भावात्मक और शारीरिक विकास पर पड़ता है। इससे बच्चे के निर्णय लेने की आजादी, शिक्षा के अधिकार, जीवन से संबंधित कौशल और जिंदगी में बेहतर अवसरों को प्राप्त करने में न सिर्फ कमी आती है बल्कि उसका विकास और सामर्थ्य दोनों रूक जाते हैं।

महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा की गई पहलों का जिक्र करते हुए श्रीमती नीला ने कहा कि सरकार ने 24 जनवरी को राष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के तौर पर घोषित किया है। इसके अलावा देश भर के 200 जिलों में मंत्रालय की सबला योजना कार्यान्वित की जा रही है। इस योजना का उद्देश्य बालिकाओं को सशक्त बनाते हुए उनके स्वास्थ्य में सुधार लाना और उन्हें बहु कौशल युक्त बनाना है।

इस बैठक के दौरान बाल विवाह को रोकने के मामले में उठाए गए विभिन्न कदमों पर स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय, विद्यालय शिक्षा और साक्षरता विभाग तथा उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग ने अपने व्याख्यान प्रस्तुत किए। इसके अलावा असम, पश्चिम बंगाल, झारखण्ड, छत्तीसगढ़, मध्यप्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, राजस्थान, आंध्रप्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, हरियाणा, ओडिशा और कर्नाटक राज्यों से आए प्रतिनिधियों ने भी बाल विवाह को रोकने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों पर अपने व्याख्यान प्रस्तुत किए। विशेष सचिव सुधीर कुमार, विशेष आर्थिक सलाहकार अदिति रे, संयुक्त सचिव विवेक जोशी और संयुक्त सचिव डॉ. रंजन भी महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों के तौर पर उपस्थित थे।

कृष्णा तीरथ ने की कुपोषण के विरुद्ध संघर्ष पर चर्चा



नई दिल्ली, लो.पं. व्यूरो

केन्द्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास राज्य मंत्री कृष्णा तीरथ ने वाशिंगटन में अमरीकी स्वास्थ्य एवं मानव सेवाएं मंत्री कैथलिन सिबेलियस से

मुलाकात की और एकीकृत बाल विकास सेवाओं (आईसीडीएस) और देश में कुपोषण के विरुद्ध संघर्ष में भारत सरकार के बहु-पक्षीय कार्यक्रमों के योगदान का उल्लेख

किया। उन्होंने केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्री गुलाम नबी आजाद के साथ इस मुलाकात में भाग लिया।

बच्चों में कुपोषण की चुनौतियों के बारे में चिन्ता जाहिर करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि यह समस्या जटिल, बहु-आयामी और अंतर-उत्पत्ति स्वभाव की। उन्होंने बच्चों की रुग्णता, मृत्यु-दर और कुपोषण की रोकथाम के लिए महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा लागू की जाने वाली एकीकृत बाल विकास सेवाओं द्वारा निभाई जा रही भूमिका का उल्लेख किया। इस योजना के पूरक-पोषण, पूर्व-स्कूल अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, पोषण और स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा, टीकाकरण, स्वास्थ्य जांच और सहायता सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने में दिये जा रहे योगदान का

भी उन्होंने जिक्र किया। उन्होंने समुदाय भागीदारी और विभिन्न मंत्रालयों के साथ अभियान की मजबूती के बारे में उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि आईसीडीएस में कुपोषण के अंतर-उत्पत्ति चक्र के साथ-साथ मातृ और शिशु द्वारा सहन की जाने वाली बहु-पक्षीय हानियों से निपटने की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने बताया कि देश में आईसीडीएस के 1.4 मिलियन स्वीकृत केन्द्र हैं और इस कार्यक्रम ने 78.4 मिलियन बच्चों और 17.8 मिलियन गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं को लाभ पहुंचाया है।

अमरीकी स्वास्थ्य और मानव

सेवाएं मंत्री कैथलिन सिबेलियस ने मुलाकात के दौरान कहा कि अमरीकी कृषि मंत्रालय गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं के लिए पोषण सहायता प्रदान करने हेतु एक कार्यक्रम चला रहा है। जो आईसीडीएस के पोषण घटक को मजबूती प्रदान करने के लिए गर्भवती और स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए पूरे देश में इसकी शिक्षाओं के प्रसार को देखरेख करेगा। श्रीमती तीरथ ने इस कार्यक्रम को शिक्षा के भाग के रूप में भारत-अमरीकी महिला सशक्तिकरण बातों के अंतर्गत शामिल करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में नवजात शिशु की स्थिति

आलोक गुप्ता

नवजात शिशु से संदर्भ जानने से 28 दिन है। नवजात शिशु के जन्म से लेकर 28 दिन का समय बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होता है। भारत में नवजात शिशु मृत्यु दर प्रति 1000 जीवित शिशुओं में 35 है जबकि बर्बाद होने वाली मौतों का 50% है। उत्तर प्रदेश में नवजात शिशु मृत्यु दर प्रति 1000 जीवित शिशुओं में 48 है (SRS-2011) उत्तर प्रदेश में हर घंटे 31 शिशुओं की मृत्यु हो जाती है जिसका मतलब है कि प्रत्येक 2 मिनट में एक नवजात शिशु की मौत हो जाती है। उत्तर प्रदेश भारत की जनसंख्या का 16 प्रतिशत है जबकि भारत में नवजात शिशुओं की मौतों में 28 प्रतिशत हिस्सेदारी उत्तर प्रदेश की है। उत्तर प्रदेश में नवजात की मौतों की संख्या किसी भी अन्य राज्य से बहुत अधिक है।

नवजात शिशु की मृत्यु के कारण (%) -
सोपेरा (संक्रमण)-52%
समय से पूर्व जन्म-10%
जन्म से ही रॉरा न ले पाना-20%
अन्य-13%
Source- National Neonatology Forum and saving newborn's lives, 2004

तुरन्त ध्यान देने (शिशु में खतरों के लक्षण)

- यदि शिशु बहुत रो रहा हो।
- यदि शिशु दूध न पी रहा हो।

उत्तर प्रदेश नवजात शिशु की देखभाल और सुरक्षा की स्थिति एवं उनकी तुलना भारत एवं उत्तर प्रदेश के अरुद्धों से-

चूम्पक (%)	भारत (%)	उत्तर प्रदेश (%)
संस्थागत प्रसव	47	24.5
मातार जिनके अपने पिछले प्रसव में 48 घंटे के अन्दर प्रसव पर्याप्त देखभाल मिली हो	49.7	33.8
नवजात शिशु जिन्हें एक घंटे के अन्दर स्तनपान कराया गया	40.5	15.4
नवजात शिशु जिन्हें गम्भीर श्वसन संक्रमण/बुखार का उपचार दिया गया	77.4	75.7

DLHS 3, 2007 के अनुसार

- यदि शिशु चुस्ता पड़ा हो या उसे बेहोशी आ रही हो।
- यदि शिशु का बदन बहुत गर्म या बहुत ठंडा हो।
- यदि शिशु की नल के आस-पास लाली हो या गाल से कुछ बह रहा हो।
- यदि शिशु के शरीर का रंग पीला या नीला पड़ जाए।
- यदि शिशु की पसली चल रही हो।
- यदि शिशु को दौरा पड़ रहा हो।
- यदि शिशु के नक या वजन से खूब आ रहा हो।
- यदि शिशु दिन भर में सांचे बार से कम पेशाब करे।
- वधान करें
- शिशु को शहद, चुट्टी, नानी, माय, ऊपर का दूध आदि कुछ न दें।
- शिशु को जन्म के तुरन्त बाद न नहलाएं।
- शिशु की नात पर पचकर तेल, कीम कुछ न लगाएं।
- शिशु के बीमार होने पर डाइ फूक, घरेलू उपच/उपचार न करें
- शिशु को छूने से पहले हाथ चाबुन से अच्छे धोयें।
- शिशु के विस्तर/विद्योने को गन्दा न रखें।
- शिशु की आँख में काजल न लगाएं
- शिशु के नाक/कान में तेल न डालें।
- शिशु के जन्म के बाद उसे गोद से लिये हुए कनरों में न रखें।
- ए ध्यान रखें कि कनरों में ईंधन (कंडें/उपले, लकड़ियां, कोयला)

और आनवर (बकरी, मुर्गी, बत्ख) अदि न हो।

- शिशु को बौतल से दूध बर्बाद न दें।
- शिशु को गले, हाथों पर कमर में किसी प्रकार का गहना जैसे-माजा, चागा, कड़ा, पायल, कश्मी आदि न गहनयें।
- जल्दा-बच्चा के कमरों के बाहर शोरगुल, त्रिज आवाज में संगीत, बाजा आदि न होने दें।

क्या करें

- प्रसव अस्पताल में कराये, गर्भवती मता का पंजीकरण पहले से अस्पताल में कराये।
- जन्म के तुरन्त बाद शिशु को माँ का पहला गाढ़ा पीला दूध जरूर पिलाए। केवल माँ का दूध बार-बार पिलाते रहें।
- बच्चे को बार-बार दूध पिलाने से माँ का दूध बढ़ता है। यह बच्चे को भी घातक बीमारी से बचाने में मदद मिलती है।
- यदि बच्चा बीमार हो तो भी माँ को उसे अपना दूध पिलाते रहना चाहिए। बीमारी माँ बीमार हो तो भी वह बच्चे को दूध पिला सकती है।
- शिशु को साफ सूखे सूती कपड़े से ढोयें।
- शिशु को गर्म कपड़े में अच्छी तरह लपेटें व उसके सर को कपड़े या ऊनी कपड़े से ढक कर रखें। और तबे माँ के शरीर से छिपका कर रखें।
- कम वजन/समय से पहले जन्में शिशुओं का विशेष ध्यान रखें।

□ माँ एवं शिशु के विस्तर/विद्योने को साफ एवं सूखा रखें और ध्यान रखें कि कप से कम लोग शिशु को छूयें।

□ जन्म के तुरन्त बाद शिशु का वजन जरूर कराएं और यदि उसका वजन 2.5 किलोग्राम से कम हो तो उसे विशेष देखभाल की जरूरत होती है।

□ यदि शिशु किसी कारणवश माँ का दूध न पी पा रहा हो तो उसे साफ कटोरी चम्मच से ही दूध पिलाएं।

कॉम्परीहन्सिब चाइल्ड सर्वाइवल प्रोग्राम

वर्ष 2007-08 में उत्तर प्रदेश स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के अन्तर्गत शिशु एवं नवजात शिशु मृत्यु दर को कम करने के लिए कॉम्परीहन्सिब चाइल्ड सर्वाइवल प्रोग्राम की शुरुआत की। वर्ष 2008-09 में इस कार्यक्रम को उत्तर प्रदेश के 17 जिलों में पायलट पोइन्ट के तहत चलाया गया। इसकी सफलता को देखते हुए वर्ष 2009-10 के दौरान इसे 38 जिलों में चलाया गया जो वर्ष 2010-11 में समस्त उत्तर प्रदेश में लागू हो गया है।

स्वास्थ्य विभाग इस कार्यक्रम को प्रभावी रूप से चलाने के लिए अन्तरराष्ट्रीय संस्था यूनिसेफ की सहयोग से उत्तर प्रदेश के 7 जिलों में Sick new born care unit (SNBU) को सरकार अस्पतालों में स्थापित किया गया है।

Acknowledgement

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		Sanjai K. Srivastava Additional Director
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Assistance in Cutting and Pasting	:	Chander Bhan