

Chapter - 3
Women and Politics

**STATUS OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT INDIA
AND
THEIR ENTRANCE INTO MODERN POLITICS**

In Indian society, men and women have been considered to be the two wheels of a chariot of life. In every role, as a mother, as a sister, as a wife, woman has been inspiring man to contribute constructively in every sphere of life.

In earlier civilisation of the world and of the Indus valley in particular, women were considered as a source of life. They held in themselves the mystery and secret of birth. Women were described in the epic of MAHABHARATA as light of house, mother of universe and supporter of the earth and all its forests. ⁽¹⁾ It is perhaps this aspect of the earliest ethos which call for the worship of the Mother Goddess. It is not surprising that the greatest of India's life giving river should be worshipped as Mother Ganga. In our culture, women has also been popularly known as Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth; Usha the Goddess of Dawn; Shakti the incarnation of Power and Strength; Saraswati the Goddess of Culture, learning and education.

But, still there is a wide spread mis-conception regarding the true status of women in ancient Indian Society. It is perhaps because of the lack of understanding of the Original Sanskrit Text, which defines the true status of women in early times. The most authoritative text on the subject is the Rgveda which contains the seeds and source from which the entire course of Hindu Thought through the ages flowed.

The Vedic period can be placed before five thousand years, which had a span of thousand years, the period could be placed between 2500 BC to 1500 BC which is followed by the Upanishadic period, which had also lasted for a thousand years that is from 1500 BC to 500 BC which is followed by the medieval period and the period of gradual decline. ⁽²⁾

Women in Ancient India would mean women of the Vedic and Upanishadic period. According to available information, it can be concluded that women in the Vedic age were accepted as human being in their own right. They enjoyed considerable freedom, in social, political and educational activities. Right from the early vedic period upto 300 BC women were held in esteem and respect, husband and wife together constituted a unit in society and a

man without his wife was considered only a half and incomplete. A married woman was known as a better half of her husband. In home, women were given superior position to that of men, as they were treated as the embodiment of Goddesses of Wealth, Wisdom and Strength. It was said that a house where women were not respected was a cursed place and that one which accorded respect and reverence to women turned into a place of happiness and prosperity.⁽³⁾

Women occupied a prominent position in social and religious gatherings. Women had an absolute equality with men in the eye of religion. They could perform sacrifice independently and were not regarded as an impediment in religious pursuits. Marriage in fact was a religious necessity to both man and woman. The position of the wife was an honoured one in the family. Even the custom of polygamy was prevalent yet monogamy was generally a greater vogue during the Vedic period. Adultery was forbidden both for men and women. A widow had a right to remarry. The system of Sati was not in practice.⁽⁴⁾

Even if the family property was headed by the male members of the family but women had enjoyed fairly satisfactory positions in the society.

In the two great epics of India, THE RAMAYANA AND THE MAHABHARATA, as in religious mythology, women occupied places of honour. In Ramayana although RAM is the main character who sets standards in every relationship of human activity, whether as son, brother, husband, prince or king, his wife SITA equally sets standards as daughter, wife, daughter-in-law, princess or queen. The entire epic is full of episodes which testify the character of Sita as a character of highest virtue and the ideals which a human being as a woman can aspire for and as the embodiment of the most noble which can be expected of.⁽⁵⁾

The leading character in the Mahabharata included the women of heroic mould such as DRAPAUDI, KUNTI AND GANDHARI. Drapaudi is one of the legendary figures in Mahabharata is always observed as a symbol of high virtue in a woman - courage, sacrifice and wisdom.⁽⁶⁾

Gradually, changes took place during the age of later Samhita and Upanishads (1500-500BC) in the higher section of society initiation of girls were common, and subsequently used to go through a course of education. As the period advanced, there was a gradual decline in female education. The system of sending girls out for education were discouraged and whatever little

education were given to the girls it was primarily given at home by the parents and relatives. As a result, the training and the education were only possible for the girls of rich and cultured families. Consequently there arose a tendency to curtail the religious rights and privileges of average women and many functions which were performed earlier by wife alone and now came to be assigned to make substitute.

The relatively satisfactory position of women deteriorated considerably in the age of Aryans. This was due to the Aryans took Non-Aryan wives who were not familiar with Aryans rituals and could not assist their husband during religious ceremonies. Their mistakes gave religious Pandit an excuse to declare that all women were unfit to perform religious rituals at which they were perfect before. Gradually lesser respects were extended to them and their position further deteriorated to the stage of condemnation. ⁽⁷⁾

During the period, while unmarried women were considered as auspicious, widows were treated as messenger of misery, and therefore were condemned in society on all ceremonial occasions. Society granted them no respect at all. Restrictions were strictly imposed and they were not allowed to live a life of comfort. Under these conditions, their position deteriorated from equal partners to slaves.

With no educational goal to achieve, the custom of early marriage for girls to partner chosen by the parents began to take shape. Thus girls lost their freedom of education, performing rituals, choosing their partners and participation in public life, gradually home became their only domain. Man thus considered himself superior to woman and religious and social matters, perhaps after this, men began to look for companionship elsewhere. Courtesans, Temple Dance and Poetry began to appear on the scene to entertain men, as their popularity increased women became object of men's pleasure. ⁽⁸⁾

The status of women came to a pinnacle at the time of Gupta's in the third and fourth Century A.D., which made it clear in the incidents of Basanta Sena and Chaur Gupta. Women like Chitrlekha, Amrapali and Basant Sena were not just prostitute as erroneously believed by some people, but well read scholars with whom intellectual discussions could be held. ⁽⁹⁾ During the Guptas women also participated in the state matters apart from the religious rites and ceremonies. ⁽¹⁰⁾

The Degree of Liberty which Indian women enjoyed during the ancient period was lost to some extent in medieval India, when Islam began to spread. Though a few outstanding women administrators left their magnificent imprints on the pages of history, for instance, Rudramaba the Kekateya Queen; Rajia Begam, Chand Bibi of Ahmednagar; Tara Bai the Maratha heroine and Ahilya Holkar of Indore were a few outstanding names among the great women of that period. ⁽¹¹⁾

The advent of the Muslims changed the dimensions of the predominant culture and the treatment of women. Women have to face a new challenge, the emergence of the purdha system and polyandry were freedom afforded by the other religion it was thus sacrosanct. This deprive had undermined the position of women to a further hedonistic depth. The scope and working area of a woman got even more limited, as just a shackled prisoner inside the household. Debarred in totality from the outer world. Women became nothing more than a untouchable or an outcast. If she, due to unforeseen circumstances happened to be an unfortunate widow or was barren, the only option left to her was either to fall prey to her own male relations or commit suicide with the sacrosanct permissiveness and rituals as "Sati". ⁽¹²⁾

Mingling of despotic and feudal cultures of Muslims brought more repression for women through other system also such as polygamy, child marriage, prostitution and other religious taboos. Thus the entire class of women then became the victim of monstrous humiliation. ⁽¹³⁾

The advent of eighteenth century was the advent of British rule in India. This period was marked by the development of capital and industrial entrepreneurship in the western horizon of the earth. The new invention of the means of production chiefly began with the use of locomotive force which brought a revolutionary change in the production system and this demanded the change of production. Due to this Bourgeoise democratic movement too started against the then existing Monarchy and Feudal system. These movement in the western countries ended the slave system and established Bourgeoise democracy, means Capitalism.

Though the Indian society seem to pass through different changes, the condition remained same upto the beginning of nineteenth century. The uniting force then established in India through the Cottage and Indigenious

production was demolished by advent of British rule with their Scientific development and new production or manufacturing process. ⁽¹⁴⁾

Though the Indian Society seemed to pass through different changes, the condition remained same upto the beginning of the nineteenth century . As the Britishers tried to change the Indian atmosphere in terms of Industrial units, it helped in changing the social norms also . This particular phase was marked with changes in various socio-cultural, political and economic sphere, especially with the advent of foreign missionaries. Indian social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Vidyasagar, Dayanand Saraswati, Rama Bai Ranadeo, Anandi Bai Joshi, Anne Besant etc. and Organisations like Arya Samaj, Brahma Samaj (1882), The Indian National Congress, Ram Krishna Mission , Theosophical Society etc. and the women's movement which spear headed the struggle against Orthodoxy and discrimination in the existing social patterns through educational economy and legislative measures.

The central focus of the women's rights movement in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century were the age of marriage for girls and rights of widows, particularly their rights to remarry and the education of women.

In the nineteenth century the average age of marriage for girls was eight or nine although it often differed in some casts and provinces. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Government legislations to improve the situation of minor girls resulted in the first Age of Consent Bill passed in 1860 which made sexual intercourse with a girl less than 10 years a rape. ⁽¹⁶⁾ As the Bill provided only negligible protections, therefore, social reformers such as M.G. Ranade ⁽¹⁷⁾, Behramji Malabari ⁽¹⁸⁾ and Tej Bahadur Sapru ⁽¹⁹⁾, in their attempts to further raise the age of marriage cited several cases of consummation at the age of 10 or 11 which led to serious physical or psychological disturbance. Dr. Margrate Balfour, in- charge of collecting data for maternity and infant welfare in Bombay hospital, suggested that the average age of marriage was 18.7 years. ⁽²⁰⁾

In 1884, Behramji Malabari, a Parsi journalist published his " Notes on Infant Marriage and Enforced Widowhood ". Notes were the journalistic appeal for sympathy and action. His argument were based on humanitarianism and justice rather than an interpretation of Smritis. ⁽²¹⁾ An article published in Modern Review and quoted by Hari Bilash Sharda that direct relationship

between raising the age and the physical, intellectual and moral development of a strong nation. The Government's hesitation was viewed as an attempt to keep the Indian a weak and feeble nation. ⁽²²⁾ Ultimately, in 1891 the government passed an amendment to the existing Penal code raising the age of consent to 12 for married girls and 14 for unmarried girls. ⁽²³⁾

A widow was regarded by the Hindus as an unfortunate and inauspicious woman (see supra Pg. 22). A Census Report of 1891 indicated that out of total population of 140,196,135 as many as 22,657,429 were widows, of these 13878 were of under four years of age; 64040 were between 5 to 9; 17532 were between 10 to 14; 4,160,548 between 15 to 34. ⁽²⁴⁾ In 1931 in the country as a whole, there were 83,920 widows between the age of 5 to 10; 145,449 between 11 to 15; 404,167 between 16 to 20. ⁽²⁵⁾

The sympathy of the social reformers, which led to passing of the Widow Remarriage Act of 1856 was aroused by useless, frustrating, and unhappy lives of such a large female population. The movement to improve the position of widows was supported by many social reformers, prominent among these were Pandit Vidyasagar, Keshab Chandra Sen and Mahrshi Karve. They introduced legislation to enable widows to remarry without losing their legal rights. Schools and special widow's institutions were established to educate widows. Education it was hoped would enable them to lead a meaningful existence. Many of these widows became pioneer of education and social reform such as Pandita Ramabai and Subhalakshmi Subramaniam. ⁽²⁶⁾

The question of widow remarriage was a controversial issue in Bengal, with its large Brahmin Population. The young intelligentsia of Bengal organised small societies such as the Bethune society, the Tattabodhini Sabha and society for the acquisition of general knowledge to discuss social reform, particularly the right of widows to re-marry. ⁽²⁷⁾

Vidyasagar had given an interpretation of Parasar Samhita (one of the ancient Hindu Smriti) which gave widows three choices - Sati, Brahmacharya and Re-marriage. The practice of sati was illegal under the existing laws. The ideal of Brahmacharya was commendable, but the social condition of Kaliyuga (present time) made it impossible for single women to lead a chaste life. ⁽²⁸⁾

On October 4, 1855, Vidyasagar sent a petition to government of India signed by 987 people requesting legislation in favour of widow remarriage. The

petitioners were "Pious and Orthodox" hindus, aware that their request offended the prejudice of some people. They suggested that denying the widows the right to remarry was detrimental to hindu interest and contrary to the proper interpretation of Shastras. ⁽²⁹⁾ The government received letters of support and protest from Maharastra, Gujrat and partly from Bengal. In 1856, ultimately the government despite the protests of the orthodox passed the Widow Remarriage Act. The legislation was permissive, it allowed widows to remarry. On their remarriage however widows lost property right in the estate of their deceased husbands. This severely curtailed the success of the legislation. ⁽³⁰⁾

But sporadic and occasional marriages took place with the influence of patronage of the reformers. In Bengal, Vidyasagar sponsored a few marriages. The Brahma Samaj in Bengal, the Arya Samaj and Prathna Samaj encouraged widow to remarry. The Arya Samaj in 1900 reported having made considerable progress. ⁽³¹⁾

The widows after having overcome conventional fears were confronted with several practical problems such as findings a secular school, tuition fees and an acceptable means of transportation or a place to stay. In 1896, Mahrshi Karve along with 15 of his colleagues founded the Ananth Balikashram for the education of widows. The institution made slow and modest progress. It began with a small enrolment and limited funds and encountered public hostility. But gradually, it became popular and unmarried girls expressed a desire to be admitted to school. ⁽³²⁾

The question of education of women also in general, followed a pattern, similar to the controversy over the Age of Consent or rights of the widow to remarry. The education of women was in comparison with the reform, a less personal or sensitive issue.

Paradoxically, it evoked a defensive response among Indian social reformers. The reformers and the upper class elite noted that Indian women might be illiterate, but they were not without education. Women were trained and disciplined informally at home in matters useful and appropriate to their lifestyles, such as cooking, cleaning and religious rituals. ⁽³³⁾

Although the reformers were defensive, the need to educate women were widely recognised. Indian reform societies and individual reformers had established

several institution. A few of these schools reacting adversely to western influence and missionary effort had a completely orthodox orientation. Most of them however, adopted a western concept of education and methodology. Though they were careful to relate the curriculum to suit Indian needs, for e.g., the school made the study of English an optional subject, emphasised home economics and taught Indian literature and the use of local dialects. The schools were exclusive and catered to the upper middle class hindus or progressive and liberal minded families. ⁽³⁴⁾

The participation in the Indian women's movement hailed mostly from a small group of the urban educated families. A vast majority of the women joined the national stream and participated in the Swadeshi, Non co-operation, Civil Disobedience or Quit India Movement either because of their husbands or families. It is only very few of them who joined politics on their own. ⁽³⁵⁾ Studies of last few pages proved that women were able to see the light of outer world with the help and co-operation of male associational politics in the late 19th and early 20th century in India. Different associations and organisations which were involved with this have already been mentioned in supra pg. 24.

Participation of women in India's epic freedom struggle can be traced back to the time of formation of Indian National Congress. It may be recalled that there was no women delegate among those who entered their names in the register at the inauguration of INC. A woman delegate participated for the first time in the 5th annual session in 1889, she was Kadambini Ganguly, who was one of the first women to graduate in medical science. ⁽³⁶⁾

Attempts at mass mobilisation during the Swadeshi Period paved the way for the participation of women in several ways. ⁽³⁷⁾ Pamphlets were written in Bengali and widely distributed. The Swadeshi movement aroused a strong sense of patriotism in his mother who smashed the family's foreign made cooking pots. ⁽³⁸⁾ The Swadeshi Period also marked the formation of several women's organisation. Sarla Roy and Suniti Devi (daughter of Sri Keshab Chandra Sen) formed a Local Mahila Samiti in Calcutta in 1905, and focused on social service and self help. Rabinanath Tagore's two daughters, Sukumari Devi and Swarnkumari Devi made important contribution to the activities of Brahma Samaj.

Hiranmoyi Devi, daughter of Swarnkumari Devi organised a Mahila Silpa

Samiti, a women's handicraft. In the late 19th century, the issue of women's status became entangled with inter-elite competition in Bombay constituency. Mahadev Govind Ranade of the moderate faction asked for government funds for a girls high school in 1882. He also formed the National Social Conference (NSC) in 1887 to provide an All India Forum for discussion of social reforms after the leaders of Indian National Congress formed in 1885. Balgangadhar Tilak of the Extrimist faction branded Ranade's action as the nationalistic and opposed him, as a result of the growing influence of the revivalist consciousness several local organisations came into existence, such as, Hindu Ladies Social and Literary Club (1902) founded by Ramabai Ranade, the Gujrat Stri Mandal (1903), the Women Zoroastrian Association (1903), Seva Sadan, the Widow's Home established by Prof. D.K. Karve. In the Madras presidency, the Indian Christian social reformer, Dr. Sattamadhan encouraged his wife Kamala to start Indian Ladies Magazine in 1901.⁽³⁹⁾ In North India Rameshwari Nehru edited an early women's magazine in hindi, Stri Darpan; and organised a Mahila Samiti in Allahabad in 1909.⁽⁴⁰⁾

After the first decade of the 20th century, national and provincial women's associations were started by women who had acquired experience in local women's associations. For instance, Bharat Stri Mandal (BSM), was founder in 1910 by Sarla Devi Chaudurani. Its branched were existed in Calcutta, Lahore and Allahabad, and later in other Indian cities also.

Women's Indian Association (WIA) was founded in 1917 jointly by Annie Besant, Dorothy Jinardasa and Margrate Causins, this was located in Madras and some other cities.

In 1918 Lady Tata and others founded Bombay Presidency Women's Council (BPWC). This association later joined with National Council of Women in India (NCWI) founded by Lady Aberdeen of the International Council of Women and Lady Tata and others from BPWC.

Another association which facilitated communication among women was the Senate of Indian Women's University. This association contributed to both the success of the Women's Indian Association (WSA) in its early stage and to the establishment of the All India Women's Conference (AIWC).

In 1927 the All India Women Conference (AIWC) was founded by Margrate Cousins and others. Among other women organisations of national

importance the AIWC become a permanent organisation with local constituent conferences and annual sessions. In 1930 a constitution was written which established a standing committee as the executive body of the AIWC. Kamala Devi Chittopadhyaya was the organising secretary until her arrest in 1930, and the first standing committee members also included Margrate Cousins, Sarojini Naidu and Abala Bose. ⁽⁴¹⁾

The women movement in India was an integral part of the nationalist politics of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji's Khilafat and Non-co-operation movement encouraged the growth of women's movement. He encouraged women to participate in all aspects and phases of nationalist activity. Particularly in the constructive programme. Gandhiji believed in the complementary sex roles. He said that- Equality of the sexes does not mean equality of occupation.....nature has created the sexes as complement to each other. ⁽⁴²⁾ He wrote, To call women the weaker sex, is a libel; it is men's injustice to women. If by strength is meant morale power, then women is immeasurably men's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self sacrificing, has she not greater power or endurance, has she not greater courage. ⁽⁴³⁾

The presence of women in Satyagraha had mobilised public support, as also the marginal and the apathetic worker to join the movement. Women in India were encouraged to join the Satyagraha in greater number, not only to assert their equality to men or their right to be involved in politics but also to dramatize the demand for independence. ⁽⁴⁴⁾

The Gandhian campaigns represented a major change in the freedom movement. A few elite women were encouraged by the presence of Annie Besant, they had attended political meetings since the beginning of the First World War. The most outstanding of these women were Sarojini Naidu, Annie Besant and Bi-Amma, the mother of Mohamad Ali. The Home Rule League had established a women's branch to enable women to meet and discuss political issues without the inhibiting presence of men. ⁽⁴⁵⁾

The nationalist movement of Mahatma Gandhi was not merely a political struggle but also a means of regenerating and rejuvenating the society. His constructive programmes included - to make khadi, develop village industry, prohibition of untouchability, etc. At the AICC session of 1921 Mahatma Gandhi successfully passed a resolution to make khadi an integral part of the

fight for Swaraj. ⁽⁴⁶⁾ At the session of AICC, 1922, out of 350 delegations 16 were women. ⁽⁴⁷⁾

With the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programmes, Maniben Patel, daughter of Sardar Ballav Bhai Patel, organised the women of Gujrat under the banner of Swadeshi, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur organised a Spinner Association in Punjab and extensively promoted the use of khadi. ⁽⁴⁸⁾ Sister and wife of Shri Cittaranjan Das - Smt Basanti Devi and Urmila Das also sold khadi on the streets of Calcutta.

Malancha Ghosh writes in her, 'Women and Violence' that Gandhiji decide to launch Civil Disobedience in 1930-32, but in the meanwhile Lahore Congress in 1929 declared a complete independence as its goal. From 1930 onwards, 26th January began to be observed as Independence Day.

On 6th April 1930, the salt laws were ceremoniously broken by Gandhi. The Dandi March of 1930 attracted thousands of women who firmly braved the lathies of the police to join the historic struggle against the inductive Salt Act. It was alleged that women who were fired by police were trampled upon by policemen. A question arise as to what led the women in particular and the mass in general to respond so heartily to Gandhiji's call for non-violence movement. It was perhaps-it is indeed difficult to gather support of the mass through an armed struggle in acquiring their real political ends without creating a political atmosphere against the erring existing government system. As the government can not run without support however little it may be from the people, at the same timelength the unity of people against the misrule can bring forth tangible result. The appeal of Gandhiji therefore, helped the people of India to give vent to their feelings against the misrule of Britishers though in a nonviolent way. India was a market place for British traders and capitalists. The boycott of foreign goods therefore brought on economic crises to them. Gandhiji not only gave a call to fight for freedom but at the same time he also attempted to thwart the feudalistic oppression exercised then on the women. ⁽⁴⁹⁾

Apart from Gandhiji's leadership, another side of the coin of the freedom movement was the participation of women in the extrimist politics. The most comprehensive records of women's terrorist and violent activity is available in Bengal and in relation to Quit-India Movement in 1942. The movement of

1942 provided women with an opportunity to prove on a national level their ability to participate in a violent, secret and underground activity. Under the leadership of Aruna Asaf Ali's direction, the movement became violent and destructive.

The Quit-India Movement had been announced at the historic session of congress held in Bombay on 8th August. The next day in a complete unexpected move, the police simultaneously arrested all the prominent leaders. The women who were strict Gandhian like Sarojini Naidu, Kasturba Gandhi, Sushila Nayar, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit etc. peacefully allowed themselves to be arrested. But other like Aruna Asaf Ali, Usha Mehta and Sucheta Kripalini escaped the police and went on hiding.

The Quit-India Movement had martyred the brave lady Matangini Hajra, who also participated in Disobedience movement of 1930. ON 29th September 1942, she was leading a procession to the Tamruk Civil Court for hoisting the Tricolour, she received bullet wound in firing by a military unit and died on the spot with the tricolour in her hand .⁽⁵⁰⁾

Apart from her other prominent ladies who accepted the martyrdom were- Kaushlya, Karani and Yasoda of Kanpur; Surama along with other five ladies in Dinajpur; Rashmoni, Sankhamoni Rebati etc. from Maimansingh; Satyabala Bera, Bimla Majhi, Sindubala Bhuiyan and Brajbala Dolui etc. from Medinipur.

The youth of Bengal participated at the behest of Masterda (Sri Surja Sen) who inculcated the women section under the leadership of Pritilata Wadaddar. She had led an unsuccessful attack on the Pahartali Eupropean Club at Chittagoang on September 22, 1932, she was 21, and committed suicide on the spot swallowing cyanide poison in order to avoid arrest.⁽⁵¹⁾ Kalpana Dutta, Nirupama Barua, Bakul Dutta and many women were there who involved themselves with the extrimist group.

In 1941 Subhas Chandra Bose organised Jhanshi Rani Bahini, Bela Dutta a 16 years girl of the organisation ended herself while fighting with the imperialist forces.

Apart from the above written and discussed names there were many names left behind. However, women's involvement in the nationalistic movement was significant as it recognised that given the opportunity, women had the

capacity and the ability to participate in politics. But women's presence in violent or non-violent politics can not be regarded as it had brought a fundamental change in the role of women in family and society.

Upliftment of women and their representation in the legislature was not an unimportant issue during the freedom struggle. Women's movement in India achieved success in the field of their political representation more easily as compared to their British and American counter part. The Indian women's campaign had to pass through two phases, the first phase was extended from 1917 to 1928, the issues were female enfranchisement and eligibility for the legislature, in the second phase from 1928 to 1937, liberalisation of the term of enfranchisement and increasing of female representation in legislature.

Though the demand of equal rights for the women had began in 1903 and Madam Cama was one of the prominent propagator of women's right. In 1909 and 1910 two conferences were organised at Allahabad under the chairmanship of Smt. Sharda Devi. In the year 1919, Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Smt. Heera Bai Tata, and Mithi Bai Tata (WIA) represented Indian reformist movement of women in England. Similarly in the year 1923 at Rome, in May 1926 in Paris, in 1928 in Geneva, and in 1929 at Berlin; representatives of Indian women participated in the conference held there. In 1930-31 three prominent were invited to participate in the Round Table Conference at London in 1934. ⁽⁵²⁾

In 1917, Edwin Montague, Secretary of State for India, visited India to elicit public opinion on the subject of a new constitution for India. This opportunity inspired Margrate Cousins of the WIA to form a women's delegation to speak to Montague. The delegation consisted of 22 women of WIA, Seva Sadan, Senate of Indian's Women University etc. met Montague on 17th Dec. 1917. ⁽⁵³⁾

Sarojini Naidu planned to offer a resolution of Women's suffrage at the Congress session in December 1917. Members of the women's delegation, mostly WIA's members lobbied at the provincial and the national conference in 1918, and consequently the Congress passed the resolution. Smt. Annie Besant a member of WIA delegation to England in 1919, said that sex as a barrier only came from the western system and claimed that opponents of women's suffrage object to the revival of old hindu custom of recognising women's place in public life. ⁽⁵⁴⁾

While the women's movement was very successful in influencing the British and Indian political elite, it was very unsuccessful in mobilising women to vote.

Actually, the basis of enfranchisement of 1923 election in Madras, Bombay and United Provinces were under the Montagu Chelmsford reform, was series of complicated property and income qualification which varied from province to province among areas within provinces, between urban and rural areas and among religious groups. As few women had sufficient property in their own names, the potential female electorate were much smaller than male electorate.

TABLE - I
TURNOUT IN 1923 GENERAL ELECTION

	Provincial Council		Indian Assembly	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
MADRAS	38%	10%	42.7%	10.4%
BOMBAY	49.5%	18%	38.6%	7.2%
UNITED PROVINCE	43.5%	2.5%	45.2%	N.A

In Madras in 1923 the male electorate for the Provincial Council comprised 10% of the adult male population, and the female electorate was approximately 10 percent of that. In other provinces, the female electorate was even smaller. The qualification for the Indian Legislative Assembly franchise were even stricter than those for the Provincial Legislative Councils. Less than 30% of the women were eligible to vote under the Montague-Chelmsford reforms ever voted, and thus the actual between the electoral power of men and women was even greater than the eligibility requirement suggested. The **Table no. I**, proves and shows the low level of female turnout in 1923 election. ⁽⁵⁵⁾

Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya contested the election of 1926 as an independent candidate of Women's Indian Association (WIA) but lost to the congress candidate. The WIA, organised deputation of government officials to ask that women to be nominated to the legislative councils, and consequently Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy in Madras; Mrs. Ahmed Shah in the United Provinces; and Mrs. A.Kale in the central provinces were nominated. ⁽⁵⁶⁾

During the second phase (1928-37) of women suffrage campaign several elections were held. Although women's turnout increased over the period. The 1930 elections were held during the Congress Civil Disobedience Movement, and in most provinces female turnout was lower than 1926, except Madras. **Table II** shows the male and female turnout in the election of 1930. ⁽⁵⁷⁾

In the election of 1937 to provincial legislature, both the male and female electorates were greatly expanded so that approximately 43% of the adult males and 9% of the adult female were enfranchised. Though in few provinces the female turnout were lowest, (see **table III**) . As a result of 1937 elections 56 women entered the legislature. There were 41 seats reserved for women in Provincial Legislative Assemblies, 10 women won unreserved seats, and five were nominated to provincial councils.

TABLE - II
TURNOUT IN 1930 GENERAL ELECTION

Provinces	Provincial Council		Indian Assembly	
	Total	Female	Total	Female
Madras	43.1%	18.1%	31%	11.5%
Bombay	16.5%	6.5%	7.4%	3.2%
United Provinces	24.6%	3.9%	14.2%	3.3%
Punjab	38.5%	5.6%	55.4%	7.5%
Central Province	33.3%	8.8%	33.3%	-
Bihar & Orissa	33.2%	5.4%	21.4%	3%
Assam	28.3%	6.5%	-	-

TABLE - III
TURNOUT IN 1937 PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Provinces	Electorate	Turnout	Women Enrolled	Female Turnout
Madras	6,436,760	51.6%	1,584,784	31.5%
Bombay	2,609,457	51.7%	335,890	42.2%
Bengal	6,695,483	40.5%	970,033	5.4%
United Province	5,335,309	58.3%	520,380	19.3%
Punjab	2,686,094	63.7%	189,105	33.6%
Bihar	2,412,229	59.2%	229,044	7.9%
Central Province	1,741,364	54.8%	263,331	24.5%
Assam	815,314	71.4%	45,366	29.2%
NWFP	246,609	72.8%	4,895	71.4%
Orissa	520,225	58.9%	79,205	6.6%
Sind	639,043	54.2%	32,668	34.7%

The women who entered the Central Assembly or the Provincial Legislative Assemblies or Council were supposed to bring about the desired legislation to elevate the status of the women.

Each religious community in India is governed by separate laws known as "Personal Law" in the areas such as marriage, inheritance and related subject. ⁽⁵⁹⁾ British officials and Hindu reformers urged some modification in the Hindu Law through regulation and acts to benefit women: Prohibition of Infanticide in 1795; Abolition of Sati in 1829; Legislation of Widow Re-marriage in 1856; the Act of Age of Consent 1891; and Child Marriage Act of 1929.

Prominent schools of Hindu Law advocated its codification. Another area was the legal system of Progressive Indian Status. Mysore and Baroda established committee to consider question of Hindu Law codification and reform. In Mysore, the Hindu Women's Right Regulation (1933) gave the hindus

improved inheritance Right, the right of adoption, right over stridhan and the right of separate maintenance under certain condition. Baroda passed a Hindu Divorce Act (1931) and a general act improving the position of women in Hindu Law (1937), which gave women absolute right over stridhan and other property. ⁽⁶⁰⁾

Through out the world, women had moved towards greater freedom and have achieved greater equality with men in various sphere of life. The old order, which confined women to home as helper of men folk has been replaced by a new one in which women have emerged as partners and co-worker of men in all walks of active life, including politics. While in other countries women had to wage long struggle to achieve political and legal equality with men,⁽⁶¹⁾ in India the history of struggle for political rights does not go beyond the beginning of the century (supra pP)*

With the inauguration of the new Constitution of India a new chapter began. The framers of the constitution had acted on the principle of "dignity and worth" of the human person and equal rights of men and women and laid down that the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law (Art. 14), and shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds of class, caste, religion or sex (Art.15). The constitution also provided for equality of opportunity in the matter of employment or appointment to any office under the state (Art. 16). ⁽⁶²⁾

Thus the constitution of India granted to the Indian women the right to vote and be elected and thereby govern-a right which traditionally denied to (except some exceptional) women throughout the history of India.

Though, certain Acts were made after independence to give equality to women such as, Special Marriage Act 1954, The Hindu Marriage Act 1954, The Hindu Succession Act 1955, The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Act 1956, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956, simultaneously women are representing constitutionally her people in the Parliament (the highest law making body) since the First General Election held in 1952. Most unfortunate event is that, still after 50 years of freedom, women representation in the Lok Sabha is marginal. Which is proved by the following Table (Table No. IV). ⁽⁶³⁾

TABLE - IV
WOMEN MEMBERS IN LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha	Duration	Total Seats	Seat contested by women	% of women contested	Seats won by women	% of women member
Ist	1952	499	51	13%	22	4.4%
2nd	1957	500	70	14%	27	5.4%
3rd	1962	503	68	13%	34	6.7%
4th	1967	523	66	13%	31	5.9%
5th	1971	521	86	17%	22	4.2%
6th	1977	544	70	13%	19	3.4%
7th	1980	544	142	26%	28	5.1%
8th	1984	544	159	29%	44	8.1%
9th	1989	528	89	17%	28	5.3%
10th	1991	531	55	10%	39	7.9%

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PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE PARLIAMENT

Parliament is a legislative body. It is also a place for deliberations. Only through healthy deliberations, Perfection in any sphere can be reached, legislation and deliberation should work together in Present society. Although, Parliamentarian belongs to various parties, yet they should not be Partisan. They must remember that it is the people who are the ultimate source or sovereignty in a democratic Polity. But the honour to become Parliamentarian is the contribution of their respective parties also. They should abhor meddlesome method and rise above regional bias.

In Parliament, laws are legislated and passed after a great deal of debate and discussion. In a vast country like India, Parliamentarians bear from each other, tolerance love, mutual help, respect for others and so on.

Our Parliament is consisted of two House, the Lower House is Known as **LOK-SABHA**, which is also known as popular house. Members of this house are directly elected by the people. The Upper House is known as **RAJYA SABHA**, Members to this House are sent by the States separately. From First to Tenth Lok Sabha (1952 - 1991) altogether 177 women members have represented their voters and constituency. Some of them have represented in a repeated manner and few either once or twice. Out of 177 ; 151 women were purely the members of **Lok Sabha** and 26 had share with Rajya Sabha (Smt. Indira Gandhi + 25).

After an indepth study on the women parliamentarian, it has appeared that their participation is not at all equal, but a great variation has been seen.

There fore, the strategy has been adopted to divide the women's participation in the Parliament into two categories - i.e.,

- (1) Participating women members ; and
- (2) Non- participating women members.

According to the available materials, book & papers, the participating women members in the Lower House (**Lok Sabha**) were 116 (115 + Smt. Gandhi) in numbers, where as number of non participating were 61.

Participation of the women have been divided into "Four" specific 'Sub - Categories'

- 1/a. Women members who have introduced Bills on Women as well as Non Women Bills also (19).
- 1/b. Women members who have introduced only Non Women Bills, and have placed Women Questions (10).
- 1/c. Women who have not introduced either kind of Bills, but have placed Women Questions (37); &
- 1/d. Women members who neither have introduced any Bill on Women nor have placed any Question on Women too (49).

Under (the category of participating Women members), **Sub-Category "1/a"** the following women members have fallen.

1. *BASAVA RAJESHWARI SMT.*
2. *CHAKRABARTY RENU SMT.*
3. *CHENNUPATTI VIDYA SMT.*
4. *CHAUDHARY USHA SMT.*
5. *DANAVATE PRAMILA SMT.*
6. *GHOSH GOSWAMI BIBHA SMT.*
7. *GOPALAN SUSHEELA SMT.*
8. *JOSHI SUBHADRA SMT.*
9. *KUMAR MIERA.*
10. *MAYADEO INDIRA ANANT SMT.*
11. *MAHAJAN SUMITRA SMT.*
12. *MUKHARJEE GITA SMT.*
13. *NEHRU UMA SMT.*
14. *PATEL MANIBHEN VALLAB BHAI SMT.*
15. *PATNAIK JAYANTI SMT.*
16. *RAJI JAYSHREE SMT.*
17. *SAHI KRISHNA SMT.*
18. *SHAH KAMALENDUMATI SMT. &*
19. *UMA BHARTATI.*

Participation of each members have been discussed in nutshell as under-

BASAVRAJESHWARI SMT.

An agriculturist, educationist, industrialist and social worker was elected for 8th, 9th and 10th Lok-Sabha in 1984, 1989 & 1991 respectively & consecutively. But Smt. Basva had entered into the electoral politics in 1957 & before that she was the member of INC.

From 1957 to 1977 (20 years) she was the member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, and significantly she was the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Minor Irrigation of Karnataka, for the duration of five years. From 1977 to 1984 (7 years) she was the member of Karnataka Legislative Council.

Smt. Basva had been the Union Minister of State, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development at the Department of Women and Child Development during the Tenth Lok Sabha from 1993 till the expiry of the term (1995 - 96).

Earlier she had been the member of AICC, and was the secretary of DCC of Raichur District (Karnataka).

Smt. Rajeshwari had represented India as a delegate to various and many international conferences. She was the Member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to C.P.A. Conference at Lusaka ; Leader of Farmers Delegation to Japan, HongKong, Singapore & Malaysia ; Member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Egypt ; She had participated in Speaker's Conference at Zambia & second World Telegu Conference in Kualalampur in Malaysia in April, 1981.

Smt. Basva had been associated with numerous Social Organisation and Associations also.

Sofar her role in the Parliament is concerned, Smt. Basva had participated very actively in Parliamentary debates as well as in legislation.

During the Eighth Lok-sabha she had raised about 800 questions and during Tenth Lok-sabha there were about 70 questions (in two years) placed by her

on the floor of the House which were addressed to different Ministries. Though her 50% of total question were miscellaneous by nature, but inspite of that, about 230 questions were raised on national problem ; 160 were on international relationship and UNO ; 44 questions were on her own state (Karnataka) ; few questions were there raised on the problem of Indian Railways, SC/ST & on Women in Indian Society.

Smt. Basva had been the highest Bill introducer in the Parliament (Lok-sabha), out of all 176 women representatives to Lok-sabha. She had introduced all together 25 Bills ; out of them 8 Bills were on women problem where as 17 were on other issues. Categorically those 25 Bills could be divided into 15 type including 4 types of on women. Most unfortunate event in that she could not replaced any Bill into Act ;even if she had introduced Bills during her Ministry.

Her Bills are described below -

- (1) In the Bill introduced on 13th March 1987 she stated for the Prohibition of Use of Religious, Communal, Regional and Sectoral Nomenclatures for Political Parties and Prevention of Misuse of Religious Places. (Annexure/C Srl. - 160)
- (2) Marriage Law (Amendment) Bill, the detail of the Bill is not available. Perhaps it was for the benefit of women. (Annexure/C Srl. - 155)
- (3) Two Bills were on Abolition of Begging. (Annexure/C Srl. - 165,188)
- (4) Her five Bills were on Amendment of Constitution of India :-
 - (a) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1990, (Insertion of New Article 23A, 23B & 23C) (Sought to give Legal Effect to Right to Work Education and Assistance in Case of Unemployment, old Age, Sickness & disablement, free & Compulsory Education for all Children as a Fundamental Right). (Annexure /C Srl. - 190)
 - (b) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1990 (Amendment of Tenth Schedule) (Sought to Amend the Constitution to the Effect that any person nominated by President, if he is not a Member of any Political Party Must continue his Independent Status through out his term of Membership of the House. (Annexure /C Srl. - 191)

- (c) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1991, (Insertion of new Article 23A, 23B, & 23C) (Sought to provide all citizens the right to guaranteed employment, right to free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 20 years & monetary assistance to sick & disabled). (Annexure /C Srl. - 194)
- (d) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1987, (Sought the amendment of Tenth Schedule). (Annexure /C Srl. - 201)
- (e) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1987, (Sought the insertion of new Articles 23A, 23B, & 23C). (Annexure /C Srl. - 202)
- (5) Her two Bills were on Doctors and Engineers. The Bills were Known as Doctors & Engineers Bill. The Bills sought to ban their migration to foreign countries. (Annexure /C Srl. - 193,204)
- (6) Another Bill was known as welfare for Agricultural workers Bill, 1987. The subject of the Bill was minimum wage and welfare for the Agricultural workers. (Annexure /C Srl. - 203)
- (7) On 10th August, year 1990, she introduced a Bill known as free Medical and Technical Education Bill. (Annexure /C Srl. - 192)
- (8) On 28th February 1992 Smt. Rajeshwari introduced a Bill known as Family planing Bill, 1992, which sought to provide for Initiating Family planing Measures in the Country and for the Matters connected there with. (Annexure /C Srl.- 197)
- (9) On 7th August 1992, Jammu & Kashmir state legislature (Delegation of powers) Bill was introduced by her, which sought to confer on the president the paver of the legislation of the state of Jammu & Kashmir to make laws. (Annexure /C Srl. - 198)
- (10) Another Bill was introduced on the same day was known as prevention of influx of Foreign Nationals in the country. (Annexure /C Srl.- 199)
- (11) One more Bill was introduced on the same day was known as Working children welfare Bill. (Annexure /C Srl. - 200)
- (12) Smt. Basva Rajeshwari had introduced Eight Bills on women out of that

three Bills were introduced at different time on Protection of Civil Rights of Married women, for detail see next chapter Bill on women no - 17. (Annexure /C Srl.- 123,186 & 195)

- (13) One Bill was on prohibition of sati detail given in next chapter No. 21. (Annexure /C Srl.- 163)
- (14) Two separate Bills were introduced on the welfare of the widows. Next Chapter pg. 270. (Annexure /C Srl.- 187,205)
- (15) Two separate Bills Were brought by her on prohibition of tests for pre - Birth sex Determination. Detail in Next Chapter pg. 267. (Annexure /C Srl. - 189,196)

CHAKRABARTY SMT. RENU

An M.A. educated lady was teacher by profession but a strong and active Communist worker also, Smt. Chakraborty was elected for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Lok Sabha in 1952, 1957 and 1962 respectively and consecutively. But she was also the former president of colliery majdoor sabha, West Bengal, United mineral workers union of Gua in Bihar, she was the vice president of United Iron and steel Worker union of Asansol; National federation of Indian women etc.

So far the role of Smt. Chakraborty is concerned in the House, the available datas have show that she was active in both, in the Parliamentary debated as well as in legislations.

She had entered into the Parliament when the waves of British rule were just stopped, but inspite of that she had placed about 150 questions on the floor of the House. Her questions had touched all the areas except the problems of SC/ST.

Significantly Smt. Chakraborty had introduced Five Bills in the House, all the Bill were on women problem, though none of the Bill could have passed.

Smt. Chakraborty's two Bills were on the Dowry prohibition, for detail to see next chapter pg. 247. (Annexure /C Srl.- 5,6)

Two separate Bills were introduced by her on Equal pay for Equal work for women workers - detail in next chapter p. 251. (Annexure /C Srl.- 35,36)

And, the last Bill was on payment of Maternity and Medical Benefit to women, detail next chapter p. 256. (Annexure /C Srl.- 53)

CHENNUPATTI SMT. VIDYA

A graduate lady by profession an active social and political worker. She was elected for the 7th and 9th Lok Sabha in the year 1980 and 1989. But Smt. Chennupatti had come through the grass root level, she was the member of Panchyat Samiti at Gollapudi in Andhra Pradesh from 1962 to 1966. Afterwards from 1967 to 1976 she was the member of Zilla Parshiad of Krishna in A.P.; apart from these she was the member of Executive Committee of DCC of Krishna.

Smt. Chennupatti had been associated with various social, Women, Sports Organisation & Association also.

She had represented India as delegate to foreign or International Conferences. She was a delegate to International Humanist and Ethical Union Congress held at Hanover in West Germany in August 1982. She was the member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to GDR, Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Greece and Dubai in 1983.

Her participation in the parliamentary debates were not much appreciable, because during the 7th Lok Sabha she had placed only about 75 questions to the different Ministries. Smt. Chennupatti did not raise any question on women, but she had introduced one Bill on women problem. Altogether Seven Bills were there introduced by her, sadly none of the Bill were passed .

Her 1st Bill was to Amend the Constitution of India. In her statement of objects and reasons she argued as under ;

More than 30 years the Indian Republic came into existence the nation has not yet been knit into a homogeneous one and the society is torn by divisive factors like religion, caste and language. Communal and caste feuds, the latter especially between the people belonging to the depressed classes, raise there

ugly heads from time to time causing enormous loss to life and property.

The goal of National integration can be achieved only if a caste less and class less society is established. One step in that direction is to provide incentives for marriage of persons belonging to different castes and religions. Reservation of a certain percentage of jobs in public establishment to persons who contract inter-religion or inter casts marriages will promote this objective. (Annexure /C Srl.-70)

Her next Bill was on Compulsory Technical or Vocational Training for students. In her statement of objects and reasons she has mentions the case as under :

Our educational Institutions, both School and Colleges, are producing certificate holders and graduates year after in lakhs and most of them after completing their courses find themselves unemployed. They have no useful vocation to follow by themselves. They often get frustrated in life and their energies are diverted to destructive activities like agitations, strikes and the like.

To this problem technical and vocational education is the only answer. Vocational education should form a compulsory part in the courses of School and Colleges so that the candidates after completing their courses can get useful employment in Industrial establishment or through self employment and earn their livelihood, without look for white collar jobs. (Annexure /C Srl.- 105)

Smt. Chennupatti's third Bill was on Compulsory Home Guard Training for All Able Bodies Persons. In her statement of objects and reasons she has mentioned the case as under:

Home guard training instil a sense of discipline and develop mental robustness and physical fitness in the youth and prepares them for better citizenship. It also enable the state to draft the youth as a second time of defence in times of threats to the security of the country and for relief operations during the national calamities like floods, cyclones, earthquakes, famines, etc.

No doubt there is provision for N.C.C. training in some schools and colleges but the scheme in operations is neither comprehensive nor compulsory for the students.

The country needs a comprehensive scheme under which all able bodied persons should undergo home-guard training for a specified period, before they take up their respective vocations. (Annexture /C Srl.- 107)

Her next Bill was to provide for the promotion of a Castles or Classless & Religionless society in India. In her statement of objects & reasons she has mentioned the case as under :

The society in our country is torn by divisive factors like caste, religion and language: communal and caste feuds have been taking place from time to time in different parts of the country. All these factors are standing in the way of national integration. The goal of national integration can be best achieved if a caste less and classless society is established. One step in this direction is to remove the columns which require a person to indicate his/her caste or religion in the forms maintained by education institutions and various public bodies like employment exchanges, public service commissions etc. In the course of years exclusion of such columns relating to caste and religion shall make caste and factors of no consequence in public life. (Annexture /C Srl.- 113)

Her fifth Bill was to provide for Special Educational Facilities to Children of Parents Contracting Inter-Caste or Inter-Religions Marriage. In her statement she has mentioned the case as under :

To promote national integration and to establish a classless and creedless society is one of the basic aims of our constitution. However, when some persons, men and women venture to contract inter-caste or inter-religious marriage, such marriage are looked down upon by the society. Sometimes such persons are turned out of their family circles and they are subjected to all sorts of provisions. Needless to say the children born of such wedlocks also become victims of such social estrangement. Provision to free educational facilities and by fixing certain quota of reservation in educational institutions to children of such parents. (Annexture /C Srl.- 114)

Her last non-women Bill was to provide for Removal of Disqualifications of Criminals. In her statement of objects and reasons she has mentioned the case as under :

Criminals or persons who have one undergone criminal punishment by way

of imprisonment or fine for any criminal act committed by them carry the stigma to criminals throughout their lives. They are not considered eligible for any public appointment and their presence is shunned by society.

Persons commit crimes impelled by various adverse social circumstances and the present day thinking is not criminals instead of being confined to closed door prisons should be put in open air prisons and made to undergo a reformatory system of education and engage themselves in productive activities.

In most cases, persons who have already undergone criminal punishment get mentally chastened and they atone for their past misdeeds. But left with no means of livelihood, ex-criminals develop a tendency of committing crimes again for their sustenance. By condemning ex-criminals as criminals for life the state is encouraging crime indirectly.

It is in the fitness of things that such ex-criminals are encouraged to join the main stream of society. The disqualifications suffered by such persons should be removed and they should be made eligible for public employment, provided they possess the requisite qualifications. The government may require such persons, if offered such appointments, to provide security deposits for such amounts as they deem fit and/or to submit periodical reports of their good conduct in the manner specified by the central government. (Annexure /C Srl.- 120)

Taking in to consideration the innumerable cases of harassment of women by their husband and in-laws, Smt. Chennupati had introduced a Bill to provide for Compulsory Registration of Marriages in India. For detail see next chapter p.263. (Annexure /C Srl.- 118)

CHOUDHURY SMT. USHA PRAKASH

A Master degree holder, and by profession a social and political worker was elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1980 & 1984. Smt. Choudhury had been associated with different women welfare organisation. For her social works she was awarded with "Bharat Samaj Unnayan Ratna" upadhi by World Development Parliament Institution situated at Calcutta in West Bengal.

Smt. Choudhury had proved her self an active Parliamentarian by participating in parliamentary debates and introducing Bills, to note that though the House was completely new to her (having no previous experience). During her first term she had placed about 200 questions on the floor of the house addressed to different Ministries. These number of questions had increased upto 225 during her second term (8th House). Her good number of questions were concentrated with the national development and problems connected therewith.

However 85 question were on national problem, 70 on international relations & 70 were on the state she belonged to. About 135 questions were miscellaneous by nature and few questions were on SC/ST and Indian Railways were raised. Significantly she had place 30 questions (approximately) on Women problem in Indian society.

Smt. Choudhury had introduced 3 separate Bills in the house, out of three, one was on women question. Though two out of 3 Bills could not passed and the fate of one Bill was not known.

Her first Bill was to Amend the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970. In her statement of objects and reason she has stated as follows :

There are about fifty thousand integrated medical practitioners in India who have undergone regular institutional course of training for four to six years from any statutory university of State Boards after school leaving or Intermediate examinations. The course consists of training in Ayurveda as well as modern system of medicine.

At present those practitioners are grouped in the second Schedule to the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 along with the practitioners having Siddha and Ayurvedic qualifications and so many others who have had no training or had sub-standard training.

An assurance was given on the floors of both the Houses of Parliament by the government on 10th of December, 1970 that these integrated medical practitioners will be categorised and shown separately in the second schedule under rule making power. As it is not permissible to change the second schedule to the Act by making use of the rule making power, and it has been more than 15 years, since the government made the promise, it is felt

necessary to amend the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 for this purpose. (Annexure /C Srl.- 86)

Her second Bill was known as Crop Insurance Bill, the detail about the Bill is not known. (Annexure /C Srl.-159)

And finally her Bill on women was known as "Abolition of the Practice of Devdasi & Murli in India". The Bill is discussed in detail in infra chapter, p.261. (Annexure /C Srl.- 117)

DANAVATE SMT. PRAMILA

An M.A. educated lady, wife of famous leader Sri Madhu Ram Chandra Dandavate. By profession Smt. Dandavate had been an active social and political worker. She had been in the political party since 1945. She was elected for the 7th Lok-sabha in 1980, but before that she was the member of Bombay Municipal Corporation from 1968 to 1973 & was the joint secretary of her Socialist party for 1974-75.

Smt. Dandavate was an active social worker which is evident from the scholarship she received by UNESCO for Adult Education Course at Hill Craft College at Surbiton in U.K.

She had represented India to many international conference also as a delegate. She represented the Socialist Party of India at (a) the Socialist International Conference at Viena in 1954 and in Sweden in 1966 ; (b) International Council of Social Democratic Women in London in 1966 ; and (c) Represented International Council of Social Democratic Women in the seminar on Adult Education in Cylon in 1971.

Her participation in the Parliamentary job is very appreciable, because she was the second highest question raiser in the House during her tenure. She had raised more than 475 questions addressed to various ministries in the House. Her 116 questions were concerned with national problem which included health, financial, industrial, educational & agricultural policies. Her 9 % question were concerned with International relationship & UNO. Her 30,38,26 & 12 questions were on Indian Railways, particular state she

belonged to, on women problem and SC/ST respectively .

Smt. Dandavate had given a true representation her women. She had introduced altogether 8 Bills in the House, out of all 6 were on women problem. However none of the Bill could have replaced into Act.

Out of two non-women Bill first was to Amend the constitution of India. In her statement of object and reasons she stated the case as under :

In view of the widespread concern over the problem of political defections, affecting the political morality, Parliament had appointed a Committee to study the problem of defections. The Committee reported that a defector should be rendered ineligible for certain offices of profit for a stipulated period, but general opinion has been that this would not provide adequate solution and that it would be more appropriate to amend the Constitution with a view to disqualify a defector from his membership of the legislature.

In the recent past this problem has increased multifold and the moral fabric of the legislatures had been considerably weakened thereby destroying the credibility of democratic institutions. With a view to preventing this mal-practice of political defections there is an imperative need to suitably amend the constitution. (Annexure /C Srl. - 72)

And, second Bill was to Amend the Representation of the Public Act, 1951. In her statement of object and reasons she has stated the case as under :

India is the largest democratic country in the world. However, as majority of our voters are illiterate we have introduced symbol system for casting votes.

Illiteracy of the voters has enabled undemocratic elements in our society to resort to malpractices reducing the democracy to a farce. It should be our endeavour to see that by the turn of this century, when we will be nearing golden jubilee of this country is literate enough to sing his or her name and choose the candidate or the party by reading the name.

Inspite of the fact that the percentage of literacy has increased from 16.6 % to 29.45 % since independence number of illiterates has also increased. In 1947 India become independent with a population of 380 million while after 33 years of Independence in 1980, more than 370 million people are supposed to be illiterate.

All the efforts for achieving 100 % literacy have miserably failed. Unless political will is created to eradicate illiteracy from our country the institution of democracy can not be strengthened. (Annexture /C Srl. - 89)

Out of six women Bills two were on dowry prohibition, which have been discussed in detail in infra chapter p.247. (Annexture /C Srl.- 9,10)

Her three Bills were to amend the criminal procedure code (Cr.P.C.) and the question of maintenance of wife by husband, the status of women and the Hindu Marriage Act 1955, to give justice to women. All these three Bills have been discussed in detail in infra chapta p.254. (Annexture /C Srl. - 47,48 & 49)

And the last Bill was to make compulsory Registration of Marriage in India, taking into Consideration the gradual degradation of women and wife's prestige, and security of marriage, this Bill also have discussed in detail in infra chapter p.263. (Annexture /C Srl. - 119)

GHOSH GOSWAMI SMT.BIBHA

A graduate lady by profession a teacher was elected for 5th, 6th 7th and 8th, Lok Sabha consecutively in 1971, 1977, 1980 & 1984 respectively.

Smt. Ghosh Goswami was as active political worker, she had been the president of West Bengal Democrat women's Association of Nadia District, Former Vice President of West Bengal Democratic Women's Association etc.

Smt. Goswami had participated in the Parliamentary business upto a satisfactory manner. She had placed about all together 200 questions on the floor of the House out of those 41 questions were raised on national interest, about 20 were on the state she belonged to, few questions were on Railways, international relation, and SC/ST and WOMEN problem. Rest of the questions were miscellaneous by nature.

Smt. Goswami had participated in the process of legislation also by introducing two separate Bills, both the Bills were on women.

Smt. Goswami's first Bill was on Equal pay for Equal work for women worker, which had been introduced earlier twice during first Lok-sabha and once during seventh Lok-sabha but the Bill could not be passed but fortunately the Bill was passed when it was introduced by Smt. Vyjayantimala. The Bill has been discussed in detail in infra chapter p.251. (Annexure /C Srl. - 38)

Her another Bill is known as Indian Industries and the workers Bill, to provide for the welfare of women employee in various Industries and Establishment. The Bill has been discussed in detail in infra chapter p.259. (Annexure /C Srl.- 99)

GOPALAN SMT. SUSHEELA

Wife of famous communist leader Late Sri. A.K. Gopalan. Smt. Gopalan a graduate lady, and by profession she is more political worker than social. She had joined the communist party in 1948, and had been elected for 4th, 7th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1967, 1980 & 1991 but before that she was elected for Kerala legislative Assembly in 1965.

Within the party she had been associated strongly with the women's wing of the party and was the president of Women Federation ; Kerala Coir Workers Association ; and All India Democratic Women Association. She had been the vice- president of All India C.I.T.U. etc.

Smt. Gopalan had participated very actively in the parliamentary business during each term. During the fourth Lok- Sabha Smt. Gopalan was the second highest question raiser in the House. During the seventh Lok-Sabha also she raised good number of questions as well as during the Tenth House also (till 1993). The total number of questions she had raised were 405 + 215 + 45 = 665.

Out of all about 100 questions were on national interest , 75 were on the development of Kerala, about 40 questions were raised on the problem related to Indian Railways. Apart from this number of questions were raised on international relationship and women problem also.

She had not only placed questions to different ministries but also had participated in the process of legislation through introducing 4 separate Bills, though none of the Bill could have passed, significantly her all Bills were on women problem in Indian society.

Her first Bill was to provide for Equal pay for Equal work for women workers. The Bill sought to remove the indiscrimination against women and to ensure equal wage for them for equal works. The Bill has been discussed in detail in infra chapter p.251. (Annexure /C Srl. - 37)

Her another Bill was on welfare of women employed in various industries and establishment in India. This Bill also has been discussed in detail in next chapter p.259. (Annexure /C Srl. - 98)

The third Bill was to provide for reservation of posts for women in Government service and for the matters connected there with. The Bill was known as Reservation of Posts for Women (in Government Service) Bill, 1992. (Annexure /C Srl.- 171)

And her last Bill was to provide Payment of Maternity and Medical Benefit to Women. See infra chapter p.256.(Annexure /C Srl.- 209)

JOSHI SMT. SUBHADRA

An M.A. educated lady was the member of 1st, 2nd 3rd and 5th Lok Sabha. Much about her profession and background is not known.

Her participation in the Parliamentary debates though not much appreciable but she had raised and placed few questions on the floor of the House and addressed to different Ministries.

Most important aspect is that she had participated in the legislation process through introducing Three separate Bills. Out of Three, one was women Bill which had been passed, and out of two non-women Bill one had passed.

Her First non women Bill was to Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure in her statement of object and reasons she said that the provisions in the India

Panel Code which are likely to cause communal hatred and are likely to disturb peace are not sufficient and precise. They are not applicable to organisations which indulge in communal activities. There exist certain forums in the country whose activities having been causing apprehension in certain sections of the society. The existing panel provisions in the criminal law can be used effectively only against the individuals, but they don't bring under their purview certain organised bodies whose sole object is to create an order in the country which has for its base purely communal and racial considerations. These organisations can't be allowed to exist in view of solemnly declared philosophy of secular democracy. The criminal laws have to be suitably amended to bring within the purview of the law such associations and organisations. (Annexure /C Srl.- 46)

And, the Second Bill was to Amend the representation of the People Act, 1951. In her statement of objects and reasons she had stated the case as under :

Whereas the Parliament by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1972 has amended in India Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 so as to make drills, exercise and other activities organised by communal and other divisive forces punishable under the law, it is necessary that the R/P Act, 1951 should also be suitably amended so as to disqualify from seeking election or from continuing as members of the legislative body all those persons who have been convicted for such acts.

Those persons who have been convicted under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code are already disqualified for a period of 6 years from the date of such conviction from seeking election to legislative bodies. It is necessary that those individuals who are convicted for activities under Section 153-B of the Indian Penal Code should also be disqualified from being elected to or continuing to be members of a legislature. (Annexure /C Srl.- 88)

Her Bill on women was to Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, in the Bill she said that in case of Bigamy a woman is required to spend money in litigation and suffer hardship which should be removed, the Bill has been discussed in detail in next chapter p.253. (Annexure /C Srl.- 43)

KUMAR SMT. MEIRA

Daughter of former Deputy Prime Minister of India Sree Jagjivan Ram. Received Master degree and degree in Law. Professionally attached to Indian Foreign Service from 1973 to 1985. In 1985 she was elected for Lok Sabha (Eighth). From 1991 to 1992 she had been the General Secretary of AICC. Smt. Kumar has been mainly associated to variety of works related to the upliftment of SC/ST and Harijans.

She had represented India to various international conferences including UNO. She was the member of (a) official delegation accompanying the President on his state visit to Mauritius, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and Yemen Arab Republic in October, 1984. (b) Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission, 1984. (c) Congress Party Delegation to Mauritius held in December, 1986. And (d) Parliamentary Delegation to Bulgaria held in September, 1988. Apart from these she was the leader of (a) Indian Delegation to Detroit in USA held in August, 1988. & (b) Congress Party Delegation to Sweden in June, 1989.

So far her role in the House is concerned, Smt. Miera had not placed a single questions on the floor of the House (According to Lok-sabha Debates). But had introduced only one Bill which was Women Bill, though the Bill could not passed. The Bill was on Prohibition of Tests for Pre-Birth Sex Determination. Detail of the Bill is available in infra chapter p.267. (Annexure /C Srl.- 132)

MAYA DEO SMT. INDIRA ANANT

A Science graduate lady, was elected for 1st Lok Sabha in 1952. Smt. Maya Deo was associated with the then famous work related to AIWC reporting, she had been the Hony. Secretary of AIWC. She also had been associated with various social organisation which worked for the upliftment of the Harijans and farmers.

Much is not known about her participation in the Parliamentary debates of the House, but she had introduced Three separate Bills in the House, all the Bills

were on women, nevertheless, none of the Bill was passed.

Her First Bill was to Regulate and License Institutions Caring for Women and Children under 18 years of Age. Detail about the Bill had been discussed in next chapter p.248. (Annexure /C Srl.-18)

Second Bill was on Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Brothels, this Bill also has been discussed in next chapter p.249. (Annexure /C Srl.- 23)

Last Bill was on Divorce on Judicial Separation. She proposed to liberalise the ground of divorce under Section 10 of Indian Divorce Act, 1869 which has been discussed in next chapter p.253. (Annexure /C Srl.- 39)

MAHAJAN SMT. SUMITRA

A highly qualified lady, by profession a Lawyer, at the same time Smt Mahajan had been an active political worker. She had hold up different important post in the party. She was elected for 9th and 10th Lok Sabha but previously she was the Deputy Mayor of Indore Municipal Corporation. She was secretary of Mahila Morcha of BJP of Madhya Pradesh ; and was President of the same also for one year ; vice President of BJP (M.P.) etc.

Smt. Mahajan had proved herself as an active parliamentarian which is evident from her participation, according to available materials. She had placed about Fifty questions on the floor of the House addressed to different Ministries, during the Tenth Lok-sabha (by 1993). Her 14 questions were concerned with national interest, 9 questions were on international relation, 4 on M.P., one each on Railway and SC/ST and two questions were on women problem. Few questions were miscellaneous by nature.

Not only these but she had introduced Four separate Bills in the House. Out of Four, one Bill was on women. Unfortunately none of the Bill could have passed.

Her First non women Bill was known as Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill, 1993, which sought to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882. (Annexure /C Srl. - 175)

Second Bill was Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1992, which sought to amend the Indian Penal Code. The Trade and Merchandise Marks Act is of a civil nature and contains the provisions for punishing the offenders, the penal provisions were no more required. (Annexture /C Srl.- 176)

And lastly the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1992. Which sought to amend the Code of Criminal procedure, 1973, to deter person who though having sufficient means, deliberately neglect or refuse to maintain their wives, children and parents from committing such crimes to increase maintenance from 500/- to 1000 Rs. per month. (Annexture /C Srl. - 177)

Her only women Bill was known as Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 1991, (Amendment of Section 384). The Bill was to provide that no pregnancy of women shall be terminated by a Registered Medical Practitioner or Practitioners, as the case may be, if he or they have reason to believe that such termination is sought with intention to commit female foeticide after having determined the sex of the child to be born by a Sex Determination Tests. (Annexture /C Srl.- 174)

MUKHERJEE SMT. GEETA

A graduate lady, by profession a dedicated party and social worker. Smt. Mukherjee was elected for 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1980, 1984, 1989 and 1991 respectively and consecutively. But Smt. Mukherjee entered into her communist party in 1947, she was the member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977.

Smt. Mukherjee had proved herself as an active, sincere and true representative as well as parliamentarian by participating in the business of the House.

During the Seventh Lok-sabha she was the highest questions raiser in the House, though most part of the questions were miscellaneous by nature. During the eighth Lok-sabha however she was not the highest questions raiser but raised a good number of questions. Till 1993-1994 she has had raised altogether (nearly) 935 questions. Out of all her 208 questions (nearly) on the

interest of the nation, 98 questions were on her state including her constituency, 88 questions were on international relation and UNO ; significantly more than 50 questions were on women problem in India. Few questions were on Indian Railways and SC/ST also raised by her.

Her participation in the parliamentary business not only appreciable in case of questions placing but also in legislation, she has had introduced 15 separate Bills ; out of Fifteen, 4 were women Bills, only one Bill has got passed.

Her First non women Bill was to provide the Protection, Maintenance, Custody, Education and Employment of Children. The purpose of the Bill was either to abolish or regulate child labour in India. The detail of the Bill was as same to the Bill (Srl. A/C 26) introduced by Smt. Sushma Sen in 1953. See p.97. (Annexure /C Srl.- 27)

Her next Bill was to amend the Constitution, in her statement she had stated that-

The present majority and single member constituency described as “first pass the post” system suffers very serious limitations and distortions. It has been seen how under the “majority system” grave distortions in the political and class complexion of the Parliament and how the will of the people also finds a distorted reflection.

Under this system it has been found possible for a party to secure 70 % of the seats or even more seats by getting between 36 to 50 % of the valid votes polled. In 1980 Lok-sabha elections and recent elections to the Assemblies, the same has been demonstrated once again. Under it a party may even get a few seats even it polls a sizable percentage of the votes. The overall representation of a party under the present system depends not so much on its national standing or its standing in a given state, but on other factors particularly on the nature of concentration of its relative voting strength in the constituencies i.e., where it is in a position to secure the largest number of votes among the contestants.

This creates a situation when a party securing barely one-third or even less than one-third votes runs the government even by defying the democratic urges of the board masses.

Many other negative and harmful consequences stem from majority system. It is particularly vulnerable to money-power and to numerous corrupt practices that run counter to the requirements of free and fair elections.

The “majority system” not only prevents the true reflection of the country’s class and political forces in our legislatures at a given time. It obstructs the needed polarisation of these force in the country as a whole. It also encourages regional divisions and other disruptive trends.

The main argument which is put forward in favour of the present system if that it helps stability. This however, is a superficial argument. We have seen how “massive single party majorities are liable to collapse. Anyhow, the kind of stability a developing country like India needs is the stability based on the unity of the patriotic and democratic force.

Of all the systems of representation, proportional representation will be best suited to our conditions to ensure that legislative bodies- Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies reflect more correctly the popular support the trends. Seats will be allowed in proportion to polled valid votes of the different political parties.

This will encourage principled and programmatic combination after the elections which really can help stability.

The proportional representation system will also enable the political parties to select the best talent irrespective of other considerations. In view of the above considerations the majority system should be replaced by proportional representation system. (Annexure /C Srl.- 67)

Smt. Mukherjee’s Bill no. 42 of 1985 was also to amend the constitution, which concentrated to reform the electoral system in India. In her statement of objects and reasons she mentioned the case as under :

The enactment of the Constitution (Fifty Second Amendment) Act, 1985 to penalise the defectors, is a welcome step. It once again shows that a thorough electoral reform is urgently needed. One of the most important points in this respect is to work out a system which really reflects the will of the electorate.

Our electoral system which follows the "first to pass the post method i.e., elect candidates on the basis of a simple majority of votes, does not always reflect the real will of the electorate, as a whole. For example, it has happened that a candidate, who contested in a multi-cornered contest has won with a very low percentage of votes. It has also happened that a party which has lost of the seats by narrow margin, has secured sizeable percentage of votes but remained practically unrepresented in the concerned legislatures. This unreality to a distortion of people's verdict which can be remedied to a considerable extent by adopting the system of proportional representation.

Besides this, an election on the basis of proportional representation, would help considerably to do away the unhealthy influence of casteism, communalism, regionalism, and such other dangerous trends. It would be relatively difficult for money power also to influence the elections. This system would check the mushroom growth of splinter political parties and groups, besides eliminating the so-called independents from the field of elections.

Hence the Bill seeks to amend the Constitution to introduce proportional representation in the elections. (Annexure /C Srl.- 73)

Her Fourth Bill was to amend the constitution to re-structure the Centre-State relationship she had described the reasons as follows :

Every one now admits that democratic restructuring of Centre-State relations is very important for strengthening the unity and integrity of the nation.

Unfortunately with the successive constitutional amendments more and more powers have been taken away by the centre from the states. This is not in keeping with the declarations made by the Indian National Congress while fighting for freedom and immediately thereafter.

The transfer of residuary powers from the centre to the states will be in keeping with the present realities. (Annexure /C Srl.-74)

Her Bill no. 26 of 1985 again to amend the constitution of India, to provide unemployment allowance.

Under article 39 and 41 of the Constitution, it is provided that the state shall direct its policy towards securing for its citizens the right to work and

adequate means of livelihood but those articles have not achieved their desired purpose and unemployment has assumed alarming proportions in the country.

In a welfare state it is the duty of the government to provide for all its able-bodied citizens. Failing to secure adequate means of livelihood to any of its citizens, the state should render assistance to them in the form of unemployment allowance. (Annexure /C Srl.- 75)

Bill no. 31 of 1985 also her constitution amendment Bill, to amend the Article 200 and 201 of the constitution, in her statement of effects and reasons she has stated the case as under :

Articles 200 and 201 of the constitution provide for assent to the Bills passed by the State Legislatures. The Bills passed by the State Legislature shall be presented to the Governor and the Governor shall declare either he assents the Bill or that he withholds assent there from or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President. There are two infirmities in this process. One is that there is no time limit for the Governor for declaring his decision. Second is that there is general discretionary power with the Governor to reserve any Bill for the consideration of the President, while there is no specific provision in the Constitution except in the second proviso to article 200 and clause (2) of article 288 which requires a Bill passed by a state Legislature to be reserved for the consideration of the President. Under the second proviso to Art. 200, the Governor shall reserve for the consideration of the President any Bill, which in the opinion of the Governor, would if it became law, so derogate from the powers of the High Court as to endanger the position which that court is by the Constitution designed to fill. Under Clause (2) of Art. 288 no law of the legislature of a state seeking to impose any such tax as is mentioned in Clause (1) of that article shall have effect unless it has, after having reserved for the consideration of the president, received his assent.

The experience during the last 35 years has shown firstly that the Governor often takes unusual time to declare his assent to the detriment of the people causing delay to give affect to the mandate received from the electorate by the power that be, and secondly, the Governor may withhold his assent to the Bill and reserve for the consideration of the President any Bill whether covering a

subject falling under the State List of the Concurrent List, which again refrains the power that be from the people. Instances are there which show that some Bill passed by the State Legislature were not given Presidential assent even after two and half years from the date of their receipt by the president. The West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1981, remain yet to be assented by the president. This has refrained the State Government of West Bengal from giving affect to the Land Reform (Amendment) Bill, 1981, which seeks to plug the loopholes through which considerable quantity of land has been retained by the big landlords. It is estimated that about 40 lac acres of surplus land will be available if the Bill is made into law and strictly enforced, if a time limit is imposed within which the Governor and the President shall dispose of the matter, this kind of situation may be averted. At the same time the Governor's right to reserve the Bills for the consideration of the President should be confined only to those Bills passed by the state legislature which are required to be reserved for the assent of the president under the specific provisions of the constitution. The general discretion given to the Governor or at present in this regard under the existing provisions of article 200 should be withdrawn. (Annexure /C Srl.- 76)

Smt. Mukherjee had introduced a Bill on Indian Industries and Workers in 1980 to amend Beedi and Cigar Workers (condition of employment) at 1966. The purpose of the Bill was as same as the Bill introduced by Smt. Parvati krishnan in 1978 in Lok-sabha. see page.135. (Annexure /C Srl.- 96)

She had introduced a Bill on the problem of unemployment in India to provide unemployment relief, age bar exemption, exemption from the application fee to apply for jobs and various other to amenities to the registered unemployment. In her statement of objects and reasons she has stated the case as under :

Article 41 of the Constitution leaves the responsibility of making effective for securing the right to work, to education, to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want" to the state. Unemployment is one of the most acute social problems Millions of unemployed men and women feel frustrated and neglected in most parts of India. Unemployment benefit has been introduced by only two states, Kerala and West Bengal, and Maharashtra has same kind of a scheme for employment guarantee in the rural areas. But first of all

unemployment relief must be introduced everywhere and it should be uniform all over India. The unemployed all over the country must feel that their problems are being looked into by the country as a whole in a uniform manner.

Nowadays, there is an age bar of 24 years for entry into government jobs. A big portion of the youth, even when registered in Employment Exchanges does not get any job for a long time, let alone by the age of 24 years, Therefore, this age limit needs to be sufficiently raised.

It is every difficult for the unemployed to pay the fees every time for every application for a job. Therefore, they must be relieved of that burden. They also have to be provided with some other facilities such as free accommodation so that they can go in job somewhat unburdened.

It is also difficult for the unemployed to travel to the place of Employment Exchange from far off village for renewal of registration every year. For it is necessary that their registration is kept alive till they find a job.

This Bill also intended to relieve some of the worries of our unemployed youth throughout the country. (Annexure /C Srl. - 100)

Smt. Mukherjee's Bill no 27 of 1985 was to regulate unemployment of Child labour in India. In her statement objects and reasons she has mentioned the case as under :

All efforts either to abolish or regulate child labour in India have not so far yielded adequate results. While on the one hand, parents send children to work even before they enter teens, on the other, the employer particularly those in the unorganised sector, tend to exploit the poverty of the people and secure the services of the children for a pittance.

The Bill seeks to regulate the employment of child labour, firstly by defining a child as person who has not attained eighteen years of age and secondly , it provides for payment a wage to a child that is equal to the wage paid in the industry to a workman, thereby providing a disincentive of the employment of child labour. Though the hours of a child have been reduced to five, and the child would receive a wage proportionate to the hours worked, the employer is obliged to contribute three hours wage to Central fund to be created for the

purpose of setting up of educational and vocational training institutions to provide training to the children who are employed in any sector of industries. (Annexure /C Srl.- 103)

Her tenth Bill was known as Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill. But the detail of the Bill is not known. (Annexure /C Srl.- 153)

Her last non-women Bill was-Arms (Amendment) Bill. This was the only Bill which was passed and received the assent of the President on 3.11.1988. But unfortunately the detail of the Bill is not known. (Annexure /C Srl.- 164)

Smt. Geeta Mukherjee's first women Bill was to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 and the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Bill was the verbatim translation of the Bill no. 75 introduced by Smt. Pramila Dandavate, which is discussed in detail in next chapter p.254. (Annexure /C Srl.- 50)

Her second women Bill was to amend the Indian Constitution Article 37, for the purpose to Provide Equal Pay for Equal Work to Men & Women. This Bill is given in detail in p.251.(Annexure /C Srl.- 68)

One more Bill of her was to amend the Constitution, in her statement of objects and reason she mentioned as that Indignant Protest from Women from all over the country are being voiced against crimes against women, the roots of which lie in their inferior status in the society. More detail of the Bill is given in p.257. (Annexure /C Srl.- 69)

Her last Bill was on the problem of unemployment in India, the Bill sought the Reservation for Women in posts or appointments in service under the control on central Government. Her statement and reason are discussed in next chapter p.260. (Annexure /C Srl.- 102)

NEHRU SMT.UMA

Born in 19th century, perhaps the oldest lady in the Parliament, educated at convent. Smt. Nehru was the member of the Parliament since 1950, in fact she was the member of Provisional Parliament and afterwards elected for 1st and 2nd Lok Sabha in 1952 & 1957 and elected to Rajya Sabha in 1962.

Not only this Smt. Nehru had a long back ground, she had participated in the Non Co- Operation Movement and had suffered imprisonment several times. She was the President of Luckhnow branch A.I.W.C.; Town Congress Committee of Allahabad (U.P.). She was the Chairman of Municipal Education of Allahabad Municipality ; she was also had been the member of P.C.C. Allahabad ; U.P. Legislative Assembly ; Home Rule League etc.

So far her role in the House is concerned, Smt Nehru had been an active participant in the business of the House. She had placed questions on the floor of the House including women questions. But more important than that, her three Bills which she had introduced in the House, and significantly all the Bills were concerned to the women problem in the society.

Her first two Bills, Bill no. 29 of 1951 and Bill no. 62 of 1952 were known as Dowry Prohibition Bill. These Bills are discussed in detail in next chapter p.247. (Annexture /C Srl.- 3,4)

Her another Bill was on Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Brothels, the purpose of the Bill was to widened the scope of the suppression of immoral traffic in women and girls Act. The Bill has been more discussed in infra chapter p.249.(Annexture /C Srl.- 22)

PATEL MS.MANIBEHN VALLABH BHAI

Was the daughter of the famous and admirable freedom fighter Sardar Vallabhai Patel. Miss Patel also had participated in the Non Co-Operation movement in 1920. She had been imprisoned for participating in the movement of 1930,1932-34,1938-39, 1940 & 1942-45. She also participated and associated herself with numerous social organisation and associations.

In 1951 she became the member of Gujrat P.C.C. and AICC. She had been elected for 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th Lok Sabha in 1952, 1957, 1973 and in 1977. In between of Second & Fifth Lok-sabha she was elected for Rajya-Sabha. These shows that she had been in the parliament for more than Three decades (30 years).

Available data shows that she had placed few questions on the floor of the House, but more important is that she had introduced two separate Bills in the House, both the Bills were on women in Indian society, though the fate of the Bills were not good.

Her first Bill was the Bill to Regulate and License Institution Caring for Women and Children under 18 years of age. This Bill also introduced by some other members which is discussed in next chapter in detail. p.248.(Srl. Annexure /C- 15)

Her next Bill was same as that of the supra discussed member. The Bill was on Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Brothels, for detail see p.249.(Annexure /C Srl.- 20)

Unfortunately out of both none of the Bill had passed.

PATNAIK SMT.JAYANTI

A graduate lady, wife of Sri Janaki Ballav Patnaik, and by profession a social and political worker. Smt. Patnaik was elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1981 and in 1984. She had been associated with various social organisations.

So far her role in the parliament in concerned, she had proved herself as an energetic and true representative. Unfortunately data on her not available of Seventh Lok-sabha. But she was the highest questions raiser of the Eighth Lok-sabha. Total number of questions she has had placed were about 925, addressed to different ministries. Nearly 185 questions were on the national interest, 145 questions were raised during the development of Orissa, 103 questions were on international relation and UNO, few questions were raised on the problem related to Indian Railways and SC/ST. There were Seventeen questions concerned with women problem.

Not only these she had participated in the legislation process also. Smt. Patnaik had introduced Five separate Bills in the House, four were non-women Bill where as one Bill was on women. Sadly none of the Bill could have passed.

Her only women Bill was known as Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill 1985.

The Bill sought to provide for payment as alimony to a divorcee wife at least one-half of the total property, income and other assets owned by the husband. (Annexure /C Srl.- 154)

Other non women Bills were-

First was on Regulation and Control of Technical Servicing Units. (Detail of the Bill is not available). (Annexure /C Srl.- 156)

Second was known as Family Restriction Incentive Bill 1985. (Annexure /C Srl.- 157)

Smt. Patnaik's Third non-women Bill was to amend the Constitution, the Bill sought to amend the Article 16 of the Indian Constitution to facilitate reservation of jobs under the state to the economically backward class of citizens. (Annexure /C Srl.- 206)

The abstract of the last Bill was, The Consumer Protection (Publication of Prices with the advertised product) Bill 1987. More is not known about the Bill. (Annexure /C Srl. - 207)

RAIJI SMT. JAYASHRI

Born in 19th century, was graduate lady, professionally an active social worker. Smt. Raiji was the member of Provisional Parliament from 1950 to 1952, and then became the member of 1st Lok Sabha in 1952. 1950 was not the beginning year of Smt. Raiji's political career.

She had participated in picketing movement by Desh Sevika Sang of Foreign cloth and liquor shops in 1930. She had to suffer imprisonment for Six months due to her participation in "Quit-India" movement in 1942. She was the Chairman of Bombay Presidency Women's Council ; vice President of AIWC, and also associated with unlimited organisations, associations and institutions.

Smt. Raiji had participated in Parliamentary debates as well as in legislation. She had placed few questions and introduced two separate Bills, both the Bills were on women.

Her First Bill was on Dowry Prohibition which has been discussed in detail in next chapter p.247. (Annexure /C Srl.- 2)

And, another Bill was to Regulate and License Institutions Caring for Women and Children under 18 years of age. For detail see p.248. (Annexure /C Srl.-208)

SAHI SMT. KRISHNA

An active social and political worker, by profession she was a Lawyer. Smt. Sahi was elected for 7th, 8th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1980; 1984 and in 1991. But before to be an M.P. she had been the member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1980.

Smt. Sahi was not only the member of Lok-sabha but she was in the Ministry also. Her department was shifted for thrice during the Eighth Lok-sabha, from 1986 to 1988 she was the Union Minister of State under Human Resource Development in the Department of Education & Culture. From 1988 to 1989 she was Union Minister of State of Water Resources, again from July, 1989 to December, 1989 she was the Union Minister of State under the H.R.D. in the department of Culture. And, during the Tenth Lok-sabha she has been the Union Minister of State under the Ministry of Industry in the department of Industrial Development from July 2nd 1992 onwards.

Smt. Sahi had represented India to International conference including UNO, as a delegate. She was the member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the C.P.A. conference held at Lusaka, Zambia in 1980 ; she represented India on the UN Committee on "Women and Apartheid" held at New York in 1982-1983 ; she had also represented Congress Party at a conference on the Status of Women held in Belgrade in 1983.

Smt. Sahi had participated in the Parliamentary business very actively. During her First term she had placed at about 205 questions on the floor of the House, but the number had reduced to 41 during the 8th Lok-sabha, perhaps it was because of her ministerial burden. Out of all about 60 questions were asked on the national issue, 40 on the development of Bihar, 15 on international

relation and UNO, 20 on Indian Railways, 8 were on women in India and the rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

Smt. Sahi had introduced Three separate Bills in the House, two during her first term and one during the Eighth Lok-sabha. Her one Bill was on women.

Her First Bill was on Dowry Prohibition (Women Bill). The detail of the Bill is available in next chapter p.247. (Annexure /C Srl. - 8)

Her Second Bill, Bill number 16 of 1980 was to provide for Prevention of illegal acquisition of property and matters connected there with. In her statement she has stated that :

It is often seen that anti social elements are always active in amassing huge property by illegal, undesirable and corrupt means by indulging in tax evasion, black marketing, corruption, smuggling and other undesirable practices, thus exploiting the society. Such illegal acquisition of property upsets the economic balance of the country. Tempted by greed, people adopt various illegal means for acquiring property in utter disregard of honest means. There is no Statutory provision of illegal acquisition of property. (Annexure /C Srl.- 111)

And her last Bill was on All India Council for Technical Education. The detail of the Bill is not known, but yes the Bill had passed by both Houses and received the assent of the President. (Annexure /C Srl.- 162)

SHAH RAJ MATA KAMALENDUMATI

Born in a Princely family and married to the same. Rajmata had educated herself through private studies. She was elected for the First Lok Sabha. In the Lok-sabha she had participated in the Parliamentary business to a sufficient extent.

She had introduced one Bill in the House, the Bill was on women. The Bill was to Regulate and License Institution Caring for Women & Children under 18 years of age. This Bill also introduced 5 times apart from Smt. Shah, therefore, the Bill has been discussed in next chapter p....* (Annexure /C Srl.- 19)

UMA BHARTI MS.

Not much educationally qualified lady, but of course, has interest in the discussion and discourse on Hindu Religion and Culture throughout the world. Miss Bharti was the vice President of BJP (M.P.) from March, 1988 onwards. She was elected for 9th & 10th Lok-sabha. 9th Lok-sabha could not complete its full term, and the dates of 10th Lok-sabha are available till 1993 instead of 1996. By that time Miss Bharti had participated in the House very actively.

Ms. Bharti had introduced altogether 7 Bills in the House, 5 were on women and two non women Bill. The non women Bill were common by nature ; and there were 3 women Bill, two were introduced twice and one introduced only once. Though none of the Bill were passed.

She had placed at least 40 questions on the floor of the House. Out of all, 15 were on national problem 6 on international relation and UNO, 3 on her own state, one each question were on Indian Railways and women in Indian Society. Rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

Her two non women Bill were on same subject, the Bill was-The Marginal Farmers & Agricultural Workers Family Security Bill 1991. Sought to amend the constitution to a family security to help the families of deceased marginal farmers and agricultural workers. (Annexure /C Srl.- 180,182)

Her women Bills were -

Two Bills were - Mother Linage Bill 1990, 1991, sought to provide for the right to trace one's lineage from the side of one's mother. (Annexure /C Srl.- 179, 184)

Two Bills were known as Working Women Welfare Bill 1990,1991. Sought to provide for the welfare of women employed in various industries and establishment. (Annexure /C Srl.- 181,183)

Her Last Bill was Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill 1991 (Amendment of section 3 & 4). For detail see p.268. (Annexure /C Srl.-185).

Under the sub-category” 1/b” the following women members have fallen :-

1. *BAJPAI SMT. RAJENDRA KUMARI*
2. *BHANDARI SMT. DIL KUMARI*
3. *CHIKHALIA SMT. BHAVNA BHEN*
4. *PROF. (SMT) GIRIJA DEVI*
5. *KHONGMEN SMT. BONILY*
6. *LAKSHMI KANTAMAA SMT*
7. *NAYAR DR. SUSHEELA*
8. *PATIL SMT. PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH*
9. *ROHATGI SMT. SUSHEELA and,*
10. *SEN SMT. SUSHMA*

Participation of these women members have discussed as under:

BAJPAI SMT. RAJENDRA KUMARI

A doctorate degree holder lady by profession a Teacher but at the same time an active politician and social worker. She was elected for 7th, 8th and 9th Lok Sabha in 1980,1984 and 1989, but Smt. Bajpai entered into the electoral politics in 1959 by becoming a member of Allahabad Corporation. From 1962 to 1977 she was the member of U. P. Legislative Assembly . From 1970 to 1977 she had been the minister of different department from time to time in U.P. In 1970 she was the Minister of Education; from 1973 to 1975 she was the Cabinet Minister of Health; From 1976 to 1977 she was the Cabinet Minister of Power and Labour.

At Centre from 1985 to 1989 she was the Union Minister of State with independent charge of Welfare .

Dr. Bajpai had represented India to several International Conferences including UNO . She was the member of Indian delegation to UNO in 1980, and was a leader of (a) Delegation to World Peace Conference held at Prague in 1983 and (b) Japan Social Rehabilitation World Conference held twice.

Smt. Bajpai had placed a few number of questions on the floor of the House , out of total 18 questions 2 questions were raised on women problem, other questions were distributed among national, regional, international relation, SC/ST etc. problems.

Dr. Bajpai had introduced Four separate non-women Bills in the House. Out of Four Three Bills were lapsed and the fate of one Bill is not known.

Her first Bill was to provide for the Protection, Treatment, Development and Rehabilitation of Neglected or Delinquent Juveniles and for the adjudication of certain matters relating to, and disposition of, delinquent juveniles. In her statement she stated the reasons as under:

A review of the working of the existing Children Acts would indicate that much greater attention required to be given to children who may be found in situations of social maladjustment, delinquency, or neglect. The justice system as available for adults is not considered suitable for being applied to juveniles. It is also necessary that a uniform juvenile justice system should be available throughout the country which should make adequate provision for dealing with all aspects in the changing social, cultural and economic situation in the country. There is also need for larger involvement of informal system and community based welfare agencies in the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of such juvenile.

2. In this context, the proposed legislation aims at achieving the following objectives:
 - (i) To lay down a uniform legal framework for juvenile justice in the country so as to ensure that no child under any circumstances is lodged in jail or police lock-up. This is being ensured by establishing juvenile Welfare Boards and Juvenile Courts;
 - (ii) To provide for a specialised approach towards the prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency in its full range in keeping with the

development needs of the child found in any situation of social maladjustment;

- (iii) to spell out the machinery and infrastructure required for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of various categories of children coming within the purview of the juvenile justice system. This is proposed to be achieved by establishing observation homes, juvenile homes for neglected juveniles and special homes for delinquent juveniles;
 - (iv) to establish norms and standards for the administration of juvenile justice in terms of investigation and prosecution, adjudication and disposition and care, treatment and rehabilitation;
 - (v) to develop appropriate linkages and co-ordination between the formal system of juvenile justice and voluntary agencies engaged in the welfare of neglected or socially maladjusted children and to specially define the areas of their responsibilities and roles;
 - (vi) to constitute special offences in relation to juveniles and provide for punishments there for;
 - (vii) to bring the operation of the juvenile justice system in the country in conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rule for the Administration of juvenile justice.
3. As its various provisions come into force in different parts of the country they would replace the corresponding laws on the subject such as the Children Act, 1960 and other state enactment on the subject.

The Bill sought to achieve the above objects. (Annexure /C Srl. - 131)

Other three Bills were on the Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribes. First Bill was to provide for the inclusion of certain Tribes in the list of Schedule Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghalaya. In her statement she described the reason as under:

The Tribal communities of Boro Kacharis, Koch and Roba or Rava, in the state of Meghalaya, were not included in the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order 1950 and accordingly these tribal communities did

not derive the benefits of the various safeguards provided for them in the constitution, including the reservation of seats for them in the Legislative Assembly of the State.

The State Government of Meghalaya had recommended the inclusion of these communities in the List of Schedules Tribes for the state. In order to enable the Election Commission to take preparatory action for the determination of the number of seats to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes for the conduct of elections to the State Legislative Assembly to be held early next year, the President promulgated the constitution (ST) order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 on the 19 September, 1987 for the inclusion of the above communities in the list of ST of the state .

The Bill sought to replace the aforesaid ordinance. (Annexure /C Srl. - 133)

Next Bill was to alter the name of certain castes and tribes in the list of Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes and for the matters connected therewith. In her statement of object and reason she has stated the case as under:

Some entries in the lists in S/C and S/T notified in various Presidential orders have been the subject of criticism on the ground that names of certain S/C and S/T communities or subjects thereof included in these lists sound derogatory because of their disrespectful or undignified connotations. There has been considerable resentment among the concerned communities or sub-sects thereof. The Joint Committee on the S/C and S/T (Orders) Amendment Bill 1967 had also recommended the change in the names which sound derogatory in deference to their sentiments, it is proposed to change their names with more acceptable ones.

The Bill sought to achieve the above object. (Annexure /C Srl. - 134)

And lastly one bill more was introduced by her to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against member of S.C. and S.T.s to provide for special court for the trial of such offences and for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In her statements of objects and reasons she has said as under:

Despite various measures to improve the socio-economic conditions of the

S/C and S/Ts, they remain vulnerable. They are denied members of civil rights. They are subjected to various offences, indignities, humiliations and harassment. They have in several brutal incidents, been deprived of their life and property. Serious crimes are committed against them for various historical, social and economic reasons.

Because of the awareness created amongst the S/C and S/T through spread of education, etc. they are trying to assert their rights and this is not being taken very seriously by the others, when they assert their rights and this is not being taken very kindly by the others. When they assert their rights and resist practices of untouchability against or demand statutory minimum wages or refuse to do any bonded and forced labour, the vested interests try to come them down and terrorise them.

When the S/C and S/T try to preserve their self-respect or honour of their women, they become irritants for the dominant and the mighty. Occupation and cultivation of even the government allotted land by the S/C and S/T is resented and more often these people become victims of attacks by the vested interests. Of late, there has been an increase in the disturbing trend of commission of certain atrocities like making the scheduled caste persons eat inedible substances like human excreta and attacks on and mass killings of helpless S/C and S/T and rape of women belong to S/C and S/T. Under the circumstances, the existing laws like the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the normal provisions of the Indian Penal Code have been found to be inadequate to check these crimes. A special legislation to check and deter crimes against them committed by non-scheduled castes and non-scheduled tribes, has, therefore, become necessary.

The term 'atrocities' has not been defined so far. It is considered necessary that not only the term atrocities should be defined but stringent measures should also be introduced to provide for higher punishments for committing such atrocities. It is also proposed to be enjoining on the states and the union territories to take specific preventive and punitive measures to protect the S/C and S/T from being victimised, and where atrocities are committed to provide adequate relief and assistance to rehabilitate them.

4. The Bill sought to achieve the above objects. (Annexure /C Srl. - 135)

BHANDARI SMT. DIL KUMARI

Wife of former Chief Minister of Sikkim ,Mr.Nar Bahadur Bhandari . Smt. Bhandari a pre-university passed lady , by profession a teacher, social and political worker. She was elected for the 8th and 10th Lok Sabha and was awarded with Lok-Shree Award for Social Service by the Institute of Economic Studies of India in 1989 .

During the eighth Lok Sabha Smt. Bhandari had raised nearly 400 questions and during 10th Lok Sabha (By 1993) there were nearly 80 questions placed by her. Out of 480 questions approximately 50 questions were raised on National Interest; 35 were on International Relation and UNO; few questions were on Indian Railways and S/C,S/Ts ; 8 questions were raised on the problem of women in India . Significantly a large part (about 110) of the questions were raised only on her own state Sikkim. Rest of the questions were miscellaneous by nature.

Smt. Bhandari had introduced 3 separate Bills in the House. All the bills were Non-Women. Her all Bills were to amend the Constitution of India.

First Bill had sought to amend the Constitution of India and to include Nepalee and Manipuri language to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill had been discussed in the house several times but ultimately withdrawn. (Annexture /C Srl. - 166)

Second was concerned with the Representation of People and for the purpose of amendment of Section 7. (Annexture /C Srl. - 167)

And Lastly the Bill sought to amend constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order 1978, such that representative had been made to show the Tribes Chumbipa, Dophthapa, Dulepa, Kagatey, Sherpa, Tibetan, Thompa and Yolmo tribes are separate from the Bhutia tribes. (Annexture /C Srl. - 168)

CHIKHALIA SMT. BHAVNA BHEN

A commerce graduate and holder of the degree of a Lawyer, but professionally a social worker, was elected for 10th Lok Sabha only. Smt. Chikhalia was associated with various social organisations and institutions.

Smt. Chikhalia had proved herself as an active Parliamentarian. She has had placed nearly 230 questions by the half time of the full tenure of the House. She had given importance to the National issues rather than the regional because where her 102 questions were on nation as a whole at the same time only 16 questions were there raised on regional problem. Apart from these 22 questions were there on international relation and UNO; 7 on Indian Railways, 2 on SC/ST and 3 questions were raised on women problems.

Apart from the parliamentary debates she had participated in the legislation process also by introducing two separate non- women Bills. Though none of the Bills could have passed.

Her first Bill was known as High Court of Gujrat Bill, 1991, which sought to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court of Gujrat at Rajkot. (Annexure /C Srl. -169)

Another was known as the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 1992, sought to amend the Cr.P.C. 1973, so as to plug certain loopholes in the existing law and to provide relief to helpless deserted wives and children. (Annexure /C Srl. -170)

GIRIJA DEVI DR. (PROF.)

A Doctorate of Literature and Master in Music, by profession a Teacher, Musician and Educationist. She has been mainly associated with different Music college, Board, institutions for instance She was the member of AIR audition Board, Patna; Executive Committee of Bihar Sangit Kala Academy and member of Governing Body of Gandharva Vidyalyaya Mandal of Bombay. Smt. Girija Devi was elected for the 10th Lok Sabha.

As in the field of education, music, she had proved herself as an active parliamentarian also through asking questions and introducing Bills. by 1993-1994 she had placed nearly 65 questions on the floor of the House. Out of all major part of the questions were on the nation as whole, 10 questions were on international relation and UNO, being an Artist she placed few questions on the welfare of the artists and 3 questions were asked on the problem of women.

Apart from the parliamentary debates she had also introduced two separate Bills in the House, both the Bills were non-women but one Bill was concerned with the problem of the Artists.

Her first Bill was Constitution (ST) order (amendment) Bill, 1993, which wanted to amend the Constitution (ST) order amendment 1950 for the Economic and Social emancipation of the Scheduled Tribes. (Annexure /C Srl. - 172)

Another Bill was Unorganised Artist Welfare Bill, 1993, which sought to supplement the efforts being made by the Government to improve the living conditions of the unorganised artists. (Annexure /C Srl. - 173)

KHONGMEN SMT. BONILY

A graduate lady, by profession a Teacher and a social worker. She was elected for the 1st Lok Sabha in 1952, before that she was the member and Deputy Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly. Smt. Khongmen was mainly interested in the upliftment and betterment of SC/ST's.

According to available datas though she could not asked much questions in the House, out of 4 questions, one was on SC/ST, and 2 on women problem were asked by her.

She had introduced one non-women Bill in the House. The Bill was to Amend the Constitution of India. In her statement she stated the reasons as under:

At the time of framing of the Constitution of India the Constituent Assembly considered the peculiar customs and manners of the Six hill districts in Assam

inhabited by the hill tribes, and decided to give them a certain measure of autonomy by providing in the 6th Schedule the formation of the District Councils in each of the hill districts. After the working of these District Councils for about two years, it is found that there is a great necessity of putting them on a sound financial basis in order to enable them to function properly. The financial provisions in the 6th Schedule are not enough to enable these District Councils to get enough finance to function successfully. Hence it is proposed to amend the 6th schedule to meet the great need. (Annexure /C Srl. - 33)

LAKSHMI KANTAMMA SMT. T.

An Master degree holder lady, was by profession an agriculturist. Smt. Lakshmi Kantama was elected for consecutive 3rd, 4th and 5th Lok Sabha in 1962, 1967 and in 1971. Previously she was the member of A.P. Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962. She had represented once India as a member of Indian Parliamentary delegation to Australia in 1962.

Smt Lakshmi Kantamma had placed altogether nearly 165 questions on the floor of the house. Out of all about 50 questions were asked on the issues concerned with National Problem, 5 on Regional Development 10 on Indian Railways, 8 on International Relation and UNO, rest of the questions were miscellaneous, however, nearly 10 questions were asked on the Humiliating position of women in Indian Society.

Smt. Kantamma had introduced 1 bill in the house to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. Though the bill could not passed, in her statement she stated the reasons as under:

It is a matter of deep concern that yellow press in this country has been growing unchecked and has been indulging very freely in scurrilous attacks against persons of status and standing, with impugntiy. The writings are grossly indecent, obscene or intended for blackmail. Being afraid of giving under publicity to these infamous writings, the persons affected are usually reluctant to take legal actions available to them under the ordinary law against such publishers. There have been a few instances of foreign dignitaries also

being subjected to scurrilous attacks in the press and such attacks on foreign dignitaries, if allowed unchecked, may have an adverse impact on friendly relations of our country with foreign countries. There is at present no Central Act to effectively deal with such writings after the repeal, in 1957, of the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951. In such a matter concerning the whole of India it is desirable that parliament undertake suitable legislation to combat this evil so that any such legislation may be of a uniform character applicable throughout the country. If the growth of such writing is not curbed effectively, the government would be failing in their duty of protecting the elementary rights of citizens in a welfare state.

It is, therefore, considered that the effective way of combating the evils of obscenity, gross indecency, and blackmailing in writing is:

1. To provide for the enhancement of the penalty under Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code from three months to two years and also to provide for more deterrent punishment for a second or subsequent offence;
2. To penalise printer, publishers, writers, etc., of obscene objects but also sale etc., of scurrilous writings or writings which are grossly indecent or intended for blackmail;
3. To penalise not only sale, etc., of obscene objects but also sale, etc., of scurrilous writings or writings which are grossly indecent or intended for blackmail, to young and unaware persons or those of impressionable age;
4. To enhance the maximum term of imprisonment specified in Section 293 I.P.C. from six months to three years;
5. To penalise persons who indulge in talk which is scurrilous, grossly indecent or intended for blackmail;
6. To demand security for good security from person disseminating defamatory matters; and
7. To forfeit to government publications containing matters which are defamatory within the meaning of Section 499 of I.P.C.

It is also proposed to make consequential amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and to repeal the corresponding laws in force in any of the states. (Annexure /C Srl. - 45)

NAYAR DR. (Ms.) SUSHEELA

An M.B.B.S, Doctor of Science, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health. By profession a medical practitioner and a teacher too. Ms. Nayar was elected for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Lok Sabha in 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1977. Before 1957 she had been the member of Delhi Bidhan Sabha from 1952 to 1956. From 1952 to 1955 she was the Minister of Health, Rehabilitation and Transport and Charitable Endowment of Delhi State. From 1955 to 1956 she was the Speaker of Delhi Bidhan Sabha also.

At the centre she had been the Union Minister of Health (as one of the minister of state) from 1962 to 1966, and from 1966 to 1967 she received the extra charge of Family Planning along with the earlier ministry.

Points to highlight that she had participated in the National Movement and Imprisoned with Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi for 93 weeks in Agha Khan Palace. Ms. Nayar was associated with various health centres and organisations.

Dr. Nayar had represented various International Conferences on behalf of India too.

So far the materials are available Ms. Nayar was the highest questions raiser of 4th Lok Sabha, she had placed about 500 questions on the floor of the House. Out of all 137 questions were on National Issues, 26 were asked on International Relations and UNO, few questions were asked on her own state, 22 were on Indian Railways. Dr. Nayar had raised only 4 questions on women and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

Dr. Nayar had introduced 9 separate Non-Women Bill in the house, out of 9, 5 bills were passed, 3 were lapsed and the fate of 1 bill was not known.

Her first bill was known as Prevention of Food Adulteration Bill in the Bill it was stated that -the machinery provided by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 was inadequate to cope with the increasing tendencies to indulge in adulteration. A revision, therefore, was necessary. The Central Council of Health at its meeting held in October, 1960, reviewed the position and recommended inter alia that the penal provision of the Act should be made more deterrent and the services of the food inspectors instead of being

left to remain the local authorities should be provincialised. The Planning Commission also suggested centralisation of administration for the proper enforcement of the Act. The Central Government should also have the power to appoint Food Inspectors. (Annexure /C Srl. - 13)

She introduced 2 separate Bills on Drugs and Cosmetics .

In the first Bill she stated that:

Certain commercial firms were preparing certain adulterated Ayurvedica and Unani medicines not containing the necessary ingredients. These first should be prohibited to import, manufacture and sell such drugs. The maximum penalty given to them should be extended to 10 years and their property and apparatus confiscated. (Annexure /C Srl. - 31)

In the second bill she explained:

The Drugs and Remedies Act,1954 which prohibited certain advertisements commanding drugs and remedies for treatment of certain diseases and conditions was struck down by the Supreme Court as invalid as far as Cl.(d) of Section 3 and whole of Section 8 of the Act on the ground that the power to specify diseases by rules, and the power of seizure conferred by the section are too wide. As a result it was proposed to amend the Drugs and Magis Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. (Annexure/C Srl.- 32)

Her two bills were on East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners . First was introduced in Rajya Sabha which was lapsed and again the bill was placed in Lok Sabha after 2 years and it was passed. The detail of the bill is as below:-

The Board of Ayurvedic and Unani systems of Medicine, Delhi created under the East Punjab Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act, 1949 as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi has been in existence- since the year 1950 and is charged with the dual functions of registering Vaidis and Hakims and holding qualifying and preparatory examinations. Experience over all these years has shown that this arrangement is not satisfactory. It is, therefore, proposed to entrust the functions of holding examinations and prescribing courses to a separate examining Body leaving the Board with the task of registering, recognition of institutions and other related matters. (Annexure/C Srl.- 77 & 78)

Her sixth Bill was concerned with Development of Delhi. In the Bill she opined-

The Delhi Development Act, 1957, requires the Delhi Development Authority to prepare a master plan for Delhi and to promote and secure the development of Delhi according to that Plan. The master plan came into force with effect from the 1st September, 1962. Under the provisions of the present Act, the master plan has become a very rigid document, and if it is considered that there should be an easy procedure for making modifications and minor deviations in the plan which are found necessary in the process of actual development. Some changes are inevitable and unless those can be expeditiously effected, the actual work of development would be greatly hampered from time to time.

It is also felt that the provisions of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 regarding acquisition and disposal of land operate to the disadvantage of the public and government considers that the land for development of Delhi should be acquired under the ordinary law, viz., the Land Acquisition Act, 1984.

The working of the Delhi Development Act has also revealed the need for certain other amendments to ensure smooth and speedy implementation of the master plan for the capital. These amendments inter alia provide for the constitution of committees, conferment of power on the authority to carry out development when expedient even in areas not formally declared as development area, borrowing money with the approval of the central government and the creation of a Sinking Fund for certain purposes, conferment of power on the administrator of the union territory of Delhi to terminate by demolition or otherwise any contravention of the master plan where a local authority has failed to take a necessary action, levy of betterment charges on properties situate outside development areas which have substantially benefited by the development work and power to provide for the prior examination of rules, regulations or bye-laws proposed by local authorities to secure compliance with the provisions of the master plan.

The Bill seeks to give effect to these changes. (Annexure /C Srl. - 80)

Her seventh Bill was to Regulate the Import, Manufacture, Sale, Transport, Distribution and use of Insecticides with a view to prevent risk to human beings or vertebrate animals, and for matters connected therewith. In her statement of objects and reasons she has stated the facts as :

In the month of April and May, 1958, many persons died in the states of Kerala and Madras as a result of food poisoning arising from contamination of food poisoning-organo-phosphorous insecticides 'Parathion' (Faldol). There were also cases of persons who fell seriously ill though not fatally on account of food poisoning in the same areas. The Government of India appointed the Kerala and Madras Food Poisoning Cases Enquiry Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri J.C. Shah, then a Judge of the High Court of Bombay and now a Judge of the Supreme Court to inquire into and report on the circumstances in which the food stuffs came to be contaminated and the measures to be taken against similar occurrences in future.

The recommendations of the Enquiry Commission were accepted by the government. The government then appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee to suggest the measures to give effect to the recommendations made by the Commission. Accordingly the Inter-Ministerial Committee suggested certain short term and long term measures. The short term measures suggested by the Committee have already been given to. The long term measures suggested by the Commission envisaged the enactment of legislation to regulate the manufacture, sale, storage, transport, distribution and use of insecticides including pesticides, herbicides or fungicides in the country.

Subsequent to the poisonous cases in 1958 in Kerala and Madras cases of food poisoning were also reported in 1962 in Malda and Dinajpur district of West Bengal and Assam respectively as a result of which 450 persons were crippled by paralysis. Contamination of wheat flour with 'Tri-ortho-Cresyl phosphate' was the cause of poisoning. Cases of food poisoning were reported in Bombay and in January-February 1963, as a result of ingestion of rice stored in bags which were reportedly sprayed with 5 per cent Benzene Hexachloride. Reports have also been received about cases of poisoning due to indiscriminate use of organo-phosphorous compounds like Parathion, Malathion, Diazinon, Baytex, etc., which are said to be marketed in concentrated form for extermination of bed bugs. Cases of poisoning resulting from the use of Copper Sulphate among the shoe workers of Agra have also been brought to notice.

The Bill follows the recommendations of the Commission referred to in Para 2. The salient features of the Bill were as follows:

- (i) establishment of a Central Insecticides Board and the setting up of a Committee called 'Registration Committee' for the purpose of granting certificates of registration to persons desiring to import or manufacture insecticides;
- (ii) licensing of persons desiring to manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale or distribute any insecticide;
- (iii) establishment of a Central Insecticide Laboratory for carrying out certain functions under the Act;
- (iv) Prohibition of import, manufacture, sale etc. of insecticides in contravention of the provisions of the Act;
- (v) regulation of transport and storage of insecticides so as to prevent cases of accidental contamination of food with insecticides;
- (vi) provision for taking immediate action by way of prohibition of sale, distribution or use of the insecticide is being done in such a way as to involve risk to human beings or vertebrate animals and where immediate action is necessary. (Annexure /C Srl. - 83)

Her one of the important Bill was the Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act of 1958. In her statement of objects and reasons she opined that the Act should also be extended to the State of Jammu & Kashmir so that the Indian Medical Council can discharge its functions more effectively. (Annexure /C Srl. - 84)

Dr. Nayar's last Bill was to amend the law relating to Treatment and Care of Mentally ill persons, to make better provisions with respect to their property and affairs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

She stated-

The Indian Lunacy Act currently in force was enacted in 1912. At that time no active treatment procedures were available in Psychiatry and the mental asylums provided custodial care to the mentally ill-protecting them from society and protecting the society from them. This naturally was the operative spirit behind the Indian Lunacy Act.

During the past half a century, tremendous advances have occurred in the field of psychiatric treatment, the role of Psychiatric hospitals have consequently changed so the fate of Psychiatric patients.

The Indian Lunacy Act, 1912 has become anachronistic and ill-suited to the active therapeutic (as contrasted) with the traditional custodial role of the Psychiatric hospital.

The out-moded Act, therefore, needs to be replaced by an Act positively geared to mental-health.

Significantly, Dr. Nayar's eight Bills were concerned with health, medical etc. Five passed Bills were out of these eight. Her non-health Bill was the Bill of Development of Delhi, the fate of the bill is not known.

PATIL SMT. PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH

Holder of Master degree in Arts and Bachelor in Law. By profession- a social and active political worker, was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. But her political career began in the year 1962. From 1962 to 1985 (27 years) for a long span she had been the Member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. At the same time for a long period she had been in the Ministry . From 1967 to 1972 she was the Deputy Minister of Public Health , Prohibition , Housing and Parliamentary Affairs of Maharashtra; From 1972 to 1974 she was the Cabinet Minister of Social Welfare of Maharashtra; from 1974 to 1975, Cabinet Minister of Public Health and Social Welfare, Maharashtra; Minister of Prohibition, Rehabilitation and Cultural Affairs (Maharashtra); from 1977 to 1978, Cabinet Minister of Education in Maharashtra. Finally, from 1982 to 1985 she was the Cabinet Minister of Urban Development and Housing and Civil Supplies and Social Welfare of Maharashtra. In between 1979 to 1980 she was also the leader of opposition in Maharashtra State Assembly.

In June 1985 Smt. Singh was elected to Rajya Sabha where she was the Chairman of Various Parliamentary Committees.

Apart from M.L.A. and M.P. ship she had also been the president of State P.C.C.

Smt. Singh represented India to various International Conferences for instances ,she had attended the (a) International Council of Social Welfare Conference held at Nairobi and Puerto Raico (b) Commonwealth Presiding Officers' Conference held in London in 1988 ; She was the leader of delegation to Austria on status of women conference and was the member of AICC delegation to Bulgaria in 1985.

Overall data shows she was an active lady, so far Parliament is concerned here also she was active and sincere , by 1993 she had placed nearly 40 questions on the floor of the House . Out of 40 , 16 were on National Interest, 3 on International Relation ,1 each on her constituency and on women and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

Smt.Singh had introduced 1 Bill in the House, the Bill could not passed . The Bill was known as National Population Policy Bill, 1992. (Detail of the Bill is not available). (Annexure /C Srl. - 178)

ROHATGI SMT. SUSHEELA

An M.A. educated lady was elected for 4th and 5th Lok Sabha , who was by profession a social and political worker. Before entering into Parliament she had been the member of U.P. Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967.

Smt. Rohatgi was the member of Lok sabha from 1967 to 1977 . From 1971 to 1977 she had been the Union Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Again in 1985 she was elected for Rajya Sabha, and was the Minister of State in the Department of Education and Culture from 1985 to 1987; From 1986 to 1988 she was the Minister of State in the Department of Power in the Minister of Energy, in between she was also the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas .

Smt. Rohatgi was the President of AIWC and also was associated with various associations, organisations and institutions.

Smt. Rohatgi had represented India to many International Conference as a delegate. For instances she was the leader of the Indian Delegation to (a)

Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference held at Dar-e-Islam in Tanzania in 1973; (b) Asian Development Bank in Jakarta held in Indonesia in 1976 and (c) Vienna to sign Agreement with OPEC in 1977. She was a delegate to (a) Afro-Asian Conference held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) in 1958 (b) World Peace Council held in Finland in 1965 (c) Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Canberra (Australia) in 1970; and (d) Indian Council for Social Welfare held in Brighton (U.K.) in October, 1981.

She had also represented India at the World Congress Meet on Disability at (a) Newyork in U.S.A. in 1983 and (b) Lisbon (Portugal) in 1984. he was the member of 3 members delegation to U.K.

So far the datas are available, it is found that Smt. Rohatgi had placed nearly 220 questions during the 4th Lok Sabha , but the number reduced to 12 during the 5th Lok Sabha perhaps it was because of her over burdened work in the Ministry.

Out of all questions only 3 were on women problem and approximately 50 questions were asked on National Interest, 30 on International Relation, 11 on Indian Railways, 14 on Regional Development and the rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

During her Ministry Smt. Rohatgi had introduced all together 17 Bills out of all 16 were concerned with Finance , and all of them were either approved and/or passed. 1 Bill was on University Grant Commission though the Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha but still the ultimate fate is not known.

Her 1st Bill was to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 . In her statement of objects and reasons she said :

Government have recently been examining various suggestions to mobilise the savings of non-resident Indians and aliens of Indian origin living abroad and to facilitate investment by them in India. At present investments made by non-resident Indian and aliens of Indian origin in fixed deposits with commercial banks out of the Non-Resident (External) Accounts are totally exempt from payment of Income Tax and Wealth Tax. In order to make the investments in units of the Unit Trust of India also attractive and to encourage foreign exchange into the country, the President promulgated the Unit Trust of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1975 on 31st October, 1975 amending the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963

Second Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1975-76. She stated:

The Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India, read with article 115 thereof, to provide for the appropriation out of Consolidated Fund of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government excluding Railways, for the financial year 1975-76. (Annexure/C Srl.- 138)

Third Bill was to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1974 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year. In her statement of objectives and reasons she has mention the case as under:

The Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India read with article 115 thereof, to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the moneys required to meet the expenditure incurred in excess of the appropriations charged on the Fund and the Grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government, excluding Railways, for the financial year ended on the of 31st day of March, 1974. (Annexure /C Srl. - 139)

Fourth Bill was to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Nagaland for the services of the financial year 1975-76. She said:

This Bill is introduced in pursuance of articles 204(1) of the Constitution of India read with article 205 thereof and the proclamation issued under article 356 of the Constitution in respect of the State of Nagaland on the 22nd March, 1975 to provide for the appropriation of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Nagaland of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure. Charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State of Nagaland and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Government of Nagaland, for the financial year 1975-76 (Annexure /C Srl. 140)

Eighth Bill was to authorised payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1975-76. she observed:

The Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India, read with article 115 thereof, to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government, excluding Railways, for the financial year 1975-76. (Annexure /C Srl. - 144)

Ninth Bill was to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the services of the financial year 1976-77. She stated:

This Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 204(1) of the Constitution read with article 205 thereof, and the proclamation issued under article 356 of the Constitution in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu and the grants made by the Lok sabha for expenditure of the Government of Tamil Nadu, for the financial year 1975-76. (Annexure /C Srl. - 145)

Tenth Bill was to authorise Payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1976-77. She explained :

This Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India, read with article 115 thereof to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government, excluding Railways, for the financial year 1976-77. (Annexure/C Srl.- 146)

Eleventh Bill was to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Tamil Nadu for the service of the financial year of 1976-77. In her statement she said :

The Bill is introduced in pursuance of article 204(1) of the Constitution of India read with article 205 thereof and the proclamation issued under article

356 of the Constitution in respect of the state of Tamil Nadu, the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the state of the Tamil Nadu and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Government of Tamil Nadu for the financial year 1976-77. (Annexure /C Srl. - 147)

Twelfth Bill was to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the service of the financial year 1976-77. She opined :

This Bill introduced in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 29 of the Government of Union

Territory Act, 1963, read with section 30 thereof and the Presidential order, dated 28th March, 1974, issued in exercise of the power conferred by section 51 of the said Act, to provide for their appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry and the grants made by the Lok Sabha for the expenditure of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the financial year 1976-77. (Annexure /C Srl. - 148)

Thirteenth Bill was to provide for the authorisation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on a service during the financial year ended on 31st day of March 1974 in excess of the amount granted for that service and that year. She stated:

The Bill introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India read with article 115 thereof, to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the money required to meet the expenditure incurred in excess of the appropriation charged on the Funds and Grants made by Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government, excluding railways for the financial year ended on 31st day of March 1974. (Annexure /C Srl. - 149)

And Lastly, the bill was to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1976-77. She stated in the Bill:

The Bill introduced in pursuance of article 114(1) of the Constitution of India, read with article 115 thereof, to provide for the appropriation out of the Consolidated Fund of India of the moneys required to meet the supplementary expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the Grants made by the Lok Sabha for expenditure of the Central Government, excluding Railways, for the financial year 1976-77. (Annexure /C Srl. - 150)

Her last non-finance Bill was to amend the University Grant Commission Act 1956. In the bill she observed that:

Section 5 & 6 of the UGC Act, 1956, provide the appointment and continuance in office of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the commission. According to these provisions, unless disqualified for continuing in office by the rules, made under the Act, the Chairman shall hold office for a term of five years and the Vice-Chairman and other members of the Commission for a term three years. Section 6 further provides that a person who has held office for two terms in any capacity shall not be eligible for any further appointment in the same capacity.

The rules regarding disqualifications, retirement and conditions of service of members of the Commission provide that unless there is a contract to the contrary, the Chairman shall retire on completing the age of 65 years. However, there is no such provision in the rules in respect of the Vice-Chairman.

The views have been expressed that the provision for the retirement of the Chairman in the rules is not consistent with the provision of the Act and if the retirement age has to be prescribed, necessary provisions for the purpose should be made in the Act itself. The amendment sought to make provision for the retirement of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

Two of the members of the Commission are chosen from among the officers to represent the Central Government. These members are appointed by virtue of the office they hold. The restriction of the two terms in the Act, thereof, places a limitation on these appointments. The amendment also sought to remove this restriction in case of members representing the Central Government on the Commission. The Bill sought to achieve the above objects. (Annexure /C Srl. - 129).

SEN SMT. SUSHMA

Born in 19th century, was an highly educated lady. Smt. Sen was a freedom fighter, she had participated in the movement of Bengal partition, and in many other movement started by Mahatma Gandhi. She had been the President of AIWC, Madras. Smt. Sen was associated with various social organisations, colleges and associations.

She has had attended the World Congress of Faith at Cambridge in 1939 and also at Oxford in 1951.

Smt. Sen was the member of Lok Sabha of its 1st term from 1952 to 1957, She entered into the House through stairs, because from 1941 to 1946 she was the Municipal Commissioner of Patna city Municipality, and from 1946 to 1952 she had been the member of Bihar state Assembly.

Smt. Sen had participated in the parliamentary debates as well as she had introduced one Bill also in the House, though it could not passed.

The Bill was on the protection, maintenance, custody, education and employment of children. She said in the Bill that:

Children and young persons of all ages are found loitering in the public streets, near cinema houses and theatres, at railway stations and in public places without any work, very shabbily, ill-clad and living a life which is a matter of shame and disgrace to the whole Indian Nation. Such valuable material is not only being wasted on a very large scale but the fact that it is not possible to make any arrangements or provide for their education and maintenance for even supervision of any sort has contributed to encourage them at this early age to fall a prey to bad and unsocial habits so as to make them not potential but often real enemies of the society. The state and central governments should undertake the responsibility of looking after these children. Such a provision has been made in Article 39 of Directive Principles of the State Policy in the Constitution. If these provision are enforced the cost will not be exorbitant. (Annexure /C Srl. - 26)

While participating in the House Smt. Sen had also placed 3 questions out of the few questions on women Problem in India.

Following 37 women members are belong to the sub-category '1/C' of the participating women :

1. **BALI SMT. VYAJANTIMALA**
2. **BENARJEE SMT. MAMTA**
3. **BENARJEE SMT. MUKUL**
4. **BHATTACHARYA SMT. MALINI**
5. **BHATTACHARYA SMT. INDUMATI**
6. **CHANDA SMT. JYOTSNA**
7. **CHATURVEDI SMT. VIDYAWATI**
8. **DUBEY SMT. SAROJ**
9. **GODFREY SMT. MARJORIE**
10. **GUHA SMT. PHULRENU**
11. **JHANSI LAKSHMI SMT. N.P.**
12. **KALPANA DEVI DR. T.**
13. **KAMLA KUMARI**
14. **KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA)**
15. **LAKSHMAN SAVITRI (PROF.)**
16. **LAXMI BAI SMT. SANGAM**
17. **MEHTA SMT. KRISHNA**
18. **MAHENDRA KUMARI SMT.**
19. **MANJARI SASANK**
20. **MARGATHAM SMT. CHANDRASEKHAR**
21. **PAL CHOWDHURY SMT. ILA**
22. **RAI SMT. SAHODRA BAI**
23. **RAJESH SMT. VASUNDHARA**
24. **RANE SMT. SANYOGITA**
25. **SAPRE SMT. TARA GOVIND**
26. **SHAKTAWAT SMT. NIRMALA**
27. **SINGH SMT. MADHURI**
28. **SINGH SMT. PUSPA DEVI**
29. **SINHA SMT. KISHORI**
30. **SINHA SMT. TARAKESWARI**
31. **SOUNDARAM DR. K.S.**
32. **THANKAPPAN SMT. BHARGAVI**
33. **TOMAR SMT. USHA RANI**
34. **TOPIWALA SMT. DIPIKA**
35. **TOPNO MS. FRIDA**
36. **URS. SMT. CHANDRA PRAVA**
37. **VERMA PROF. RITA**

Participation of the above named Women parliamentarian have been discussed as under:

BALI SMT. VYAJANTIMALA

By profession Smt. Bali was an Artist and also had interest in Social and Political work . She was elected for the 8th and 9th Lok Sabha in 1984 and in 1989 . Smt. Bali was the recipient of (a) Padmashree in 1968 ;(b) Sangeet Natak Academy Award in 1983; (c) State Artist Award of Tamil Nadu Government; and (d) 3 Film Fare Awards for best Actress. She had also been conferred with Titles of (a) Nritya Shiromani ; (b) Natyakala Shikha Moni and (c) Nritya Nirupama Visharad.

Smt. Bali had been associated with several social organisations. She had travelled Foreign Countries widely on her profession at the same time she was also associated with Delegation to Mauritius, Netharland and France.

In the Parliament her participation had been in a mediocre range, her total number questions were nearly 50. Out of all 50% questions were miscellaneous . 32% questions were concerned to National Issues and the rest of the questions were distributed among Regional , Indian Railways, Inter National Relation and Women.

BENARJEE SMT. MAMTA

A highly educated lady, by profession - a political, social worker and trade unionist. Miss Banerjee was elected for 8th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1984 and 1991. Previously She was the General Secretary of Mahila Congress (I) W.B., from 1979 to 1980; from 1980 to 1985 she was the Secretary of D.C.C., South Calcutta; from 1985 to 1987 she was the G.S. AIYC; and 1990 onwards she has been the president of West Bengal Pradesh Youth Congress .

During the tenth Lok Sabha from June , 1991 to January 1993 she had been the Union Minister of State in the Human Resource Development in the

Department of Youth Affairs and Sports, with additional charge of Department of Women and Child Development.

Miss. Banerjee had attended many International Seminars on INTUC, point to note that she was the Secretary of (a) West Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress and (b) INTUC Women Wings.

Miss. Banerjee had participated in the parliamentary debates upto a satisfactory extension, during the eighth Lok Sabha she had placed nearly 180 questions on the floor of the House and during the tenth Lok Sabha by the Half time of the tenure her number of questions were 16. Perhaps the number were least because of her Ministerial Post during the same time.

Her 50% of the total questions were miscellaneous by character and left were divided as follows: Nearly 50 questions were on National issues; 18 on Regional Problem; 7 on Railways ; 7 on International Relation; 1 on SC/ST and nearly 7 questions were on the problem of women.

BENARJEE SMT. MUKUL

A double M.A. lady, by profession a Journalist and social worker. Smt. Banerjee was elected for the 5th Lok Sabha in 1971. She was the Secretary in Foreign Relation Department and Convener of Congress Women's Front of AICC; smt. Banerjee was the editor of English as well as of Bengali Patrikas.

In the international field she had attended memorable SFAX convention of Tunisia in 1955; and Represented (a) Indian National Congress at the Independence celebration of Zambia and (b) India at a U.N. seminar on women's role in the economic life of Developing Countries held at Moscow in 1970.

Smt. Banerjee was also associated with various women organisations and worked for the upliftment of SC/ST, weaker sections people and women workers etc.

Smt. Banerjee though could not proved herself equally active in the Parliament as in her other part of life. During her tenure she could placed only about

26 questions on the floor of the House. Her 6,7,1 and 2 question were distributed among National problem, Regional, Railways, and Women problem respectively and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

BHATTACHARYA PROF. (SMT). MALINI

A holder of Doctorate degree. By profession a Teacher, Educationist, Writer and Artist. Since 1975 she had been the member of the party she belonged to. She had been elected for the 9th and 10th Lok sabha in 1989 and 1991. Smt. Bhattacharya mainly associated with various educational institutions. In 1985 she had been one of the Delegation team of C.P.I.(M). Social Scientist to China.

In the Parliament Smt. Bhattacharya had proved herself as a sincere representative by participating in the parliamentary debates. During the 10th Lok sabha by 1993-94 (half time) she had been success to put nearly 71 questions to the different ministries. Her 50% questions were on national issues, where as the regional problems received a least concentration with only 2 questions. Two question were also on Railways and 13 (20%) questions were raised on international Relations. Though 25% questions were miscellaneous but she had placed at least one question on women problem.

BHATTACHARYA SMT. INDUMATI

An M.A. educated lady was by profession a Teacher & Educationist, was elected for 8th Lok sabha only in 1984. Smt. Bhattacharya was the recipient of National Award for Teacher for 1978-79; and she had participated in various organisation for upliftment of Women.

During the membership of the Lower House of the Parliament she could not placed more than 20 questions. Out of twenty questions 8 questions were miscellaneous, and 5,2,3, and one question were distributed among the National, Regional, International relation and on the problem of Women respectively.

CHANDA SMT. JYOTSNA

A simple house wife and a social worker was elected for 3rd, 4th and 5th Lok Sabha in 1962, 1967 and 1971, but previously she was the member of Assam Legislative Assembly from 1957 onwards but she resigned from the membership in 1961 in protest against the police firing in silchar on Satyagraha on May 9 in 1961 .

During the freedom movement , she was the first lady who was jailed in Assam in 1931-32. Smt. Chanda was associated nearly with all educational institution and social organisation of Silchar District in Assam.

So far parliament is concerned, Smt. Chanda was quite active there, altogether according to datas she had placed nearly 320 questions in the House . About 135 question were on miscellaneous issues but nearly 75 questions were on national issues , 45 on Regional problem , 40 questions were on the Indian Railways , 23 questions were there on International Relation , 3 were SC/ST and one question was raised by her on woman .

CHATURVEDI SMT. VIDYAWATI

An agriculturist and teacher , was elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1980 and 1984 . But her political life had began before 1957 because from 1957 to 1962 she was the Member of M.P. Legislative Assembly , form 1966 to 1978 she was the member of Rajya Sabha form M.P.

Smt. Chaturvedi was the President of (a) Women Department of Vindhya Pradesh Congress and (b) Madhya Pradesh Women Congress Committee; She was the Chairman of AIWC; vice president of PCC (M.P.), and was the General Secretary of Chatterpur Congress Committee..

Smt. Chaturvedi was mainly associated with different women organisations and associations. As a representative of Government of India she had visited Berlin during International Women's Year.

So far her role in the House is concerned she had placed about (altogether)

180 questions to different ministries but categorically 40 questions were on national issues, 32 on regional problem, 7 on Indian Railways, 3 on SC/ST, 100 were miscellaneous, 7 on international relation and only 4 questions were raised on Women problem in India.

DUBEY SMT.SAROJ

A post graduate lady, was a political and social worker by profession. Smt. Dubey was elected for 10th Lok Sabha only in 1991. Previously in 1974 she was the president of City Women Congress (Allahabad), from 1982 to 1985 she was the member of Social Welfare Advisory Board (UP), in 1989 she was elected as the president of Women Janata Dal (UP), Smt Dubey was mainly associated with women organisations (political).

In the house Smt. Dubey had been active enough, by the half of the full tenure of the house, she was success to placed about 70 questions to different ministries, out of all her 30% questions were miscellaneous by nature, 46% questions were on National Interest, 10% were asked on Inter National Relations and, 4 and 3 questions were asked on Regional and Indian Railways respectively and 1 each questions were there on SC /ST and Women issue.

GODFREY SMT. MARJORIE

Was the nominated (Anglo-Indian) member for the 5th Lok Sabha (1971). By profession she was a teacher before becoming an M.P. She had been the nominated member of A.P. Legislative Assembly. Smt. Marjorie was the Vice-President of Governing Body of All India Anglo Indian Association. She was also associated with other Anglo-Indian Associations.

Smt. Marjorie had placed few number of questions on the floor of the house, total number of questions according to available materials were 18. 7 questions were miscellaneous, 3 on National Issue, 5 concerned with the problem of Andhra Pradesh, 1 question was on International Relation and 2 questions were on the plight of Indian Women.

GUHA SMT. PHULRENU

A doctorate in literature, a teacher and socio-political worker and was the member of 8th Lok Sabha (1984 to 1989), but 1984 was not the beginning year of her political career.

From 1964 to 1970 she had been the member of Rajya Sabha from West Bengal. During the same period she had been in the Ministry too. From March 1967 to February 1969 Smt. Guha was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Welfare, and from February 1969 to June 1970 she was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Law in the department of Social Welfare.

Actually, she had joined the political movement at the age of 15 as a worker of Jugantar Party (Revolutionary Party of India) during the Freedom Movement.

Smt. Guha was the president of several organisations including AIWC , Calcutta Branch; and Indo-German Cultural Society , West Bengal Branch. She was the chairman of 15 Organisations and associations for instances (a) Centre of Women Development Study, Delhi (b) Committee on Status of Women under Government of India.

She also had hold the post of vice-president of few associations including the associations of which she became president later on . She had also been General Secretary of few associations and was member of not less than 40 Organisations. Significantly, Smt. Guha had been awarded with "Padma-Bhusan" in 1977. She also had represented India to many International Conferences .

In 1984 when Smt. Guha entered into Lok Sabha she was of 72(1912) . That means during the tenure she was of 72 -77, but she was quiet energetic in the house because she had participated actively in the parliamentary debates which is evident from her 192 questions which she had placed to different ministries.

Through the questions it seems that she was much more interested in the development of West Bengal only because 43 questions were there concerned with West Bengal. Whereas 19 questions were on National Issues, 9 questions

were raised on International Relation. 1 and 2 questions respectively on Indian Railways and SC/ST. There were 31 questions raised on women and the rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

JANSI LAKSHMI SMT. N.P.

An agriculturist, was elected for the 8th Lok Sabha in 1984. Previously Smt. Jansi Lakshmi was a member of A.P. Legislative Assembly. She had been the regional organiser of Women and Child Welfare.

In the house Smt. Lakshmi had placed nearly 150 questions, though her 50% questions were miscellaneous but still there were 41 questions related to National Matters, 21 to Inter National Relation and 5, 3, 3 and 2 questions were raised respectively on Regional, Railways, SC/ST and women in India.

KALPANA DEVI, DR. (SMT.) T.

A Medical Practitioner was elected for 8th Lok Sabha. Smt. Kalpana's previous back ground is not known, so far her role in the house is concerned, she had participated in the Parliamentary Debates upto a satisfactory extension. She had placed nearly 140 questions on the floor of the House. 50% questions were miscellaneous but 30 questions were concerned with National Interest, 16 with regional interest, 7 questions on International Relation 3 on Indian Railways and lastly 8 questions were there which related to women in India and their various problems.

KAMALA KUMARI (MS)

A master degree holder lady, by profession a teacher and principal of a school. Ms. Kamala was elected for 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1967, 1971, 1980 & 1984.

During the 7th Lok Sabha from January, 1982 to January 1983 she was the Union Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction, and in 1983 she became the Joint Secretary of AICC.

In the International Field she had represented India at the second meeting of Co-Ordinators of Non-Aligned Countries for Food and Agriculture held at Pyongyang in North Korea, on June 10-12 in 1981. She had been the member of Indian Delegation to 38th United Nations General Assembly Sessions at New York in September-December in 1983.

Ms. Kamala was associated with various Educational Institutions in Bihar and different down trodden peoples organisation.

So far her role in the house is concerned available materials shows a great variation between 4th, 5th house and 7th,8th house. Because during 4th Lok Sabha total number of questions raised by her were nearly 104, During 5th Lok Sabha these number of questions raised abnormally upto 661 which reduced to 18 during 7th Lok Sabha and to 6 during 8th Lok Sabha.

However, out of nearly 790 questions just more than 50% (380) questions were miscellaneous. Nearly 120 questions were on National Interest, more than national 150 questions were concerned to regional development. Approximately 110 questions were raised on Indian Railways, 9 on International Relation 12 on SC/ST and only 2 questions were on women problem.

KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) SMT.

An Agriculturist by Profession elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991, previously she was a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1985 to 1991. Significantly Smt. Kaur was a gold medallist in Hockey.

So far her role in the House is to see, she had participated quiet actively in the Parliamentary Debate because by the half time of the full tenure she had placed nearly 125 questions on the floor of the house. Her 66 questions were concerned to National Interest, only 2 questions on State problem, 8 on International Relation, 3 on Indian Railways, 41 were miscellaneous and lastly 3 questions were there on women problem.

LAKSHAMANAN PROF. (SMT). SAVITRI

An Master degree holder lady by profession a teacher and educationist. She had been the professor and Head of the Department of Malayalam in the St. Josheps College at Irinjialakula in Kerala.

Smt. Lakshamanan was elected for 9th and 10th Lok sabha in 1989 and 1991. She had been the Secretary of Mahila Congress of Trichur District in Kerala from 1988 onwards.

Smt. Lakshamanan had participated in the parliamentary debates with 63 questions (till 1993-1994). Her highest number of questions were on National interest (26 questions), 10 on her own state (Kerala), 4, 20 and 1 questions were respectively on Indian Railways, Miscellaneous and International Relation and only 2 questions were there raised on Women problem in India.

LAXMI BAI SMT. SANGAM

An active social and political worker, was elected for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Lok Sabha in 1957, 1962 and in 1967. Previously she was the member of A.P. Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957; and from 1954 February to October 1956 she was Deputy Minister of Education of Andhra Pradesh.

She was the member of AICC and also was the Convener of Women's Wing of PCC(A.P.). Smt. Sangam was mainly associated with the organisation which worked for the upliftment of downtrodden people, women and child welfare.

According to available datas her participation in the Lok Sabha had been almost poor. Total number of questions she had placed were only about 30, out of these 15 were miscellaneous, 2 questions were on women and rest of the questions were distributed among National interest, Regional interest, and on Indian Railways.

MEHTA SMT. KRISHNA

A social worker and a nominated member of 2nd Lok Sabha. She was mainly associated with rehabilitation of refugees. She had been the convener of Women's department of AICC (North Zone).

According to available datas she had participated in the parliamentary debates and had placed few questions on the floor of the House. Out of total 17 questions 8 were miscellaneous. 5 questions were on National interest and 2 each on Indian Railways and on Women problems.

MAHENDRA KUMARI SMT.

Born in the Princely family and married to the same, Smt. Mahendra was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. In the House she had shown her participation in the parliamentary debates. Smt. Mahendra had placed nearly 65 questions within two years of the House. her 50% questions were concerned with National development, 15 were miscellaneous, 8 questions were raised on International Relation, 3 on her own Constituency and 2 each on SC/ST and Women in the Indian society.

MANJARI SMT. SASHANK

Was born in 19th century, more is not known about her, but she was elected for 3rd Lok Sabha in 1962 and previously she was the member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962.

Though her participation in the House was very poor (according to available datas) but out of her 6 questions at least one question was concerned with Women problem.

MARGATHAM SMT.CHANDRASEKHAR

Passed B.Sc. and other Diploma courses. Professionally a teacher, social and political worker. Smt. Margatham had been in the Parliament from 1952. From 1952 to 1957 as a member of Lok Sabha; 1962 to 1967 again as member of Lok Sabha; In 1970 she was nominated to Rajya Sabha; Re nominated in 1976, 1982. In 1984, 1989, 1991 consecutively elected to Lok Sabha. It means from 1962 to 1996 (34 years) she had been continuously the member of parliament, and earlier from 1952 to 1957 too.

Smt. Margatham was the Union Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health from 1952 to 1957; from 1962 to 1964 she was the Union Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs; from 1964 to 1967 she was the Union Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Social Welfare; During the 8th Lok Sabha she was the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare.

Smt. Margatham had become the General Secretary of A.I.C.C. in 1972 and for 1978 to 1980 she became the Treasurer of A.I.C.C.

She had been the member of, (a) Indian Delegation to U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Poland in 1954; (b) Trade Union Delegation to Sri Lanka in 1957; (c) U.N. Seminar on Human Right in Developing Countries held at Kabul in 1964; (d) 13th International Conference on Social work held at Washington in 1966; and (e) International Women's Conference held in Mongolia and Nairobi in 1985.

So far her role in the House is concerned, she had not participated actively in the business of the house. Smt. Margatham had not introduced any Bill, and had placed only around 20 questions on the floor of the house. Out of all very few questions were on Women problem in the Indian society, and remaining questions were miscellaneous by nature.

PALCHOWDHURY SMT. ILA

An active social worker, was associated with uncountable social organisations, and was elected for 1st, 2nd and 4th Lok Sabha in 1953, 1957 and in 1968 in a by - election.

The important organisations she was associated with were - AIWC, W.B. branch; Indian Red Cross Society, United Nations Associations, Calcutta branch; West Bengal Council of Women ; Bharat Scouts and Guides; Calcutta Blind School etc. and she was the founder member of UNESCO club of India, Delhi.

So far her role in the House is concerned though she had not introduced any Bill in the House but had placed few questions on the floor of the House. Her total number of questions were about 75. Though her maximum questions were miscellaneous but 7 questions were on Women problem in the society, other questions were divided into National, International, Indian Railways and etc. problems.

RAI SMT. SAHODRA BAI

Was an agriculturist, she was elected for 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 7th Lok Sabha in 1957, 1962, 1971 and 1980. Previously she was the member of Local Board in 1947, and member of Janapad Sabha in 1948. Apart from this Smt. Rai had also participated in the 1942 Quit India movement.

So far her participation in the House is concerned, she died in March 1981 just 3 months later of the 7th General Election. But during previous three houses she had participated in the parliamentary debates. According to available datas her total number of questions were nearly 53. Out of all 28 questions were miscellaneous, 10 were related to National issues, 3 with Regional, 4 with Railways, 2 each with SC/ST and Women and 4 with International Relation.

RAJE SMT. VASUNDHARA

Sister of famous Congress leader Mr. Madhav Rao Scindhia, Smt. Raje a graduate lady and a political leader.

Within her party she was the vice-president of B.J.P. (Rajasthan) from 1987

onwards, vice-president of Yuva Morcha of B.J.P. (Rajasthan), Smt. Raje was elected for 9th and 10th Lok Sabha.

Smt. Vasundhara had participated very actively in the parliamentary debates, within half time of the 10th House she has had placed nearly 235 questions. Her 105 questions were concerned with National development, though 74 questions were miscellaneous but 14 were raised on International Relation and 4 on Indian Railways. Lastly her 6 questions were specifically raised on Women's problem in India.

RANE SMT. SANYOGITA

The daughter of a Captain, wife of a Major and Mother of a Martyr (who died in Bangladesh action and was awarded with Vir Chakra posthumously).

Smt. Rane was by profession a social worker who was elected for 7th Lok Sabha in 1980.

During her tenure she had participated in the parliamentary debates actively. She had placed nearly 270 questions on the floor of the House.

Smt. Rane had given almost equal importance to the National as well as to the problem of International Relation, because 63 questions were concerned with National issues and 53 with International relation. 36 questions were raised on her own State, 6 on Indian Railways, 4 on SC/ST, 93 were miscellaneous, 6 questions were raised on Women's problem in India.

SAPRE SMT. TARAGOVIND

A graduate lady, was the member of AIWC and was elected for 4th Lok Sabha in a by- election. During participating in the business of the House, She had placed about 46 questions on the floor of the House. Though her 50% questions were miscellaneous but 13 questions were concerned with National problem, 4 with International Relation, 1 with Regional, development and 2 each on Indian Railways and on Women's problem in India.

SHAKTAWAT PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI

A former Professor of Sociology in the University of Rajasthan, naturally by profession she was an Educationist and also an Agriculturist. Smt. Shaktawat was elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1980 and in 1984.

Previously she was the Vice- president of DCC and member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977. In 1977 she became the president of DCC ; for 1977-78 she had been the convener of Women wing of PCC Rajasthan.

Smt. Shaktawat was associated with many educational institutions. She had been the convener of AICC. She was the leader of delegation of AICC to Poland to attend celebration of peasant party held in Poland.

During both the term she had participated actively in the business of the House specially in the Parliamentary debates. During the 7th Lok Sabha she had placed nearly 125 questions and during 8th Lok Sabha the number of questions increased to 335.

Out of nearly 460 questions 202 (nearly) questions were miscellaneous but she had given almost equal concentration on the problem of Nation building as well as on International Relations with 110 and 100 questions respectively. Nearly 60 questions were concerned with the problem of Rajasthan, 25 with Indian Railways and specially 6 questions were raised on the problem of Women in India.

SINGH SMT. MADHURI

Was an Agriculturist, elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1980 and in 1984. Smt. Singh had participated actively in the parliamentary business specially in debates. During her 1st term she had placed nearly 270 questions and during 8th Lok Sabha she had placed nearly 170 questions.

Out of 440 questions, 185 questions were miscellaneous, about 90 questions were raised on National interest, 80 on International Relation, 50 on her State development, 16 on Indian Railways, 6 on SC/ST and 12 questions were raised on the interest of Women in Indian society.

SINGH SMT. PUSHPA DEVI

An agriculturist and a graduate lady was elected for 7th, 8th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1980, 1984 and in 1991.

Within the House Smt. Singh was quite active. During the 7th Lok Sabha her total number of questions were nearly 145, during 8th House the number were 71 and during the 10th Lok Sabha by the half time she had placed 71 questions. Out of total 303 questions 100 were miscellaneous, 80 were on National interest, 68 on the development of her Constituency, 25 were on International Relation, 17 on Indian Railways, 7 on SC/ST, and lastly 4 questions were raised on Women in Indian society.

SINHA SMT. KISHORI

An agriculturist and graduate lady was elected for 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1980 and in 1984. Smt. Sinha was associated with various organisations and institutions.

Smt. Sinha had participated in the Parliamentary debates very actively. During the 1st term total number of questions were 203 (nearly), and 404 questions were placed during 8th Lok Sabha.

Out of 627 questions 50% questions were miscellaneous, 190 questions were on the development of India as whole, 33 were on her own constituency, 60 on International Relations, 22 on Indian Railways, 2 on SC/ST, and ultimately 10 questions were placed on Women in society.

SINHA SMT. TARKESHWARI

An M.A. qualified lady entered into the Indian politics since her student life. Smt. Sinha was the vice-president of Bihar provincial student's congress from 1945 to 1947.

Smt. Sinha was elected by her voters for 4 consecutive Lok Sabha (1st-4th). During the second term of the House as well as her second term she become the Union Deputy Minister of Economic affairs for few months in 1958, and shifted as Union Deputy Minister of Finance from 1958 to 1962. During the 3rd Lok Sabha also she hold up the same ministry from 1962 to 1964.

She was the member of Women section of PCC (Bihar), DCC (Saran, Bihar).

Smt. Sinha had represented India as a delegate to the United Nation in 1957; she was the leader of the Indian delegation to the Colombo Plan Conference held at Tokyo in 1960, at Kualalampur in 1961 and at Bangkok in 1963.

Smt. Sinha was associated with other social organisation and institutions also.

She had participated in the Parliamentary debates properly during the 4th Lok Sabha, when she was no more any minister, during the period she had placed nearly 170 questions on the floor of the House. She had distributed her questions as 76 on National interest, 30 on International Relation, 6 on Indian Railways, 3 each on her state and on Women in Indian society, rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

SOUNDARAM DR. (SMT.) K.S.

A doctorate in literature, naturally a teacher and educationist by profession. Smt. Soundaram was also associated with educational institutions and welfare of women. Smt. Soundaram was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991.

Datas of 10th Lok Sabha are available till 1993-94, which shows that she was quite active in the field of politics also. By the half time of the House she had placed 48 questions, half of the total questions were on National development, 14 were miscellaneous, 2 on SC/ST, one International Relation and lastly three each were raised on her state, Indian Railways and on women's problems.

THANKAPPAN SMT. BHARGAVI

Was a Master Degree holder lady, and worked in Rubber Board in Kerala and also in Kerala State Electricity Board. More is not known about her except that she was an excellently active Parliamentarian, because she was the highest question raiser during the 5th Lok Sabha (1971-77). Total number of questions she had placed were approximately or more then 865.

365 questions were miscellaneous, 325 on the development of Kerala only, 59 on Indian Railways, 33 on SC/ST, 41 on National Development, 35 on International Relation. Lastly 7 questions were raised on the problem of women in India.

TOMAR USHARANI SMT.

Was a former ruler and political and social worker. Smt. Tomar was elected for 8th Lok Sabha, previously she had been the president of District Mahila Congress from 1969 to 1980 at Sanyogika in U.P.

According to available information she had donated land to the (a) landless and poor people; (b) Bikram Seva Sadan Intermediate College; Pisawa and Junior High School at Pisawa in U.P.

However in the Parliament Smt. Tomar was not much active but out of her all 15 questions, 3 were on women, 4 on National Issue and 8 were miscellaneous.

TOPIWALA SMT. DIPIKA

A graduate lady, by profession an artist and also having business. Smt. Topiwala was elected for the 10th Lok Sabha in 1991, she has been known as "Sita" in the popular T.V. serial "Ramayna" by Ramanand Sagar.

In the House she had shown her interest in politics, Smt. Topiwala had participated in the Parliamentary debates and had placed nearly 125 questions within the two and half years of the House . Her 55 questions were related to National interest, 13 with International Relation, 50 were miscellaneous, 2 questions were raised on SC/ST and one each on Indian Railways and the problem related to women in India.

TOPNO MS. FRIDA

A graduate lady, by profession a social and political worker, was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991, previously she was the member of Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1985-1990, and also hold the post of minister. She was the Minister of State for Education and Youth Service of Orissa.

In the House she took part in the Parliamentary debates and placed about 32 questions within the half time of the full tenure of five years.

Her questions were distributed as follows - 9 were miscellaneous, 8 on National Development, 7 on her own region, 5 on SC/ST, 1 on Indian Railways and 2 on women.

URS. SMT. CHANDRAPRABHA

Daughter of famous leader of Karnataka, Late Mr. Devraj Urs, educationally she was a science graduate lady, professionally an agriculturist, social and political worker also. She was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. Previously from 1983 to 1985 and from 1989 to 1991 she was the member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly and also was the Cabinet Minister of Social Welfare, Sericulture and Excise in Karnataka from 1983 to 1985.

From 1968-1988 she was the General Secretary of PCC Karnataka; from 1988 onwards vice-president of PCC Karnataka, and 1990 onwards she become the president of Mahila Congress.

Smt. Urs has had been active in the politics out side of Parliament as well as in Parliament too. She had participated in the debates in the House and had placed about 67 questions within the two and half years of the House. Her 25 questions were on National Developmental Programme, 14 on Karnataka itself, 5 on International Relation, 20 were miscellaneous and 1 each question were raised on Indian Railways, SC/ST and on women in India.

VERMA PROF. (SMT.) RITA

The lecturer in History in Ranchi University and at the same time a political worker too. Prof. Rita is the wife of Late Randhir Prasad Verma , a brave police officer who died in an encounter with terrorist during a bank robbery and was awarded with Param Vir Chakra posthumously. Smt. Verma was elected to 10th Lok Sabha in 1991.

Though she was just new in the legislature but still she had participated in the Parliamentary business and had placed 92 questions with in two and half years of the House. Her 50% questions goes to the National Development Programme, 13 on the development of Bihar, 1 on International Relation, 28 questions were miscellaneous and 1 question was placed on the problem of women in Indian society.

Following 49 Women members are fallen under the **sub category "1/d"** of the Participating women. **Out of 49 , Six women member have had introduced Bills (non-women)** and remaining 43 have had only placed questions on the floor of the House. **First Six member are the Bill introducers.**

1. *RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR*
2. *KAUL SMT. SHILA*
3. *KRISHNAN SMT. PARVATI*
4. *MAHISHI DR. SAROJINI*
5. *MUKHERJEE SMT. SHARDA*
6. *KIDWAI SMT. MOHSINA*
7. *BARKATAKI RENUKA DEVI*
8. *BOSE DR. MAITRAYEE*
9. *BRAR SMT. GURBINDER KAUR*
10. *CHANDRESH KUMARI*
11. *GANDHI SMT. MANEKA*
12. *GAUTAM SMT. SHILA*
13. *GAYETRI DEVI RAJMATA*
14. *JAMUNA DEVI SMT.*
15. *KALE SMT. ANUSUYA BAI*
16. *KRIPALINI SMT. SUCHETA*
17. *KRISHNA KUMARI JODHPUR RAJMATA*
18. *NEHRU SMT. SHEORAJ VATI*
19. *NIGAM SMT. SAVITRI*
20. *NIRLEP KAUR SARDARNI*
21. *PANDIT SMT. VIJAYA LAKSHMI*
22. *PATIL SMT. SURYA KANTA*
23. *ROY SMT. RENUKA*

24. *SAVITRI SHYAM SMT.*
25. *SCINDIA SMT. VIJAYA RAJE*
26. *SHAH SMT. JAYABEN*
27. *SINHA SMT. RAM DULARI*
28. *SINHA SMT. USHA*
29. *SWAMINADHAN SMT. AMMU*
30. *VIMLA DEVI SMT. V.*
31. *VYAS DR. GIRIJA*
32. *VERMA SMT. USHA*
33. *AHMED SMT. MOFIDA*
34. *CHAVAN SMT. PREMLABAI*
35. *DESHMUKH SMT. VIMAL*
36. *GANGA DEVI SMT.*
37. *GIRIJA KUMARI SMT.*
38. *KAREDULLA KAMLA KUMARI*
39. *KAUR SMT. SUKHBUNS*
40. *KUDUMALA PADMASHREE*
41. *MINIMATA AGAMDASS GURU*
42. *NAYAR DR. SHAKUNTALA*
43. *ORAON SMT. SUMATI*
44. *ROY SMT. UMA*
45. *MISS. SELJA*
46. *SHAKUNTALA DEVI SMT.*
47. *SULTAN MAIMOONA*
48. *VEDKUMARI SMT. MOOTHY, and*
49. *SMT. VIJAYA RAJE*

Participation of the above mentioned parliamentarian are discussed as under:

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR

The daughter of Punjab Royal Family, was a Secretary to Mahatma Gandhi for long 16 years. She was conferred with various degrees including the honorary degree of Doctors of Letters by national and international universities.

Ms. Rajkumari was the Honorary fellow of American Public Health Association, U. S. A. and had represented India during both pre-independent and post-independent to International Conferences as Dy. Leader of Indian Delegation to UNESCO in London in 1945 and in Paris in 1946, as leader of Indian Delegation to WHO Annual Meetings in 1948, 1949, 1951 and 1953.

Ms. Rajkumari was the President of :

(1) World Health Assembly (2) All India Conference of Social Work, International Red Cross Conference, New Delhi (3) Tuberculosis Association of India, National Association for the Prevention of Blindness (4) All India Lawn Tennis Association of India (5) YWCA of Delhi and (6) Indian National Committee for UNAC .

She was a Chairman of (1) Board of Governors, National Institute of Sports (2) XIX Chairman of Executive Committee of St. John Ambulance Brigade in India and (3) AIW fund Association .

Ms. Rajkumari was the Founder President of (1) Indian Council of Child Welfare (2) National Sports Club of India (3) Delhi Music Society and (4) Abraham Lincoln Society of India

She was the Founder Member of (1) AIWC ,(had been Chairman and President also) (2) Managing Body of Indian Red Cross Society (Chairman also) (3) All Indian Women Education Fund Association (Chairman and President too) .

Vice President of (1) International Union for Health Education (2) All India

Council of Sports and (3) National YWCA of India .

Apart from these she was the Trustee and Member of many other organisation and associations.

Ms. Rajkumari was the member of Constituent Assembly from 1946 to 1950, 1950 -1952 of Provincial Parliament, 1952-57 Member of 1st Lok Sabha, later on she became the member of Rajya Sabha in 1958.

Ms. Rajkumari was the First Women Cabinet Minister in India, she was the Union Minister of Health from 1947 to 1957. During her ministry she had introduced 7 bills on health and matter connected therewith and 1 another bill, out of all 6 bills were passed.

Her 1st Bill was to propose to amend the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947. In her statement of objects and reasons she stated -

Pending consideration of the extension of Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, to Part B States, this Bill sought to amend the second proviso to sub-section (3) of Section 10 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 in order that a qualification granted by an authority in a Part B state and recognised on the 31st December, 1947, by a Nursing Council in any state to which the Act than extended might continue to be a recognised qualification for the purpose of registration in that state after the said date. As the law stood that time, the qualification ceased to be recognised after the 31st December, 1950. It also made certain other formal and clarificatory amendments in the same sub-section. (Annexure /C Srl.- 1)

Her 2nd Bill was known as Prevention of Food Adulteration Bill. In the Bill she stated-

There was no uniformity in the different state laws framed at different times. That is why a central legislation on the subject for the whole country was needed. The said Bill was to replace all those local laws. it also proposed Central Food Laboratory to check the food samples; a Central Committee for Food Standards consisting of the representative of Central and State Governments to advise on matters arising for the administration of the Act, and vesting in the Central Government the rule-making power regarding standards of quality for articles of food and certain other matters. (Annexure /C Srl. - 12)

Her 3rd Bill was to amend the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 as in force in the state of Delhi. The Health Minister had stated that numerous public appeals made to the Delhi Municipal Committee revealed that customary sweepers had become negligent and irregular in discharging their duty of house scavenging. The existing insanitary conditions in the residential areas of Delhi were found to be due largely to the persistent carelessness of such sweepers and their irresponsible manner of dirt disposal. The statutory protection afforded to customary sweepers stood in the way of the Municipal Committee making alternative arrangements for house scavenging even at the request of the owners of the houses. It was, therefore, proposed to clothe the Committee with necessary powers in behalf.

In view of Clause (c) of the proviso of the Section 21 of the Government of Part C State Act, 1951, the legislation was to be undertaken by Parliament and not by the legislation of the state of Delhi. (Annexure /C Srl. - 14)

Ms. Rajkumari had introduced 2 Bills to amend the Dentist's Act, 1948. She opined-

The Dentist's Bill 1948 (XVI of 1948) did not apply to Part B States. It was proposed to extend the Act to all Part B States except the State of Jammu & Kashmir, and make the necessary amendments.

Under the existing Act Indian citizens who did not possess any recognised dental qualifications, but had been engaged in practice as dentists as their principal means of livelihood for a period of not less than 5 years prior to the commencement of the Act, had been allowed registration under the Act at the time of first preparation of registers in states. Certain displaced persons who had migrated to India from Pakistan after the first preparation of the Registers and who did not possess any recognised dental qualifications but who had been engaged in the profession of dentistry for their livelihood in Pakistan claimed similar facilities for registration as were given to Indian citizens. Since it is not possible to accede to their request without amending the Act, it is proposed to amend the Act for the purpose.

Under Section 33(2) temporary registration was allowed for a period of 5 years if one had been engaged in practice as a dentist as his principal means of livelihood for a period of not less than 2 years during the five years prior to the commencement of the Act, but permanent registration to such persons is

admissible only if they could pass within a period of 5 years after the commencement of the Act an examination which satisfies the requirements of the Council. Since enough training facilities for the dentists don't exist in the country many dentists who were temporarily registered under the Act could not qualify for permanent registration. In order to enable to pass an examination, it is proposed to give them more time to pass the examination. For the purpose the five year period is extended to 10 years.

Under Section 3(c) of the existing Act, 4 seats are available on the Dental Council of India to be filled by election from among themselves by the heads of Dental Colleges on the Dental Council of India have remained vacant. It is now proposed to fill the vacancies by throwing open the election to heads of Dental Colleges which train students for recognised dental qualifications.

Under the existing Act a foreign national is not entitled to registration even if he possesses a recognised dental qualification unless by the law and practice of the state or country to which such person belongs, persons of Indian origin holding dental qualifications registered in that state or country are permitted to enter and practice the profession of dentistry in such a state or country. It is, therefore, proposed on grounds of expediency and no propriety to permit, irrespective of considerations of reciprocity, foreigners holding reputable dental qualifications who are employed for teaching or research in dental institutions in the country, to have temporary registration for the period of their employment or for a period of five years, whichever is shorter, provided that such foreigners do not practice dentistry for personal gain.

This opportunity is also being undertaken to make some other minor and consequential amendments in the Act which have been found, necessary during the past six years since its enactment. (Annexure /C Srl. -28 and 29)

Her next Bill was known as The Drugs and Cosmetics Bill . In the Bill she opined :

The Drugs Act of 1940 which is provided for the regulation of the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and prescribed the standards of quality of drugs, and was in force since April, 1947 did not cover chemical contraceptives and insecticides under the term 'drug'. Therefore, the term 'drug' should be redefined, and to maintain uniformity throughout India the Central Government should be empowered to make rules. (Annexure /C Srl. - 30)

Her 7th Bill was to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926 and the Bill was known as The Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board (Amendment) Bill, 1954. In the Bill she observed-

The proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 12 of the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act of 1926 makes the Central government responsible in certain circumstances for payment of a part of the dues of Delhi Municipal Committee to the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board in respect of filtered water supplied by the latter to the former. It is considered that there is no justification for government undertaking an indefinite and recurring liability of this kind in the case of the Delhi Municipal Committee alone, especially when other local bodies in Delhi pay their full dues to the Delhi Joint Water Sewage Board. The Bill in question seeks to relieve the government of India of this liability by deleting the proviso to Sub-Section (1) of Section 12 of the Act. It also makes certain other consequential changes in the Act.

The Act also requires amendment for another purpose. Sewage affluent is supplied to a number of private individuals for cultivation purposes at certain rates by the Board. In recent years a number of these persons have defaulted payment to the Board. The Bill proposes to recover arrears from such defaulters as arrears of land revenues. (Annexure /C Srl.- 34)

Her last Bill was known as the Delhi Control of Building Operation Bill. The purpose of the Bill was to continue the Delhi (Control of Building Operations) Act, 1955 for a further period. The Bill was introduced with a view to the development of Delhi according to plan it was proposed that there should be a single authority to deal with the planning and development of the urban area of Delhi instead of the multiple authorities operating in the field. As an interim measure, the Delhi Development (Provisional) Authority was set up to control haphazard building operations under the Delhi (Control of Building Operations) Ordinance, 1955 which was later enacted by Parliament as the Delhi (Control of building operations) Act, 1955 (53 of 1955). The life of the Act was upto 1st January, 1957, and it was thereafter proposed to have legislation for setting up a permanent body for the development of Delhi. In view, however, of the decision to set up a Corporation for Delhi it is considered advisable to postpone legislation for the establishment of that permanent body. It was accordingly proposed that the life of the Delhi (Control of Operations Act, 1955), might be extended for one year more. (Annexure /C Srl.- 42).

KAUL SMT. SHILA

One of the famous character in the Indian Parliament. Smt. Kaul was a graduate and accepted social and political worker . Though Smt. Kaul entered into the parliament in 1971 but she entered into the electoral politics in 1959 when she was elected for Lucknow Municipal Corporation.

In 1968 she was elected for U.P. Legislative Assembly. After the fifth Lok Sabha she was re-elected for 7th, 8th ,9th and 10th Lok Sabha in 1980, 1984,1989 and in 1991.

During the 7th Lok Sabha she was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Culture and Social Welfare and during 10th House she was a Union Cabinet Minister of Housing and Urban Development .

Within her own party also she had very strong position, she had been the General Secretary of AICC, CPP; vice- president of PCC of U.P.

Mrs. Kaul had represented India to various International Conference as a delegate. She was the member of - (1) Delegation to IPU conference held in France in 1971; (2) International Women's Congress held in Berlin; (3) Indian delegation to UN General Assembly held in 1985 and in 1987; and (4) Indian parliamentarian delegation to European Parliament held in 1990.

Smt. Kaul was the Leader of (1) Congress party delegation to Yugoslavia in 1976;(2) Delegation to U.N. Commission on status of women held in Copenhagen in 1980.

So far her participation in the House is concerned, Smt. Kaul could not come in the fore front during the 5th Lok Sabha, during the 8th, 9th and 10th Lok Sabha also her role was not much significant. During 7th Lok Sabha Smt. Kaul had introduced Seven separate Bills , out of 7, three Bills were passed.

Her first Bill was known as Delhi University (Amendment) Act,1981 . she stated-

From time to time Government of India has been receiving requests from friendly foreign countries having no university of their own or the welfare associations of Indian domiciled in foreign countries for affiliation of their institutions of higher education to a university in India. It has, however, not

been possible for the government to accede to such requests because none of the Universities of India has extra-territorial jurisdiction. Recently a request was received from a friendly foreign country for affiliation of their proposed degree college to the University of Delhi for the three-year degree course. In order to make it possible for the government to accede to such requests and to enable the University of Delhi to affiliate colleges outside India, it was decided to amend Section 5 of the Delhi University Act to empower the Central Government, if it is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient to do so in the public interest, to issue a directive in writing to the University of Delhi to admit to its privileges any institution situated in India.

In view of the fact that the foreign country which approached the Government for affiliation of its college to Delhi University desired that the college should start functioning from the academic session beginning in July, 1981, the President promulgated an ordinance, namely the Delhi University (Amendment) Ordinance, 1981, on the 19th June, 1981 amending the Delhi University Act for the purpose of granting affiliation to colleges situated outside India. The Bill sought to replace the said ordinance. (Annexure /C Srl.-112)

She introduced 2 separate Bills to amend the Copyright Act, 1957. In her statement she stated-

India is a member of two International Conventions on Copyright, namely the Berne Convention for the protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1948 Brussels Text) and the Universal Copyright Convention (1952). The Copyright, 1957 conforms to the provisions of these two Conventions. Both these Conventions were revised at Paris in 1971. These revised Conventions provide for certain additional facilities to enable the developing countries to grant compulsory licenses for translation and reproduction of works of foreign origin required for purposes of teaching, scholarship for research or purposes of systematic instruction activities, if these rights could not be obtained on freely negotiated terms and conditions enabling their publication or ensuring their availability at prices reasonable in their context. As a developing country, it will be in our interest to adhere to the two revised conventions so as to avail of the benefits of the compulsory rights. It is accordingly proposed suitably amend the Act to conform to the provisions of the received conventions and thereafter accede to the revised conventions so that India can take advantages of the revised provisions of two conventions.

The working of the Act has also revealed certain lacunae and administrative drawback, especially in relation to the protection of the author's rights. There is also no provision in the Act at present for the publication of unpublished works of an Indian author who is either dead or unknown or whose whereabouts are not traceable or where the owner of the copyright can't be located. It is proposed to make certain amendment in the Act to remove these lacunae and practical difficulties and to make certain additional provisions pertaining to author's rights.

The Bill provides, among other things, for the following amendments to the Act to give effect to the above proposals namely:

1. To provide for compulsory licensing for the translation of a foreign work after the expiry of three years from the publication of the work, and if the translation of the work is in a language not in general use in any developed country, after the expiry of a period of one year from such publication if such work is required for the purposes of teaching, scholarship or research.
2. To provide for the compulsory licensing of the reproduction of any edition of a foreign literary, scientific or artistic work for the purposes of systematic instructional activities if, after the expiry of certain periods (which will vary depending on the sub-matter of the work) from the date of first publication of that edition, the copies are not available in India at a price for the same or similar works.
3. It is proposed to provide that in the case of unpublished works where the author is either dead or unknown or the owner of the Copyright can't be traced, any person wishing to publish the material or a translation thereof may advertise his proposal and thereafter apply to the Copyright Board for permission, which while granting such permission, would fix an appropriate royalty. The royalty could be deposited in the Public Account of India or in any other suitable place for a specific period so that in the event of the owner of the Copyright becoming known, he could claim it. It is also proposed that in the case of unpublished Indian works where the original author is dead and the publication of the work is desirable in the national interest, a reasonable period would be given to his legal, real representatives to make necessary arrangements for the publication of unpublished material. In case they fail to do so, the Copyright Board is empowered to give permission to publish the work on royalty.

4. It is proposed to provide for the manner of assignments of Copyright from authors to publishers and to empower the Copyright Board to decide disputes arising out of such assignments which may extend to permitting the author to withdraw from the assignment.
5. It is proposed to prescribe the term of Copy right in works owned by bodies corporate as fifty years from the beginning of the calendar year next following the year in which the work is first published as in the government works.
6. Broadcasting authorities are also being permitted to translate foreign works for broadcasting for the purpose of systematic instructional activities.
7. To provide for copyright in lectures, addresses etc.; delivered in public and for the publication of the entries made in Copyright Register. (Annexture /C Srl.- 115)

In the another Copyright Bill she explained-

Piracy has become a global problem due to the rapid advances in technology. It has assumed alarming proportions all over the world and all the countries are trying to meet the challenge by taking stringent legislative and enforcement measures. The problem of piracy and the necessity sufficient anti-piracy measures were also voiced by members of parliament at the time of the Bill to amend the Copyright Act, 1957.

Mainly there are three types of piracy, namely, piracy of the printed word, piracy of sound Recordings and piracy of cinematograph films. The object of the pirate in all such cases is to make quick money and avoid payment of legitimate taxes and royalties. In respect of books it is estimated that four hundred titles are pirated every year in India, and on each of the pirated titles the loss to the governments in the form of tax evasion amounts approximately to Rs.11,000 Crores. Apart from books recorded music and Video Cassettes of films and T.V.programmes are reproduced without any remuneration to the authors, artists, publishers and producers concerned. The emergence of new techniques of recordings, fixation and reproduction of audio-programmes, combined with the advent of Video technology have greatly helped the pirates. It is estimated that the losses to the film producers and other owners of copyright amount to several crores of rupees. The loss to the government in

terms of tax evasion also amounts to crores of rupees. In addition because of the recent Video boom in the country, there are reports that uncertified Video films are being exhibited on a large scale. A large number of Video parlours have also sprung up all over the country and they exhibit such films recorded on Video tapes by discharging admission fees from their clients. In view of these circumstances, it is proposed to amend the Copyright Act, 1957, suitably to combat effectively the piracy that is prevalent in the country.

The Bill provides among other things for the following amendments to the Act, namely:

- (i) To increase the punishment provided for the infringement of the Copyright, namely, imprisonments of three years, with a minimum punishment of imprisonment of six months, and a fine upto Rs. 2 lakhs, with a minimum of Rs. 50,000.
- (ii) To provide for enhanced punishment in the case of second and subsequent convictions.
- (iii) To provide for the declaration of the offence of infringement of Copyright as an economic offence so that the period of limitation provided for in the code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, for offences will not be applicable to this offence;
- (iv) To specially make the provisions of the Act applicable to Video films and Computer programmes;
- (v) To require the producers of records and Video films to display certain formation in the record, Video films and containers thereof. (Annexure /C Srl. - 116)

Her another Bill was to amend the Acts of Central Universities, such as, the Banaras Hindu University Act, 1915; the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920; the Delhi University Act, 1922; the Visva Bharati Act, 1951; the Jawahar Lal Nehru University Act 1966; the North Eastern Hill University Act, 1973 and the University of Hyderabad Act 1974. She opined in the Bill :

Committees on subordinate legislation had recommended that suitable

provision may be incorporated in all the central Acts for publication of official gazette and laying before Parliament of all rules, regulations etc. framed under the powers delegated there under. The Bill seeks to implement the recommendations of the committees in so far as the Act relating Universities are concerned.

Public Accounts Committee as also the Lok Sabha committee on papers laid have made recommendations for making statutory provisions in the Acts of the Central Universities for laying their annual Reports and annual Accounts together with Adult Report before the Parliament. This Bill sought to implement these recommendations.

While amending the Acts, the opportunity has also been taken to make provisions for the following:

- (i) to make specific provision for the establishment of a campus of the NEHU in the Union Territory of Mizoram to satisfy the aspiration of the people of that territory.
- (ii) to provide that the Chief Rector of the NEHU shall be appointed by the visitor. This has become necessary as there are now two separate Governors for the State of Nagaland and Meghalaya instead of one for both the states.
- (iii) to exclude the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh from the jurisdiction of NEHU as the Arunachal Pradesh Administration propose to establish a separate university of their own. (Annexure /C Srl. - 121)

Smt. Kaul's 5th Bill was to declare the institution known as the Asiatic Society as institution of National Importance. Her view in the Bill was as :

The Asiatic Society in Calcutta is a society deemed to be registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. It was established on the 15th January 1748 through the exertion of the well known indologist, William Jones who was then Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court at Fort William in Bengal. The Society has all along served as the fountain head of various literary and scientific activities in the country. The society has rich collection of books, manuscripts, coins and various art objects.

Over the years the activities of the Society have declined and its affairs have deteriorated. Recently the society approached the Government for assistance

and for declaring it as an institution of national importance. The Society in its meeting held on 5th December 1983 also resolved that the Government of India be requested to take steps and follow up action in this regard.

Having regard to the objects of the society, it is considered appropriate that the Society should be declared to be institution of national importance. The Bill made such a declaration and provide for the requisite financial assistance to be given to the society and for the suitable powers of control being exercised. (Annexure /C Srl. - 127)

Her 6th Bill was to amend the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. In the Bill she stated:

The Committees on Subordinate Legislation have in their successive reports strongly recommended that the UGC Act, 1956 should be amended so as to expressly empower the Central Government to make rules with retrospective effect and also to validate rules already made with such effect, and to provide for publication of regulations in the official Gazette and for laying the same before Parliament. Accordingly, the Bill sought to amend the said Act, opportunity is also being taken to empower the UGC to make regulations with retrospective effect for certain matters. Necessary safeguards are also proposed to see that no rule or regulation shall be made with retrospective effect so as to prejudicially affect the interest of any person who may be governed by such rule or regulation.

For quite sometime past, the UGC has been feeling handicapped in setting up establishment and financing the same to provide common facilities, services, programme etc. for a group of universities or for the universities in general. To overcome this handicap the Bill sought to cover additional power on the commission in this behalf.

A very serious situation has arisen in recent years because of mushroom growth of private colleges, especially Engineering Colleges, in some states, which charge huge sums of donations, capitations fees for admission to various courses of study offered by them. To tackle this evil which has grave deleterious consequences. The Bill sought to empower the UGC to determine the scales of fees charged by the colleges and to deny grants to and to be recognised the college, which violets this provision, so that it can't send up any candidates for the examinations. The Bill also provides for inquiry before de-recognition

of a college, and also for taking care of the interests of the students who are already enrolled. (Annexure /C Srl. - 128)

The last Bill of Smt Kaul's was known as "Visva Bharti Bill" which was passed by Rajya Sabha earlier and as it was moved for consideration on 7.5.1984, it was passed thereafter by Lok Sabha. The detail of the Bill is not available. (Annexure/C Srl.- 152)

KRISHNAN SMT. PARVATI

An Hons. graduate lady, by profession a full time party worker and trade unionist. She was the secretary of AITUC, and former treasurer also of the same. Being an active trade unionist, she had represented the AITUC in many conferences abroad. Smt. Krishnan was in the inauguration of the first International Conference of Working women held in Budapest in 1956. She also had represented India at UN conference for International Women's Year held in Mexico in 1975.

Smt. Krishnan was elected for the 2nd, 5th and 6th Lok Sabha in 1957, 1974 and 1977, previously she was the member of Rajya Sabha from 1954-57.

So far her role in the House is concerned, unfortunately, materials are not properly available of Parliamentary debates, although she had introduced four separate bills in the House though none of them were passed.

Her first bill was known as Constitution Amendment Bill. In her statement of objects and reasons she stated :

In the Constitution (Pondichery) Scheduled Castes Order 1964, the following 15 (fifteen castes) have been included:

1. Adhi Andhra 2. Adhi Dravida 3. Chakkilyan 4. Jambu Vulu 5. Kuravan 6. Madiga 7. Mala, Mali Masti 8. Paki 9. Pallan 10. Parayan, Sambavar 11. Samban 12. Jhoti 13. Valluvan 14. Vetan 15. Vettiyan.

The caste "Puthirai Vannan" had been omitted from inclusion in the above order. This caste "Puthirai Vannan" has been declared as Scheduled Caste in

the neighbour state of Tamil Nadu which has got border limits of 5 to 8 kms. from the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

The government of Pondicherry had proposed an Amendment Bill to the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 in the year 1967 by including the caste of "Puthirai Vannan". Accordingly SC/ST Order (Amendment) Bill, 1967 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 12th August 1967 as Bill No.119 of 1967.

This Bill was referred to the Joint Committee of House but finally the Bill was not passed and it lapsed with dissolution of 4th Lok Sabha. This was not reintroduced in the subsequent Lok Sabha. Due the non passing of the Bill in question, the people belonging to the caste of "Puthirai Vannan" in Pondicherry were affected much. Wives and children of the people of this community who have been born in the neighbouring Tamil Nadu area and who are living in Pondicherry with their husbands and parents are eligible to the concession available to the scheduled caste those who are native of Pondicherry are deprived of this concession. (Annexure /C Srl. - 66)

Smt. Krishnan's 2nd and 3rd Bill were on same line. The Bill was known as Indian Industries and the Workers Bill, the purpose of the Bill was to amend the Beedi and Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 and to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. In the Bill she stated :

The beedi industry was not capital intensive industry. At present, fixation of minimum rates of wages is left to the choice of respective state government. Where as the appropriate government under - the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Condition of Employment) Act, 1966. As a result different rates of wages are fixed by different states. The employer is, therefore able to engage some Munshis or Munims and shift his production centre across the border to some other state where the minimum wage rate is lower. In consequence, the worker have to face closures and unemployment in the state where the minimum wage is comparatively higher, or are compelled to accept lower rates than the notified minimum wages. This is defeating the purpose of fixation of minimum wages in the Beedi. The solution is to fix a National Minimum Wage, including variations, if necessary but to the extent that the purpose fixing the minimum wage is not defeated. This can be done, if only the central government is the appropriate government in the case of Beedi and Cigar Industry.

The minimum rate of wages in the Beedi industry are fixed on the basis of making 1000s Beedis per day. This requires a certain quantity of leaves, tobacco etc., It is found that in many cases sufficient raw material is not given by the employer or his agent to the employees for manufacturing 1000s Beedis. As a result the employee fails to earn the minimum wage notified under the Act. It is therefore proposed that a system of "fall-back wages" be introduced. Since under this provision the employer will be compelled to pay the "fall-back wage" even he supplies insufficient raw material, the practice will be discouraged and guarantees will be created for the implementation and payment of minimum wage. As to what percentage the fall-back wage should, is ofcourse, left to be decided by the appropriate government and/or the advisory committee which it has set up for purpose of determining the amount.

A Beedi worker has to put atleast two hours of works at his residence, for cutting and sizing of Beedi leaves. Hence the hour of work in the establishment or industrial premises are sought to be reduced from 9 to 8 hours. Similarly the spread over is restricted to ten and half hours.

At present, the Beedi workers are not entitled to casual leave or festival leave under the provisions of the Act. Such leave is being introduced for the first time.

Provisions in the Principle Act relating to Contract Labour, Home Worker are being deleted with a view to eliminating this pernicious system prevailing in the industry. Hence employee and employer are being redefined. Consequential amendments have also been proposed.

The percentage of rejection is sought to be limited to 5%, so as to put a check on this system degenerating into deliberate harassment of employees and erosion of their minimum wage. Entries proposed in the Attendance Cards are also with a view to put a check, and with a view to enable the inspector to inspect at any time, or for a proper settlement of industrial dispute arising in this connection. (Annexure /C Srl. - 94 & 95)

Smt. Krsihnan's last Bill also on the Indian Industries and Workers, the Bill was to amend the Sick Textile undertaking (Nationalisation) Act, 1974. In the Bill she opined :

Section 21 of the Sick Textile undertaking (Nationalisation) Act 1974 provides for disbursement of claims by the Commissioner in accordance with the priorities laid down in the Second Schedule of the Act.

Second Schedule places the claims of the employees arising out of the arrears of provident fund, wages, etc., in Category III. The result is that the employees claims can be entertained only after items such as Bank loans, tax arrears etc., are satisfied. In most cases the amount available for disbursement is exhausted in satisfying these claims of categories I & II and the employee's claims are likely to go by default. The employee's claims by way of arrears of provident fund, etc., are not loans but "Trust money" misappropriated by the employers and realised by the government in time. It is not just and fair to deprive the employees of their life's saving of provident fund.

The proposed amendment seeks to give priority to the employee's arrears of provident fund over Bank loans and government tax arrears, etc.

In case the available is not sufficient to fully meet the employee's claims of arrears of provident fund, the proposed amendment provides for the government making good the arrears. (Annexure /C Srl. - 97)

MAHISHI Dr. MS. SARAJINI

A bachelor lady carrying with herself the degree of Ph.D., L.L.B. and D.Litt. By profession a teacher, educationist and journalist. Dr. Mahishi was elected for 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Lok Sabha in 1962, 1967, 1971 and 1977. 1983 onwards Dr. Mahishi was the member of Rajya Sabha till 1990.

Dr. Mahishi was in the ministry during first three Lok Sabhas, from 1967-69 she was the Union Deputy Minister attached to the Prime Minister. From 1969-71 Dr. Mahishi was the Union Deputy Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation but shifted as Union Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation (1971-74). From 1974-76 she was the Union Minister of State for Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

Dr. Mahishi had wrote many stories, articles, books on different items. She

had also been associated with several social organisations and associations.

Dr. Mahishi, a lady of literature, could not play an active role in the House during the 4th and 5th Lok Sabha it was perhaps because of her over burdened ministerial work.

She had placed about 25 questions during the 3rd Lok Sabha out of that 6 questions were on National Issue, one each on International Relation, Regional Problem, SC/ST etc. and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

In 1965 Dr. Mahishi had introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill. In her statement of objects and reasons she stated as under:

Kashmir being an integral part of India, there should not be any discrimination between citizens of India so far as fundamental rights to purchase, enjoy and dispose of property, settlement in states, employment etc. are concerned. Unreasonable restrictions on these rights is a clear violation of article 13 & 19, article 35A which gives extraordinary power to the government of Jammu & Kashmir and there by restricts the scope of article 13. It nullifies the whole significance of guarantee of fundamental rights as far as Kashmir is concerned. (Annexure /C Srl. - 65)

MUKERJEE SMT. SHARDA

A graduate lady was elected for Lok Sabha for the first time in 1962 and re-elected for 4th Lok Sabha in 1967. Available materials shows her poor participation in the 3rd Lok Sabha . But, Smt. Mukerjee had placed not less than 200 questions during the 4th Lok Sabha. Out of all almost 70 questions were on National Problem , 30 on International Relations, few questions were on Indian Railways, SC/ST, Regional Issues and various of the questions were miscellaneous.

Smt. Mukerjee had brought and introduced a Bill in the house though the Bill could not passed it was named after Ceiling on Urban Property Bill. In her statement she stated-

To discourage speculation in land and buildings and or the creation or absorption of unaccountable or tax-evaded money and further to enable planned and scientific development of urban areas it is considered necessary to limit urban property holdings and take over the rest by payment of compensation. (Annexure /C Srl. - 90)

KIDWAI, SMT. MOHSINA

An active social and political leader and worker was the member of 6th, 7th and 8th Lok Sabha. Previously she had been in the state legislature for a long period of 18 years (1960-1978) . From 1960 to 1974 she was the member of U.P. Legislative Council and from 1974 to 1978 Member of Legislative Assembly. Smt. Kidwai has had hold the portfolio of Minister several time. From 1973 to 1974 she was the Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, Govt. of U.P; From 1974-75 Cabinet Minister for Harijan and Social Welfare of Govt. of U.P.; From 1975 to 1977 she was the Cabinet Minister of Small Scale Industries (UP).

Smt. Kidwai was the Union Minister of State for Labour and Rehabilitation for 6 months during the 7th Lok Sabha and was shifted as Union Minister of State for health and Family Welfare for one and half year. And for few months she was the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Rural Development.

During the 8th Lok Sabha her ministry was changed for 4 times. In the beginning for one and half year she was the Union Cabinet Minister for Health and Family Welfare, shifted as Union Cabinet Minister for Transport for few months. For three years she was the Cabinet Minister of Urban Development, and ultimately she held charge of Ministry of Tourism for few months.

Smt. Kidwai had represented India at many International Conferences. She was the delegate of India to, (i) U.S.A., U.K., Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya and UAE. (ii) Women's Conference held in German Democratic Republic and (iii) World Peace Conference held in USSR, Brunei and Hungary.

So far her role in Parliament is concerned, Smt. Kidwai had raised altogether approximately 100 questions. Out of all 30 questions were on National Interest, 16 on International Relation, 11 on Region, 5 on Indian Railways and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

Smt. Kidwai had introduced three separate Bills, during 8th Lok Sabha . All Bills were passed as well.

Her 1st Bill was known as "Delhi Rent Control Bill", the purpose of the Bill was to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958. In her statement she observed-

The Delhi Rent Control Act 1958 (59 of 1958) which came into effect on 9th February, 1959 provides for control of rents and lodging houses and for the lease of vacant premises to the Government within the Union Territory of India.

For quite sometime, there have been demands from the associations of house owners as well as tenants for amendment of Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958. The Committee on Petitions of Rajya Sabha , The Economic-Administrative Reforms Commission, Secretaries Committees and National Commission on Urbanisation have also recommended amendment of certain provisions of the Act. Considering these demands/recommendations as also the fact that with the passage of time, the circumstances have also changed, necessitating a fresh look at the tenant-landlord relationship, the amendment of Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 has been proposed with the following objects;

- (a) To rationalise the present Rent Control law by bringing about a balance between the interests of the landlords and tenants.
- (b) To give boost to house building activity and maintain the existing stock in a reasonable state of repairs.
- (c) To reduce litigation between landlords and tenants and to ensure expeditious disposal of disputes between them. (Annexure /C Srl. - 125)

Her 2nd Bill was known as The Rajghat Samadhi Bill . The purpose of the Bill was to amend the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951. She stated-

The Rajghat Samadhi Committee constituted under the provisions of the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, includes among other two Members of

Parliament from the Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha to be elected by each House from amongst its members. The Parliamentary Joint Committee on offices of Profit had observed that since the Rajghat Samadhi Committee administrators and controls the affairs of the "Samadhi" and the Samadhi funds, the Members of the Parliament on the Committee were liable to be disqualified under Article 102(1)(a) of the constitution. Accordingly, it is necessary to obviate such a situation and given protection to the members of the Parliament on the Committee from disqualification by making a suitable provision in the Act. (Annexure /C Srl. - 136)

Her last Bill was known as "Delhi Apartment Ownership Bill" which was passed by both the Houses. No details of the Bill is available. (Annexure /C Srl. - 158)

BARKATAKI SMT. RENUKA DEVI

Was an highly educated and social worker, Smt. Barkataki was elected for 3rd (1962) and 6th (1977) Lok Sabha, in between she had been in Assam Legislative Assembly, and was the Dy. Leader of opposition party. From 1977 to 1979 she was the Minister of State in the Union Minister of Education, Social Welfare and Culture, Smt. Barkataki was also a Trade Union Leader. According to available materials though she had participated in Parliamentary debates but least in percentage, only seven questions were placed by her out of that 4 were miscellaneous.

BOSE DR. (SMT.) MAITREYEE

A Medical Practitioner by profession, she was an active Trade Union leader also. In the beginning from 1942 to 1947 she was associated with INC, later joined AITUC, and gradually became the President of INTUC.

Smt. Bose was the Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1954 to 1967 (13yrs.).

Since Dr. Bose was associated highly with Trade Union, therefore she had represented India in several international conference. She had attended -

- (a) I.L.O. Committee in Geneva in 1949;
- (b) I.L.O. Conference in Geneva in 1951;
- (c) I.C.F.T.U. Conference in London in 1949 and in Milan in 1951;
- (d) I.C.F.T.U. Committee in Vienna and Munich in 1963; and
- (e) The Anti Atom Bomb Conference held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1964 etc.

Dr. Bose was associated with few social organisation also. She was elected for the 4th Lok Sabha in 1967. She could not introduce any Bill in the House, but she had placed approximately 30 question (related to different problems) on the floor of the House.

Her participation in the House may be said was mediocre in nature.

BRAR SMT. GURBINDER KAUR

An M.A. educated lady, by Profession an active social worker as well as had interest in politics. She was elected in 1980 for 7th Lok Sabha. Previously she was the Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977 and was the President of D.C.C. (Ferozpur, Punjab) from 1964 to 1970. This shows that her political career had started before 1964. Smt. Brar also was associated with different child welfare and other social organisations and institutions.

Significantly she had been the Minister of State for Housing of Punjab from 1973 to 1977.

Smt. Brar had represented India to several international conferences as a delegate. In 1959 she attended the World Conference of Child Welfare held in Tokyo. She was also a Government Delegation to attend the Habitat Conference held in Vancouver in Canada in 1976.

During her membership, Smt. Brar had raised only about 13 question on the floor of the House, out of 13, 7 were miscellaneous, 4 were on National Problem and 2 questions were on the state she belong to.

CHANDRESH KUMARI SMT.

A social and political worker by Profession; Smt. Chandresh was the Member of Himachal Legislative Assembly (1972-77); and during this tenure she was the Dy. Minister of Himachal Pradesh. Again in, 1982 she was elected to the same assembly. This time she was the Minister of State of Tourism, H.P.; and in 1984 she was elected for Lok Sabha.

Though having a good background but her Participation in the House was very poor. Smt. Chandresh had only placed about 6 questions, all were miscellaneous.

GANDHI SMT. MANEKA

Wife of Sanjay Gandhi (son of Smt. Indira Gandhi). By Profession she has been a writer, Animal and Environment Activist.

Smt. Maneka Gandhi had became the General Secretary of Janta Dal in 1988, and consequently was elected to Lok Sabha in 1989 (Ninth).

The Ninth House was dissolved only after one and half year. During the tenure she was the Union Minister of State of Environment and Forest, after few months she was given the Independent charge.

She had received the Ministry because of few fundamental reasons.

Smt. Maneka Gandhi had special interest in Indian Mythology, Animal Welfare, Environmental Protection, Consumer Protection, Vegetarianism etc. She was the Former Managing Trustee of the Ruth Cowell Foundation which runs the largest Animal Care Hospital in India known as Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Animal Care Hospital. Smt. Gandhi

was the organiser of "Free a Bird Campaign" in August 1989.

Smt. Maneka Gandhi was the delegate of Government of India to -

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme Consultations held at Nairobi in Kenya in January 1990;
- (b) White House Conference on Science and Economic Research on Global Change, held in Washington in April 1990; and
- (c) Discussion on Montreal Protocol in London in June 1990.

GAUTAM SMT. SHILA

A graduate lady, Business and Agriculture was the main Profession. Smt. Gautam was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. Before and after the Membership of Lok Sabha she had been associated with few organisation and associations.

So far the role in Lok Sabha is concerned, Smt. Gautam though did not introduce any Bill in the House but within a short period she have had placed almost 170 questions addressed to different ministers, on the floor of the House. 30% of her total question were on miscellaneous issues, where as 68 questions were there which asked on National Interest, 18 questions were on international problem and relationship. 12,9 and 8 questions were asked on Regional Problem, SC/ST's and Railway respectively.

Smt. Gautam had no previous Legislative experience, taking into consideration this Particular Point, it could be said that her representation if it not much good, it was not also bad.

GAYETRI DEVI, RAJMATA OF JAIPUR

Belong to the Royal blood by born and by Marital Status too, Rajmata a highly educated lady with the education of India as well as had qualification of Foreign University, she was the President of state Swatantra Party, Rajasthan; and Vice-President of Swatantra Party of National level.

Rajmata had been elected to consecutive three Lok Sabha i.e., 3rd in 1962; 4th in 1967 and 5th in 1970.

Her Participation in the Parliamentary business was not much appreciable. According to available material she had placed only about 50 questions (altogether) on the floor of the House. Out of all 58% of the questions were miscellaneous, and 9, 5, 4 and 2 questions were on the National Interest, Her own state interest, Railway Problem and International relation respectively.

JAMUNA DEVI SMT.

Her education was only upto Matric, but she was an active political worker. Due to her political activities she became the Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957.

She was elected to Lok Sabha in 1962. Her activities in the Party were continue, consequently she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1978.

Her Participation in the House was very poor. On the floor of the House she had placed 3 questions on National interest and 1 on SC/ST.

KALE SMT. ANUSUYABAI

Born in Nineteenth Century; she was the first women member nominated to Central Province and Berar Legislative Council, Nagpur in 1928. In 1937 she became the Dy. Speaker of Central Province Legislative Assembly. Smt. Kale was the President of AIWC also. Finally she was elected to first and second

National interest, 5 on state, 7 on Indian Railways and 13 questions on International relation.

KRISHNA KUMARI, JODHPUR RAJMATA

Born in the Princely family and married to the same of Jodhpur, Rajmata had educated herself Privately, but she had assisted the Maharaja of Jodhpur in the state craft.

Rajmata was elected for the 5th Lok Sabha in 1971 (upto 1977). She had Participated in the Parliamentary debates, and placed about 45 questions. Out of 45 almost 15 questions were on her region. 7 on Indian Railways, 2 questions were on International Relation and the rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

NEHRU SMT. SHEORAJVATI

Was born in 19th century, she was associated with the welfare of women and weaker section. Smt. Nehru had Participated in the movement of 1942 and was imprisoned also. She had been the member of AIWC, in 1955 Smt. Nehru was elected in by-election to the running First Lok Sabha . During her tenure she could placed only 2 questions on the floor of the House.

NIGAM SMT. SAVITRI

An active social and political worker. Smt. Nigam was the secretary of AIWC from 1947 -1949, and was the vice president of Avadh Branch of AIWC, this is an evident of her active participation in the social as well as in the work of women upliftment.

She had been the member of Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1962. Smt. Nigam was the member of Executive Committee of CPP for one year, and latter became the Secretary of the same too. She had also been the member of the Women Advisory Board of AICC.

Apart from this she was also associated with various social organisations and associations.

Smt. Nigam was elected for 3rd Lok Sabha in 1962. In the House she had participated in the parliamentary debates, and placed 26 questions on the floor of the House. She had distributed the questions as 4 on National issue, 2 each on Regional issue and on Indian railways and International Relationship, one question on SC/ST and the rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

NIRLEP KAUR SARDARNI

Was the member of the 4th Lok Sabha elected in 1967. Smt. Kaur was the Secretary of the Swatantra Party (Punjab), and previously was associated with INC. More is not known about her.

During her membership of the House she had placed about 96 questions. Out of these, 13 were on her own State, 4 on International Relation, 5 on Indian Railways, 19 on National interest and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

PANDIT SMT VIJAYA LAKSHMI

Daughter of the famous personality of India, Pandit Motilal Nehru, and sister of the first Prime Minister of independent India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. Educated at home but she was the symbol of women. She had along with other family members participated in the freedom struggle and made stronger the women associations. She was a good diplomat and politician that helped her to become the Chairperson of Education Committee of Allahabad Municipal Board in 1934. From 1937 to 1939 she was the member of the U.P.

Legislative Assembly, and in the same duration she had been the Minister of Local Self Government and Health, U.P.; In 1945 she became the member of Constituent Assembly. In 1962 she had been appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra (1962-64).

Pandit Lakshmi was the member of the 1st, 3rd and 4th Lok Sabha, but she had resigned from the 1st & 4th Lok Sabha.

Apart from the above information, there more informations remained about her of Post and Pre independent India.

Smt. Pandit was the leader of the Indian Delegation to, (a) Pacific Relation Conference held at Hotspring in USA in 1944; (b) United Nation General Assembly from 1946 to 1949, and in 1951, in 1963 also; She was the Ambassador to- USSR, USA, Maxico, Spain and Eire. Significantly she had also hold the post of President of United Nation General Assembly and was appointed as India High Commissioner to United Kingdom.

Due to her outstanding contribution she had received different kind of awards, most important among them was "Padma- Vibushan".

Smt. Pandit had placed only 4 questions on the floor of the House.

PATIL SMT. SURYA KANTA

A graduate lady, by profession she was a political and social worker, journalist and Trade Unionist too.

Smt. Patil was elected for 10th Lok Sabha in 1991, but she entered into politics in 1971.

In 1971 she became the president of D.C.C. (Women Wing). From 1972 to 1974 she was the General Secretary of District Youth Congress. From 1974 to 1980 she was the member of the Municipal Committee, Nanded in Maharashtra, and was the Chairman of Educational Committee of the Council. From 1980 to 1985 she was the member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. In 1986 Smt. Patil was elected to Rajya Sabha and finally to Lok Sabha in 1991.

Smt. Patil was associated with various organisations. She was the chairperson of Mahila Udyog Vikash Sanstha, Multipurpose Labour Union, Director of District Co-operative Consumer Federation, Nanded (Maharashtra).

Back ground shows that she must have participated in the parliamentary debates, but unfortunately the Computer number against her name was wrong in Parliament House Information Centre. Therefore, the number of questions placed by her and the trend of the same is not known.

RAY SMT. RENUKA

Was a science graduate lady, elected for 2nd and 3rd Lok Sabha in 1957 and in 1962. In fact Smt. Ray had entered in politics and legislative process during the pre-independent India.

Smt. Ray was the Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1943 to 1946. From 1948 to 1952 she was the member of- (a) Constituent Assembly, (b) Provincial Parliament, & (c) Estimate Committee of Parliament.

In 1952 she was elected to West Bengal Legislative Assembly and became the Minister of Rehabilitation for the full term.

Smt. Ray had represented India as a delegate to International Conference too. She was one of the Delegate to U. N. General Assembly held in May in 1949.

Smt. Ray was associated with various social organisations, for instance, she was the president of the AIWC.

Though Smt. Ray was an active social worker but her role in the House was mediocre, as she had placed only about 50 questions on the floor of the House, out of that 50% questions were miscellaneous and the rest of the questions were distributed into National issues, Regional matters, International Relations, Railways, SC/ST etc. problems.

SAVITRI SHYAM SMT.

A highly educated lady, by profession a political worker, Journalist and a Lawyer. Smt. Shyam was elected for 4th and 5th Lok Sabha in 1967 and in 1971. Previously she was the member of the U.P. Legislative Council for long 12 years (1955-1967), in between she had registered herself as the member of P.C.C. and AICC as well. Before that from 1945 to 1946 she had been the member of Municipal Education and Health Committee U.P.; Smt. Shyam also had been the member of Bareilly (U.P.) Zilla Parishad. Apart from these she had also been associated with various Social organisations too.

So far her role in the House is concerned , Smt. Shyam had actively participated in the parliamentary debates. During her 1st term she placed nearly 140 questions and 390 during the 2nd term. She had given a balanced attention towards the various problems except women. Her 107 questions were related to National interest, 51 to International issues, 41 on Indian Railways, 31 on her State, 15 on SC/ST, and rest of the questions were miscellaneous.

SCINDIA SMT. VIJAYA RAJE

The Maharani of Gwalior (M.P.), wife of Maharaja Jivaji Rao Scindia, was a graduate lady, conferred Hony. Doctorate by one of the National University, Vikram University, Ujjain.

Smt. Scindia a great social worker was the president of A.I.W.C., Gwalior branch for more than last 40 years. She is the founder of Sishu Mandir and Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya. She is the Chancellor of Sangam University, Sagar (M.P.).

Smt. Scindia entered into electoral politics in 1957 and since than she has been till today in the Parliament either in Lok Sabha or in Rajya Sabha except four years from 1967 to 1971 when she was the member of M.P. Legislative Assembly.

Smt. Scindia is one of the important figure in the B.J.P.; she is a trustee of Viswa Hindu Parishad, at Gwalior.

She had been detained during the emergency (1975-77) first in solitary confinement Panchmari in M.P. and afterwards shifted to Tihar Jail in Delhi. Her activities are evident enough for her social and political activities and dedication.

Her participation in the House have not been much appreciable. Smt. Scindia could place only about 40 questions on the floor of the House, about 50% of the questions were miscellaneous, and other questions were divided into National, Regional and on Indian Railways.

SHAH SMT. JAYABEN

An M.A. educated lady, was an active social and political worker, was elected for second Lok Sabha in 1957, and re-elected for third Lok Sabha in 1962. But 1957 was not the year that she began her political career, Smt. Shah involved herself in the Politics of India since the pre-independence period. From 1948 to 1952 she was the Member of Saurashtra Constituent Assembly; from 1950 to 1956 Member of Saurashtra Legislative Assembly; during the same period she hold the post of Minister, she was the Dy. Education Minister of Saurashtra (1950-56); and was the Member of Bombay Legislative Assembly from 1956 to 1957.

Smt. Shah was very active in the child welfare functions and was associated with several social organisations; and was associated with Animal Welfare Board, under Govt. of India as well.

Smt. Shah had hold the post of Secretary of All India Panchayat Samiti. She had represented India as a delegate to World Health Conference held at Geneva in 1962.

So far her role in the House is concerned she was much active outside of the Parliament, but her role in the House was just mediocre because debates shows only 25 questions were raised by her on different problems.

SINHA SMT. RAMDULARI

A double M.A. qualified lady, had entered into politics since the student life. By profession Smt. Sinha was an Agriculturist, Social and Political worker. She was elected for 3rd, 7th and 8th Lok Sabha in 1962, 1980 and in 1984 (1962-67; 1980-84; 1984-91).

But before 1962 she had hold up different post and position such as - For 1944-45 she was the President of Bihar State Students Congress; since 1946 became the Member of AICC; for 1946-48 she was the Organising Secretary of Bihar Mahila Congress, and General Secretary of Bihar State Youth Congress.

In 1952 she was elected for Bihar Legislative Assembly, again in 1969 she was elected for the same assembly and became the Cabinet Minister of Labour and Employment, Tourism, Sugarcane, Social Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs, Bihar.

During the 7th Lok Sabha Smt. Sinha had hold up the portfolio of Minister in a changing manner, first she was the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting shifted as Union Minister of State for Labour and Rehabilitation, again shifted as Union Minister of State for Industry, Steel and Mines and again as Union Minister of State for Commerce and ultimately the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs.

During the Prime Ministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi she had been shifted once from her Ministry, she was the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs for about one year shifted as Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel and Mines for more than two years.

Smt. Sinha was the Member of Goodwill Mission to Philippines in 1965 and was the Dy. Leader of Indian Delegation to I.L.O. Conference held in Geneva in 1973.

Smt. Sinha had participated in the Parliamentary debates during the 7th Lok Sabha, she had placed about 35 questions. About 12 questions were miscellaneous, 8 questions were on International Relation, 9 on National interest and few questions were on her own state, Indian Railways, SC/ST etc.

SINHA SMT. USHA

An M.A. educated lady, by profession an Agriculturist and Political worker. she was elected for 9th Lok Sabha in 1989. Previously Smt. Sinha was the Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1985 to 1989.

Smt. Sinha had took the responsibility of Ministry during her membership. She was the Union Dy. Minister of Women and Child Development for about 7 months in 1990. Afterwards she was shifted as the Union Minister of Tourism for about 5 months.

Smt. Sinha could have perform well in the House, but unfortunately, the House could not existed for its full tenure.

SWAMINADHAN SMT. AMMU

Was the Member of First Lok Sabha , but more important, that she had participated in the freedom struggle through I.N.C.; Smt.Swaminadhan was the Founder Member of A.I.W.C.;she was the elected member of Madras Corporation from 1934 to 1939. In 1945 she was elected for Central Legislative Assembly, from 1947 to 1949 she had been the nominated member of Congress for Constituent Assembly, and from 1950 to 1952 she had been the member of Provisional Parliament. As soon in 1957 her membership from the Lower House was over, she was elected for Rajya Sabha for four years in 1957.

Smt. Swaminadhan had represented India to many International Conferences as a delegate. She attended International Women Conference on Peace and Freedom at Washington in 1940 as a guest delegate; in 1950 at Copenhagen (Denmark); she had been the member of Goodwill Mission send by the Govt. of India to Ethiopia in 1948; she was also a delegate to U.N. Economic and Social Council at Geneva in 1949 and 1950.

So far her role in the House is concerned was not much appreciable, perhaps it was because of the immediate relieve of India from British Rule, naturally everything need time to run smoothly and normally.

VIMLA DEVI SMT. V.

A graduate lady was a social and political worker, was associated with different social organisations and trade unions also. Smt. Vimla Devi was elected for 3rd Lok Sabha in 1962 but she entered primarily in election politics in 1957.

In 1957 she became the Vice-chairman of Eluru Municipality, in 1960 she was elected as Municipal Councillor of Eluru (A.P.).

She had contested the election for lok Sabha from the same district of A.P. (Eluru).

Smt. Vimla had placed only about 10 questions on the floor of the House.

VYAS DR. (MS.) GIRIJA

A highly educated lady, a teacher, educationist and political worker. Dr. Vyas had been active in political activities since her student life. She was the youngest D.C.C. President in Rajasthan. She took the responsibility of D.C.C. Presidentship for 1977 to 1984 (7 years), in 1985 she was elected for Rajasthan Legislative Assembly.

After the M.L.A. ship she contested for Lok Sabha membership in 1991 and won the election. She was the Union Dy. Minister for Information and Broadcasting for one and half year.

Dr. Vyas has had been appointed as professor at Udaipur University in 1971, she had also taught in Spain and USA.

She had represented India several times as a delegate, such as she lead delegations to Festival of India in USSR; she was the Member Women Parliamentarian Delegation to Mexico and Australia; of Indian Delegation to World Urdu Conference held at Mauritius in December 1991; leader of the delegation to Austria, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, U.K. and USA to promote tourism in India.

She had placed only 3 questions on the floor of the House.

VERMA SMT. USHA

An agriculturist and political and social worker also. Smt. Verma was elected to three Lok Sabhas consecutively, i.e., 7th (1980), 8th (1984) and 9th in 1989.

Smt. Verma had participated actively in the Parliamentary debates, she had placed altogether nearly 100 questions on the floor of the House.

Her 45% questions were miscellaneous, and 15%, 8% and 31% questions were on National, state and on problem in Indian Railways respectively.

Apart from these all few other women Parliamentarian were there who had no remarkable background to highlight but had participated in the Parliamentary debates were -

1.	AHMED SMT. MOFIDA -	4 Q.	
2.	CHAVAN SMT. PREMLA BAI -	3 Q.	
3.	DESHMUKH SMT. VIMAL -	4 Q.	
4.	GANGA DEVI SMT. -	8 Q.	
5.	GIRIJA KUMARI SMT.-	4 Q.	
6.	KAREDULLA KAMLA KUMARI -	6 Q.	
7.	KAUR SMT. SUKHBUNS -	11 Q.	
8.	KUDUMALA PADMASHREE -	5 Q.	
9.	MINIMATTA AGAMDASS GURU -	34 Q.	
10.	NAYAR DR. SHAKUNTALA -	2 Q.	
11.	ORAON SMT. SUMATI -	2 Q.	
12.	ROY SMT. UMA -	3 Q.	
13.	MS. SELJA -	7 Q.	
14.	SHAKUNTALA DEVI SMT. -	4 Q.	
15.	SULTAN MAIMOONA -	4 Q.	
16.	VEDKUMARI SMT. MOOTHY -	8 Q.	&
17.	SMT. VIJAYA RAJE -	3 Q	

As far the **NON- PARTICIPATING WOMEN MEMBERS** (61) are concerned , their entrance into Parliament have also been divided into two specific sub categories.

2/a. Those who have certain specific background, and deserve the membership or candidature (31). and

2/b. There were 30 Women Parliamentarian who could not participate in the parliamentary business, nor have any important background which could be highlighted, but were elected to Lok Sabha.

Basic background of (*sub-categories "2/a"*) 31 Women Parliamentarian are given in nutshell-

1. **ABDULLA BEGUM AKBAR.**
2. **AHMED BEGUM ABIDA.**
3. **AKKAMMA DEVI SMT.**
4. **BAHUGUNA SMT KAMLA.**
5. **BIBHU KUMARI DEVI.**
6. **CHANDRAWATI SMT.**
7. **CHOUDHARI SMT. KAMLA.**
8. **DEVI SMT. CHANDRABHANU.**
9. **GAYTRI DEVI.**
10. **GORE SMT. MRINAL.**
11. **GUPTA SMT. PRABHAWATI.**
12. **JAMUNA DEVI JULARI.**
13. **JAYALAKSHMI SMT. VENKATSWAMI.**
14. **KAILASHPATI SMT.**
15. **KANNAMWAR SMT. TAI.**
16. **KSHIRSAGAR KESHAR BAI**
17. **MAITI SMT. ABHA.**

18. *MASCARENE MS. ANNIE.*
19. *MEHTA SMT. JAYAWANTI.*
20. *NAWAL PRABHAKAR SMT. SUNDERWATI.*
21. *PADMAWATI DEVI.*
22. *PATIL SMT. SHALINI.V.*
23. *RANGNEKAR SMT. AHILYA BAI.*
24. *RAO SMT. RADHA BAI ANAND.*
25. *RAY SMT. MAYA.*
26. *REDDY SMT. YASHODA.*
27. *SATYA BHAMA DEVI SMT.*
28. *SHYAM KUMARI DEVI SMT.*
29. *SIDDHARTHA SMT. D.K. TARADEVI.*
30. *SOUNDARAM RAMCHANDRAN DR.(SMT.) T.S.&*
31. *VERMA MS. VIMLA.*

ABDULLA BEGUM AKBAR

The patron of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, elected for 6th and 8th Lok Sabha, was associated with many organisations. President of State Branch Indian Red Cross Society; State Branch Women Conference; State social Welfare Board etc. significantly, organised Peace Committee in Sri-Nagar in 1946.

AHMED BEGUM ABIDA

Wife of former President of India Janab Fakiruddin Ali Ahmed, elected twice to Lok Sabha, once in 1980 (7TH), and in 1984 (8th).

Represented India as Leader of the Indian Women's Delegation to World Conference held in Moscow in 1979. She was associated with Indo - Bhutenes Friendship Association; Indo - Czechoslovakia Cultural Association etc.

AKKAMMA DEVI SMT.

Was elected to 3rd Lok Sabha in 1962, was the former President of District Branch All India Women Conference; Chairman of District Project Implementing Committee, Nilgiris Welfare Extension projects of Central Social Welfare Board; and District Level Committee for Women and Children's Programmes, Nilgiri; and was the member of other associations also.

BAHUGUNA SMT. KAMLA

Wife of Late Hemabati Nandan Bahuguna, a leader. Smt. Bahuguna was the Former Chairman of Zilla Parishad, Allahabad. She was elected for 6th Lok Sabha in 1977. She had represented India as a delegate of I.N.T.U.C. to International Women's Year at United Kingdom in 1974; Rumania in 1975; and went to Berlin in 1975 as a member of Congress Women's Delegation to International Women's Year.

BIBHU KUMARI DEVI MAHARANI

Belonged to Royal family by born as well as by marital status. Member of A.I.C.C. since 1983; She was the member of Tripura Legislative Assembly (1983-91) during the same duration she was the Minister of Revenue and Local Self Government, Tripura.

She had donated a part of the Palace for Child welfare and Child Education.

In 1977 she represented as Chairman to Buddhist Conference with regard to Child education in Japan. In 1982 she had represented as Chairman , Festival of India (North East Region), at London. She was elected to 10th Lok Sabha in 1991.

CHANDRAWATI SMT.

A Lawyer by profession , was a member of P.E.P.S.U. Legislative Assembly (1954-57); Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly (1962-67); Deputy Minister, Government of Punjab during (1964-66). She became the member of Haryana Legislative Assembly during 1968-77; She had hold the portfolio of Minister under the Govt. of Haryana (1973-74); and being an active party worker she was elected during the 6th (1977) Lok Sabha.

CHOUDHARI SMT. KAMLA

An active participant in the Civil Dis -Obedience Movement in 1930, went to jail during the movement also. She had been an active Congress party worker, and was the member of Constituent Assembly (1947-50); She became the member of Provisional Parliament in 1950; from 1952 to 1962 she was associated with different social works and in 1962 she was elected to 3rd Lok Sabha in 1962.

DEVI SMT. CHANDRA BHANU

Was an active educationist, political and social worker. From 1974 to 1977 she was the Vice Chairman of Zilla Parishad at Begusarai. In 1984 she was elected to 8th Lok Sabha .

GAYATRI DEVI SMT.

Had actively participated in the freedom movement and was arrested during the Civil Dis-Obedience Movement of 1930. She was a social and political worker and was the member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (1969 and 1974). Smt. Gayetri was elected to 7th Lok Sabha in 1980.

GORE SMT. MRINAL

By profession she was a doctor and was associated with A.I.W.C. actively. Due to her social and political work she became the member of Bombay Municipal Corporation from 1961 to 1973; from 1972 to 1977 she was the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, and consequently in 1977 she was elected to 6th Lok Sabha .

GUPTA SMT. PRABHAWATI

A highly educated social and political worker, Smt. Gupta was the Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1962 and from 1977 to 1984. From 1967 to 1973 she was the convener of Women's Wing of Bihar Pradesh Congress (I). From 1972 to 1977 she was the Member of Bihar Legislative Council. During the membership in Legislative Assembly she had the portfolio of Ministry also, (1973-74, 1980-83); and in 1984 she was elected to the 8th Lok Sabha. She had represented India as a delegate twice (i) as a member of Political Mission to Mauritius in 1976, (ii) as a member of delegation of I.L.O. Conference held in Switzerland in 1984.

JAMUNA SMT. JULARI

A film artist by profession and a social worker also. She holds important portfolio in the party state committee, and the convener of cultural cell of the state party unit.

She had represented India as a delegate to U.S.S.R. and U.K. in 1966; to Malaysia and Mauritius in 1981; attended World Telegu Conference in 1989 in U.S.A.; and attended World Telegu Association of North America Conference also. Finally in 1989 she was elected to 9th Lok Sabha.

JAYALAKSMI SMT. VENKATASWAMI

Was an agriculturist by profession. She had been in the party since the beginning. In 1969 she became the member of State Committee of the Party. In 1971 became the member of P.C.C., consequently became the member of A.I.C.C.; and finally was elected to 5th and 6th Lok Sabha in 1971 and in 1977.

KAILASHPATI SMT.

An energetic political and social worker, before becoming the member of Parliament she was the Convener of District Women Congress in 1971; from 1972-74 she was the Convener of Young Women Congress, U.P.; from 1974-77 she was the member of U.P. Legislative Assembly and in 1980 became the Member of Lok Sabha (7th), In 1985 she was elected to Rajya Sabha and re-elected in 1988. She was the Joint Secretary of All India Mahila Congress.

KANNAMWAR SMT. TAI

According to available materials she had participated in the Non Co-Operation Movement, and in Civil Dis Obedience Movement too (1930). Being an active political worker became the president of PCC, Nagpur in 1958, and consequently was elected to Lok Sabha in By election in 1964.

KHIRSAGAR SMT. KESHARBAI

Was an agriculturist and social worker. Smt. Khirsagar was the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat from 1959 to 1972; in between from 1967 to 1972 she was the Chairman of Taluka Panchayat Samiti (Bhir, Maharastra); from 1969 to 1978 she was the member of Maharastra Legislative Assembly; Due to her good work at the grass root level she had been elected by her voters thrice to Lok Sabha, in 1980, 1984 and in 1991 (7th, 8th and in 10th House).

MAITI MS. ABHA

A Law graduate, journalist, a political and social worker. Ms. Maiti has had hold up important posts in her party. She was the Secretary of Women's Sub Committee of West Bengal P.C.C.; member of A.I.C.C. and of C.W.C.

Ms. Maiti was the member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957 and from 1962 to 1969; during the second term she was the Minister of Refugee and Social Welfare, Dept. of Home; Govt. of West Bengal; from 1960 to 1962 she was the member of Rajya Sabha.

In 1971 she had attended the 12th Congress of the Federation of Professional Women in Canada. And in 1977 during the 6th general election she was elected to Lok Sabha.

MASCARENE MS. ANNIE

A highly qualified and Law graduate lady, by profession she was an Advocate and political worker. Ms. Annie has had been engaged in the freedom movement and was imprisoned several times from 1939 to 1947. She was the member of Travancore - Cochin Legislative Assembly from 1948 to 1952. In between she hold the portfolio of Minister of Health and Electricity too. From December 1949 to January 1950 she had the membership of Constituent Assembly. In the natural and gradual development she was elected to the 1st Lok Sabha in 1952 as an Independent Candidate.

MEHTA SMT. JAYAWANTI N.

A good qualified lady, associated actively with social and political works. Entered actively in the politics in 1965, in 1968 became the Councillor of Bombay Municipal Corporation and remain in the post till 1978 (1968-73; 1973-78), from 1978 to 1985 she was the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and gradually was elected to the 9th Lok Sabha in 1989.

NAWAL PRAVAKAR SMT. SUNDERWATI

An energetic social and political worker, which is evident from the awarded shields received by herself from the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1965 for doing outstanding work for the welfare of the weaker section and women as well. She was associated with several social organisations and institutions; she was the Convener of Mahila Shakti Dal too.

Since 1972 to 1980 and again from 1980 to 1984 she was the member of Metropolitan Council of Delhi. Gradually in 1984 she was elected to 8th Lok Sabha.

PADMAWATI DEVI SMT.

Belonged to the Royal family, was educated privately, she became the member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly during the first election under the Independent Govt., she was in the Assembly from 1952 to 1967.

Smt. Padmawati was the Minister of Public Health, M.P. (1952-62); Minister of Local Govt., M.P. (1963-64) and Minister of Local Government, M.P. (1966-67). In course of time in 1967 during the 4th general election she became the member Lok Sabha.

Smt. Padmawati attended the 13th and 14th plenary session of World Health Assembly in Geneva and New Delhi in 1960 and in 1961. She was the Leader of Indian Delegation to the 12th International Conference of social work held in Athens in 1964 also.

PATIL SMT. SHALINI V.

Was elected in a By - election (1983) for the 7th Lok Sabha, previously from 1980 to 1983 she was the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and she was the Minister of Revenue, Civil Supplies and Public Works, Maharashtra. Smt. Patil was by profession a Lawyer. She was active in politics and entered into it in 1962 as an worker and as Pramukh (chief) of Mahila Vivag (Women's wing) of P.C.C., Maharashtra.

RANGNEKAR SMT. AHILYA P.

A science graduate lady, was a political and social worker by profession. Smt. Rangnekar was elected to 6th Lok Sabha in 1977, previously she was the member of Bombay Corporation for 17 years.

RAO SMT. RADHA BAI ANAND

A graduate lady was an agriculturist by profession and enthusiastically a Family Planning Instructor in Singerani Collieries (Andhra Pradesh).

She was the member of Panchyat Samiti in 1962 at Kothagudem and Smt. Rao was associated with I.N.T.U.C. and other organisations also.

Being a Tribal lady she had done social work for the upliftment of the Tribal people, and consequently was elected for 4 consecutive Lok Sabhas (4th, 5th, 6th and 7th).

RAY SMT. MAYA

Wife of famous leader Sri Sidhartha Sankar Ray. Smt. was by profession was an Advocate, and active member of A.I.C.C. and P.C.C. she was in the Executive Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

She was elected in a by-election in 1972 (5th Lok Sabha). She was the first Bengali Women Barrister to be enrolled in the Calcutta High Court. After being the member of Lok Sabha she represented as a member of Indian delegation to the United Nation in 1975; Member of parliamentary delegation to Australia too.

REDDY SMT. YASHODA

Was a Law graduate and Advocate by profession, had an active role in A.I.C.C. She was the member of Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh from 1956 to 1962. In 1962 she was elected to 3rd Lok Sabha, again in 1967 she was elected to Rajya Sabha till 1972.

SATYA BHAMA DEVI SMT.

Was a cultivator and political worker, she was elected to 2nd (1957) and 3rd (1962) Lok Sabha . She had a contribution to Harijan and Mahila Kalyan Board (Women Welfare Board), She had donated 500 Bighas (166 acres) land as Bhoodan and money for a Charitable Hospital.

SHYAM KUMARI DEVI SMT.

Was a cultivator by profession, belonged to Scheduled Tribe, was first elected for Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1952 to 1962. In 1963 she was elected in a by- election to 3rd Lok Sabha. Smt. Shyamkumari had been the member of Rajya Sabha from 1968 to 1980.

She was the president of Bharat Sewak Samaj, member of Bhagini Mandal in Raipur (M.P.).

SIDDHARTHA SMT. D.K. TARA DEVI

Was a graduate lady, professionally Agriculturist, Coffee Grower, active political and social worker.

Smt. Siddhartha entered into the electoral politics in 1981 but previously she was the President of Municipal Council, Mudigere; Vice -President of D.C.C., Chikmaglur; General Secretary of P.C.C. , Karnataka; Joint Secretary of A.I.C.C.; Convenor of Women's Wing of Karnataka P.C.C.

In 1981 she was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly; and immediately in 1984 was elected to 8th Lok Sabha , re - elected in 1991 for 10th Lok Sabha. In 1990 she was elected to Rajya Sabha .She was the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare from 1991 to 1993.

Smt. Siddhartha had represented several time as a delegate - she was the Chairman of Indo - Soviet Friendship Delegation to U.S.S.R., 1985;

Parliamentary Delegation to North Korea in 1986; International Coffee Organisation, London in 1988; Delegation to Special Youth Congress held in Afganistan in 1989; and was a delegate to United Nations 41st General Assembly Session.

SOUNDARAM RAMCHANDRAN DR. (SMT.) T. S.

A doctor by profession and naturally a social worker. She was elected to Madras Legislative Assembly (Tamil Nadu) in 1952 and again in 1957. In 1962 Smt. Soundaram was elected to 3rd Lok Sabha, during the tenure she was Union Deputy Minister of Education.

VERMA MS. VIMLA

An educated, agriculturist, progressive social and political worker. She had been in politics since her student life. Miss Verma had been elected for once only i.e., 10th Lok Sabha in 1991. Previously she was the President of D.C.C. for 1963-67 and since 1967 to 1990 she was the member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. She had also been the General Secretary of P.C.C. (M.P.).

During the long span of M.L.A. ship she had hold up different Ministries.

During 1969-72 she was the Minister of State, Irrigation and Power; During 1972-75 Minister of State for Health ; 1980-85 Cabinet Minister , Public Health, Irrigation, Rural Development and Transport; 1988-89 Minister, Labour and Human Resources Development. In 1989 she became the Cabinet Minister for Irrigation, Narmada Development and Health Inspection and 1989-91 Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, (Madhya Pradesh).

Ms. Verma was the District Convener of Mahila Wing of P.C.C. and became member of A.I.C.C. since 1963.

Name of the 30 Women Parliamentarian fallen under the sub- category "2/b" are as follows-

1. ANJALIAH TENGUTRI MANAMMA.
2. ALI SMT. SUBHASINI.
3. ATCHAMBA DR. (SMT.) KOMAR RAJU.
4. BHONSALE VIJAYA MALA SMT.R.C.
5. BORKAR SMT. ANUSUYA BAI.
6. BULARA SMT. RAJINDER KAUR.
7. CHAVDA ZOHARABEN AKBAR BAI.
8. CHOWDHARY RASHIDA HAQUE.
9. CHOWDHARY SMT. SANTOSH.
10. DIKSHIT SMT. SHILA.
11. SMT. INDRA KUMARI.
12. KESHAR KUMARI DEVI RANI.
13. KHALSA SMT. BIMAL KAUR.
14. KUNWAR SMT. BESANT.
15. LALITYA RAJYA LAKSHMI SMT.
16. MANJULA DEVI RANI SMT.
17. MAVALANKAR SUSHEELA GANESH SMT.
18. MS. MAYAWATI.
19. MOHINDER KAUR SMT.
20. DR. PADMA.
21. SMT. PARVATI DEVI.
22. PATEL SMT. RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI.
23. SMT. RAJNI DEVI.
24. RAJU SMT. UMA GAJPATI.
25. SHAIZA SMT. RANO.
26. SMT. SHANTI DEVI.
27. SING SMT. MANORAMA.
28. SUKHADIA SMT. INDUBALA.
29. THAKKAR SMT. USHA. &
30. TRIPATHI SMT. CHANDRA.

According available information they could enter into the Parliament due to-

1. Non availability of the candidates for Reserved Seats,
2. Belonged to the Royal Family,
3. Capitalist or Industrialist,
4. Involved with Women organisations.
5. Were Artist by profession &
6. Few of them simple party worker.



A FLASH ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN RAJYA-SABHA

The Council of States is known as the Rajya Sabha, which is an integral part of Indian Parliament. Being a Federal chamber and the House of States it occupies a significant position in the Indian Parliamentary system. Members to this house either elected by the States or nominated by the President of India, the nominated members are either eminent Scholars or experts in their respective fields. From 1952 to till today there were 124 women members in the House out of 248, 26 were the members of Lok Sabha also, (According to WHO'S WHO), (98+26=124).

During the 1950s and 1960s most of the women members had been from the background of freedom movement as well as active in women's upliftment, but in later period women became the member of the House from different streams and walks of life.

In Rajya Sabha women members have had been also active in pioneering important legislative enactment not only for the welfare of Indian Women but for the overall socio-economic development of Indian society. Besides supporting measures of social importance brought forward by the Government, the women members of Rajya Sabha endeavoured to bring the social change in Indian Society by initiating different Bills.

Till 1989 altogether 40 Bills were introduced by the Rajya Sabha, 14 of them were Bill on women whereas 26 Non-Women Bills. Four Women Bills were not introduced again by either women members in the Lok-Sabha, but some of 10 remaining Bills were either introduced in Rajya Sabha or in Lok Sabha again and again.

SUSHILA ADIVAREKAR had introduced one Bill on women known as Dowry Prohibition Bill, though the Bill could not passed, The Bill had been discussed in detail in infra chapter P.247. (Annexture /C Srl.-7).

SMT. MARGARET ALVA have had introduced three Bills on women, out of three two were passed and the fate of one Bill was unknown. Her first Bill was on Dowry Prohibition. Details has been given in P.247. (Annexture /C Srl. - 11)

Her next Bill was on suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Brothels. The Bill was introduced four times earlier then Smt. Alva,

but it could not be passed before. The bill has been discussed in detail in P.249. (Annexure /C Srl.- 24)

Smt. Alva's third and last Bill on women was "Indecent Representation of Women through Advertisement, Publications, Painting and Figure"- this bill was solely introduced by Smt. Alva and the bill was also passed by the houses and received the assent of the President. Details in P.266. (Annexure /C Srl. - 130)

SMT. SEETA PARMANAND had introduced five Bills on women, unfortunately none of the Bills could have passed.

Her two Bills were "To regulate and licence institution caring for women and children under Age of 18 years". Details of the Bill has been illustrated in P.248.(Annexure /C Srl. - 16 & 17)

Her third Bill was on "Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Brothels"- she had introduced the Bill in 1953, the Bill was passed in 1986 when it was re-introduced by Smt. Alva. Illustration of the Bill has been given in P.249. (Annexure /C Srl. -21)

Her fourth Bill was to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. This Bill was first introduced by Smt. Subhadra Joshi in Lok Sabha, in her Bill she stated that in case of Bigamy a woman is required to spend money in litigation and suffer hardship which should be removed. As soon as the Bill was passed Smt. Parmanand had proposed to fill in certain lacunae in the existing provisions of Cr.P.C.1898 to ensure speedy disposal of justice. (Annexure /C Srl. - 44)

Her last Bill was on Hindu Minority and Guardianship Bill, the Bill has been discussed in detail in infra chapter p.257.; The purpose of the Bill was to give importance to Mother. Taking into consideration the present situation and circumstances. (Annexure /C Srl. - 61)

SMT. RADHA KUMUD MUKHARJEE had introduced one of the important Bill to help the Hindu Childless Widows to dispose of the inherited property to meet their urgent needs, detail of the Bill is illustrated in p.251., though the Bill could not be passed but had importance of it. (Annexure /C Srl. - 25)

To amend the Special Marriage Act 1954, and the Hindu Marriage Act 1956 (Divorce of Judicial Separation) 3 Bills were introduced one in Lok Sabha,

and two in Rajya Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha both the Bill were introduced to protect the interest of the married women by **SMT. VEENA VERMA**. Though none of the Bill could have passed, detail of the Bill is given in p.253. (Annexure/C Srl.- 40 & 41).

In 1970 a Bill to provide for a uniform Code of Procedure for the Adoption of Children was introduced by **DR. (MRS.) MANGLA DEVI TALWAR**, her main interest of the child as well as to safe guard the interest of the adoptive guardian, but the Bill could not passed, the Bill has been illustrated in p.259. (Annexure/C Srl.- 91)

Bills to amend the protection of Civil Rights Acts 1955, 4 Bills were introduced, one in Rajya Sabha and 3 in Lok Sabha. Bill in Rajya Sabha was introduced by **SMT. KUSUM KRISHNA MURTHY** and the target of the Bill to provide protection of Civil Rights of Married women. The Bill has been illustrated in p.265. unfortunately the Bill could not passed. (Annexure /C Srl. - 122)

Apart from 5 women Bills **SMT. PARMANAND** had introduced 5 non- women Bill also. Out of 5 the last Bill was passed and the first 4 Bills were lapsed.

She had introduced 2 Bills, once in 1958 and another in 1960 on the Prevention of Hoarding and Profiteering in Essential Commodities in daily use. In her statement she stated:

Cases in hoarding and profiteering in foodgrains, medical supplies, cloth and several other commodities essential to the daily life of the people have become common, but there being no deterrent punishment for these offences these cases have gone on increasing at the hands of anti- social elements. There is a strong feeling in the country that deterrent punishment should be prescribed for these offences. (Annexure /C Srl. - 51 & 52)

Her two Bills were to amend the Mines Act,1952. In her statement she explained-

Sub-Section (2) of Section 23 of the Mines Act,1952 makes provision for an enquiry by the Prescribed authority into an accident causing loss of life within two month of the receipt of the notice of the accident. This period seems too long from more than one of view. The suspense about the outcome of the

enquiry and the nature of the report, the possibility of some evidence changing its very nature and some affected persons leaving the place or even dying as a result of the alter effects of the accident during this two month's period, have to be considered. It is also imperative that the workers have to be kept in the known from the beginning of the course of enquiry so that they may render help in ensuring that all the available evidence is produced. The amendment proposed in Clause 2 of the Bill makes provision for an interim report of the enquiry and for making a copy of each the reports both interim and final, to be made available to the workers on demand so as to remedy the unsatisfactory nature of the present position pointed out above.

Sub-Section (1) of Section 38 makes certain exemptions from provisions regarding employment in the case of emergency involved serious risk to the safety of the mine or of persons employed therein, etc. Sub-Section (2) of the same section provides that every case in which action has been taken by the manager of a mine under Sub-Section (1) shall be recorded together with the circumstances relating thereto and the report thereof shall also be made to the Chief Inspector or the Inspector. The proposed amendment in Clause 3 seeks to provide that a copy of such report shall also be supplied on demand to the workers so as to enable the workers to know their own rights have been affected by the action taken by the manager and what special remedies, if any, they are entitled to.

Section 40 of the Mines Act, 1952, at present provides for employment of adolescents below ground on certain conditions. This provision was apparently copied from the British mining legislation. Conditions of health in Western countries, and in Great Britain in particular, are very much better than in our country. It seems dangerous to expose adolescent workers to the risks involved in the dusty, damp and dark condition and the foul weather that prevails underground. Coal cutting, training and tube loading involve heavy strain. For all these reasons, it seems necessary specially debar persons below the age of 20 from underground work and also persons below the age of 21 from such arduous work as that of a coal cutter, trimmer or tube loader. Hence the amendment proposed in Clause 4.

Clause 5 seeks to insert a new Section 46A providing that no worker shall be employed underground unless he has underground training for a period of at least three months. This seems an essential safeguard.

Clause 6 seeks to rectify a serious lacuna in the present Act. When a Court of enquiry finds the manager or any other person guilty of neglect or of negligency mining technique, government a long time in deciding whether to prosecute the manager or the other found guilty by the court of inquiry. It is therefore, necessary to prescribe in the statute itself if the evidence is proved the offender shall be suspended within a prescribed period. (Annexure /C Srl. - 54 & 55)

Her last Bill was to amend the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1963. She stated-

Sub-Clause (C) of Clause (00) of Section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is capable of misuse by a management as it may enable the termination of service of a workman on slightest grounds of ill-health on the pretext that such ill-health continuous. The paucity of government medical certifying agencies also is another factor which helps a management in this. It is clear that workers who have worked for the management, for a long number of years should be discharged on grounds, and particularly when the sick leave due to them is very small, without any retirement benefit. There is also no provision for invalid pension for such workers. Hence the proposed amendments to delete the sub-clause. The word 'managerial or administrative capacity are illusive and lend themselves to abuse in the matter of interpretation. It seems necessary to specify clearly in the Act itself the designations of the holders of this office. The proposed amendment to Clause (5) of Section 2 sought to do this.

The words "other than a badli workman or a casual workman" used in Section 25-C of the Act are redundant. When the section, itself clearly states " the workman whose name is borne on the muster rolls of an industrial establishment and who has completed not less than one year of continuous service under an employer", the reference to badli workman in the section mentioned above, therefore, serves no useful purpose and should be omitted. Hence the proposed amendment in Clause 3. (Annexure /C Srl. - 79)

SMT. LAXMI N. MENON was a Deputy Minister of External Affairs for a long term of 9 years. During her tenure she had introduced 5 Bills on 3 issues . Out of all 3 Bills were passed and received the consent of the President.

Her first 2 Bills were to amend the Assam Rifles Act, 1941. First was introduced in 1958 and other was in 1962. Both the Bills were passed. She stated-

The Assam Rifles Act, 1941 extends to that whole of Assam and is applicable to members of the Assam Rifles where ever they may be. Since the Assam Rifles are required to serve in areas outside the State of Assam, the restricted application of the Act to that state raises legal difficulties as regards exercise of powers under the Act by Magistrates and other authorities outside the state. To remove these difficulties it is proposed to extend the Act to the whole of India.

Under Section 10 of the Act, only the Commandants and Assistant Commandants are entitled to all the privileges which a police officer has under Sections 42 and 43 of the Police Act, 1861, Section 125 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and any other enactment for the time being in force. It is considered necessary to confer privileges on the riflemen also. It is also considered that the Commandants, Assistant Commandants and riflemen should have the same protection for acts done by them in the discharge of police duties as Central Reserve Police Force.

The riflemen are posted for duty in the N.E.F.A., Nagaland and other border areas where there are no regular police forces. During the discharge of their duties, it is necessary for them to make searches, arrests, etc. To enable them to make searches, arrests, etc., it is proposed to confer on them the powers of a police officer. To facilitate the enquiry and trial of offences committed by rifleman, it is also proposed to confer magisterial powers on the Commandants and Assistant Commandants. (Annexure /C Srl. - 56 & 57)

She introduced her third Bill in 1959 to establish a Haj Committee in the Port of Bombay for assisting Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Jordan and for matters connected therewith. In her statement she stated-

According to the Port Haj Committee Act, 1932, as originally enacted, three Port Haj Committees were constituted at the three ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi. Consequent upon constitutional changes in the country, the Act was suitably amended to provide for the continuance of the Calcutta and the Bombay Committees only, the reference to the Karachi Committee being omitted there from. The Calcutta Committee, however, ceased to function from 1948 owing to the partition of Bengal and there is a balance of about Rs.

15,000 lying to the credit of the defunct Port Haj Fund, Calcutta which can't be utilised for any other purpose or transferred to any Port Haj Fund unless the Act is amended. Further all pilgrim traffic to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran is now centralised at Bombay.

It is, therefore, considered desirable that the Act should be revised to bring it in line with the present requirements of the Haj Pilgrims and to make the Port Haj Committee a representative body of the country. (Annexure /C Srl. - 58)

Her last 2 Bills were connected with Special Powers to Armed Forces. In her Bills she opined-

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Regulation, 1958, was promulgated to confer special powers on officers of the Armed Forces to enable them to aid effectively the civil war in the disturbed areas of Kohima and Mockokchung districts of Naga Hills Tuensang Area. Though the duration of the Regulation was initially for one year, it was extended from year to year having regard to the circumstances prevailing in those areas and current extension is due to expire on the 4th April, 1965. It is proposed to provide for the continuance of the Regulation for a further period of one year as the stage for dispensing with it has not yet been reached. (Annexure /C Srl. -81 & 82)

SMT. CHAPALAKANTA BHATTACHARYA had also introduced 3 Bills on different subject, 2 Bills were lapsed and the fate of 1 Bill was not known.

Her 1st Bill was to amend the Young Persons (Harmful Publication) Amendment, Act, 1956. She stated in the Bill-

Now a days the influence of Cinema on the minds of young persons can't too much be overrated. Undesirable films not only corrupt a young person, but also incite, encourage and lead to commit offences and acts of violence or cruelty of sexual indulgence. Hence exhibition of such undesirable films should also be banned. (Annexure /C Srl. -59)

Her 2nd Bill was to amend the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Amendment Act, 1954. In her statement she stated-

The old records of recitations, speeches and music by Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Faiz Khan, R.C. Boral and other illustrious persons and musicians are fast depleting as no copy of these records is preserved. There is

no provision in the existing Act for delivering copies of these records to government for preservation. These are national treasures and must be protected at all costs from destruction. This Bill seeks to achieve this purpose by making the delivery of gramophone records to the National Library and Public obligatory. (Annexure /C Srl. - 60)

Her 3rd Bill was to amend the constitution. She said-

Sanskrit presents the greatest common measure of agreement in its vocabulary among most of the languages of modern India.

The Bill, therefore proposes to amend Article 343 so as to include Sanskrit as one of the official languages of Indian union. (Annexure /C Srl. - 62)

SMT.SHARDA BHARGAVA had introduced a Bill to amend the Indian Constitution, matter connected with Education Policy, the fate of the Bill is not known . In the Bill she stated-

After the attainment of independence, there has been considerable expansion in the field of education in the country. But in terms of standard and quality of education, inspite of a vast increase in the universities, colleges and schools, there has set in a steady and deplorable deterioration. Much of this malady is attributable to the lack of a co-ordinated and well-planned national policy of education. Education is now an exclusively state subject, and educational policies differ from state to state. This is a very unsatisfactory situation, and the time has come when education should be taken out of the exclusive purview of the States and put in the Concurrent List so that Parliament and the central government would be in a position effectively to formulate and pursue a sound educational policy which may be applied uniformly throughout the country at all levels. (Annexure /C Srl. - 64)

SMT. TARA R. SETH introduced a Bill to amend The Representation of the Public Act,1951. She explained-

Use of force or threat to use force, by a member of a legislature against another member or an officer of a legislature is against all canons of decency and civilized behaviour. It lowers the prestige and dignity of the House. Such conduct may even pose a serious challenge to parliamentary democracy.

The Bill sought to disqualify a person from the membership of Parliament or of the legislature of a state, as the case may be, if he resorts to such behaviour. (Annexure /C Srl. - 87)

SMT. KUSUM KRISHNA MURTHY had introduced 3 separate Bills, none of them had passed.

Her 1st Bill was to amend the constitution of India. In her statement she stated-

The founding fathers of the Constitution saw the imperative necessity of making some provisions in the constitution in regard to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to enable them to come upto the level of other communities in different fields. Even after thirty years this goal has not been achieved. Only controversies have risen as to whether the special provisions made for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be continued or not.

It has been found that in respect of public services, the policy of reservation made for the persons belonging to these communities has not been seriously implemented on several pretexts or the other, and they have been deprived of chances of advancement. One reason often mentioned for doing so is that they don't possess minimum qualifications prescribed for different posts.

The insistence on the possession of minimum qualifications in the interest of administrative efficiency will give them an urge to work seriously for the attainment of these qualifications. After initial recruitment on the basis of prescribed minimum qualifications they will be enabled to rise higher and higher and then nobody could deny them what is due to them at later stages. (Annexure /C Srl. - 71)

Her 2nd Bill was to provide for incentive for promoting activities of the youth for generating self-employment for them. In her statement she stated-

Unemployment is a major problem our country is faced with. Every year the youth pass out from schools and colleges in lakhs adding to the number of unemployed tremendously. They are not trained for any purposeful vocation and they only look for jobs in government and semi-government establishments. The jobs in these establishments are very few in number compared to the job-seekers.

The answer to the problem of the unemployed youth lies in vocational training and apprenticeship in industrial establishments so that at the end of the training, the youth may start some enterprise or trade of their own and get themselves self-employed. (Annexure /C Srl. - 101)

Her last Bill was to amend the Societies Registration Act, 1860. She observed-

There is no provision in the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for the registration of non-profit making societies engaged in welfare and development programmes, particularly in providing self-employment to the youth.

The concept and prevalence of non-profit societies has become very popular in advanced countries during the last few decades.

Our country has also progressed well in scientific and industrial fields, but it is facing the problem of unemployment of educated persons. A number of useful welfare activities can be taken up by non-profit making organisations, particularly in solving the problem of unemployment engaged in activities which provide self-employment to the youth, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, is therefore, necessary. Such a provision will also remove the stigma of accepting charity from Charitable Societies by self-respecting youth who are desirous of taking up self employment generating schemes. (Annexure /C Srl. - 126)

SMT.NANDINI SATPATHI had introduced a Bill to control the prices of the newspapers in the public interest. She explained-

After the imposition of an excise duty of two paise on newspapers having a circulation above 15,000, a large number of newspapers in the country increased their prices not only to the extent of the duty but well in excess of it. This evoked a protest in Calcutta. A statement was made in Parliament on November 24, 1971, in which an appeal was made to newspapers not to increase the prices by more than the excise duty and it was made clear that should the appeal fail, the government would take appropriate steps in the matter. The Calcutta newspapers brought down the prices which they and earlier announced and restricted the increase to two paise. However, a number of newspapers published from various centres have not heeded the appeal. It has, therefore, become necessary for government to promote legislation for regulation of the prices of newspapers in order to make available to the public newspapers at fair prices. (Annexure /C Srl. - 92)

SMT. ERA SEZHIYAN had introduced a Bill to amend the Constitution of India. In her statement she said-

In a democracy, teachers are to be held in the highest honour. The primary and the elementary school teachers, teachers who educate children, are more to be honoured and respected than even those engaged in teaching in higher stage of education. As per the present position in the constitution, teachers in educational institutions lower in standard than that of a secondary school do not enjoy the right of voting in elections for the teacher's constituencies to the State Legislative Councils. This Bill seeks to remove the discrimination among the teachers and secure respect and equal opportunity to all the teachers irrespective of the standard of the educational institution where they work. (Annexure /C Srl. -63)

SMT. SAROJ KHAPADE had introduced 2 separate Bills, both the Bills were concerned with Medical. Her 2nd Bill was passed and received the assent of the President.

Her 1st Bill was to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. She mentioned-

The medical Council of India is a statutory body constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. Apart from advising the central government on the recognition of medical qualifications granted by the Universities and other medical institutions in India it maintains the Indian Medical Register which contains the names of persons who possess such recognised medical qualifications.

The experience of the working of the 1956 Act has brought to light certain shortcomings and inadequacies. There is at present no uniformity in the standards of medical education at all levels. The improvement in the quality of medical education, the maintenance of uniform minimum standards of medical education and the co-ordination of such standards have become more necessary after the entry relating to "Education" has been included in the Concurrent List of the seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

At present, the central government or the Medical Council have no control over the opening of medical colleges or new courses of study or training or in the increase in the admission capacity in any existing medical college.

Further, under the existing position, the Indian medical Register is being maintained on the basis of the State medical Registers which are maintained under the provisions of the state enactment. In the interests of allowing medical practitioners to practice all over India and to have one system for registration for the whole country, it is considered necessary that the medical council maintains one register for enrolment of persons for practising medicine in India. In addition to the above, at present the First Schedule to the 1956 Act specifies the recognised medical qualifications granted by the universities and medical institutions mentioned therein. Although such qualifications are conferred by those universities and medical institutions only after a course of study or training is undergone in a medical college, the references to such medical colleges are not included in the First Schedule. As a result of this situation, the courses of study, or training for recognised medical qualifications are not uniform in all the medical colleges. The medical colleges also have not been following any uniform policy with regard to the admissions with the result that many of the colleges having been charging heavy capitation fees for admission and also charging large sums of money as tuition fees or other fees. It is, therefore, proposed to amend the 1956 Act to remove the above deficiencies and to make the Medical Council responsible for the laying down of uniform standards of medical education, regulating the practice by persons possessing primary medical qualifications regulating admissions to the medical colleges and preventing the medical colleges from charging capitation fees and other unauthorised fees. The amendments to the 1956 Act included in the Bill have been formulated on the above basis. The Bill inter-alia, provides for the following matters, namely:

- (i) to ensure that the medical council performs all the above functions effectively, it is proposed to amend the 1956 Act to enunciate the specific objectives for which the Medical Council had been constituted under the Act. They broadly as follows:
 - (a) to regulate the practice of medicine in India to coordinate and determine the standards of medical education at all levels;
 - (b) to regulate the practice of medicine in India and to maintain the India Medical Register;
 - (c) to advise the central government in matters relating to the requirements of manpower in the field of medicine; and

(d) to undertake periodical review of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education;

(ii) While granting permission to the opening of a new medical college or course of study or training to increase the capacity of a medical college or medical institution the council is required to obtain a scheme from the medical college or institution before permission is granted. The medical council is also being empowered to frame regulations for prescribing fees that will be payable by students for admission to medical colleges are also being prohibited from collecting any capitation fees or any amount in excess of the prescribed fees. Punishments are also proposed to be made for the contravention of the above provisions.

(iii) at present, different sets of procedures for admission have been adopted by various medical colleges and there is no uniformity in this behalf. As a result, the best and most meritorious students sometimes don't get admission in any medical college. To obviate this situation and also keeping in view the judgment of the Supreme Court dated the 22nd June, 1984 directing the selection of candidates to fill up certain percentage of seats, on an All India basis, the Medical Council of India has been authorised under new Section 19AA to conduct entrance tests on the All India basis for admission to undergraduate and Postgraduate courses in respect of seats to be filled on All India basis;

(iv) it is proposed to empower the Medical Council to open its branches in all states and such branches will maintain Branch Medical Registers of the Indian Medical Register.

(v) The Schedules to the 1956 Act are proposed to be substituted to include therein primary medical qualifications and the colleges that would be permitted to undertake the courses of or training which would qualify the students for obtaining such medical qualifications. (Annexure /C Srl. - 85)

And, the 2nd Bill was known as "All India Institute of Medical Science and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill" -detail of the Bill is not known. (Annexure /C Srl. - 161)

SMT.LAXMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT had introduced 3 separate Bills, unfortunately none of the Bills could have passed.

Her 1st Bill was to amend the Factories Act, 1948, the concerned issue of the Bill was children's life. In the Bill she observed :

Under Section of the Factories Act, 1948, it is obligatory for the factories wherein more than 50 women worker are ordinarily employed to provide and maintain suitable rooms for the use of the children under the 6 years of such women. These rooms are utilised as Creches-a public nursery for children. It is felt that these facilities should be made available in factories employing more than twenty workers and that provision should be made to impart education to the children of such women in these rooms. This can be achieved by making it obligatory for the factories to provide kindergartens in the factories. This amending Bill sought to achieve that object. (Annexure /C Srl. - 93)

Her 2nd Bill was to provide for compulsory technical training to all students who pass the middle standard examination. She stated-

The country is facing the grave problem of large unemployment which is defying solution inspite of the efforts by the government. The only way which would make some impact in solving this problem in self-employment. But large scale self employment is possible only when the youth of the country are trained in technical trades, so that after their education at the matric or Higher Secondary level they are able to start some small scale or cottage industries of their own. With a view to achieve this end, it is necessary that technical training becomes a compulsory part of the curriculum of the school education after the middle standard. (Annexure /C Srl. - 104)

Her last Bill was to curb foreign influence over the Indian News World. India cherishes the ideal of the freedom of the press, but it has been found that foreign missions and countries are trying to influence press in the country by various dubious means and sell their propaganda material with a view to attempting at political indoctrination of the Indian people which is detrimental to the nationals of this country.

A daily paper or periodical will have freedom to publish accredited news circulated by news agencies of foreign countries or valuable foreign articles

on different subjects, but such freedom should not leave any scope for surreptitious political propaganda by interested foreign countries. The Bill sought to ensure genuine freedom of the press by not permitting foreign motivated political propaganda through the mass media of our country. (Annexure /C Srl. - 106)

DR. (SMT.) NAJMA HEPTULLAH the second lady to become the Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha in 1985, from 1988 onwards she is performing her duty as a Deputy Chairperson of the House. In 1983 Smt. Heptullah had introduced a Bill to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958, though the Bill could not pass, she stated in the Bill -

The working group on private housing set up by the Government of India in its report in November, 1981 has made many important recommendations to step up private investment in construction activities to relieve the acute shortage in housing. These recommendations seem to have been accepted by Government of India.

The government is aware of the urgent need to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958, which seems to have outlived its utility and appears to be obsolete in the prevailing socio-economic conditions. The government has also in view to introduce a model legislation to regulate the house owner-tenant relationship all over India on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Economic-Administrative Reforms under the Chairmanship of Shri L.K. Jha which are under consideration of the Government of India since October, 1982. But no firm date has so far been fixed by the Government for introducing fresh legislation.

An attempt has been made in this Bill to rationalise some of the provisions of the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958, with a view to securing justice both for the tenants and the house-owners in the hope that this will alleviate the widespread prevailing house owner-tenant tension. It will thus contribute to lowering rents and make housing accommodation more easily available for all sections of society. (Annexure /C Srl. - 124)

So far, Democracy, Federalism and Election Process is concerned, a vast gape is lying between the election procedure of the membership for Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The members of Rajya Sabha are either elected by the members of State

Legislature or nominated by the President of India. Some of the members of Rajya Sabha have had discharge their duty as minister, some of them as vice-chairman, many were in the panel of vice-chairman, therefore it become a question that what were there in those women who have had elected for the House, speciality has been given of every member in nutshell as under :

ADIVAREKAR SMT.SUSHEELA SHANKAR

Smt. Adivarekar had been elected for Rajya Sabha for 1971-72, 1972-78 and again re-elected in 1978. Before becoming the member of the House she was the member of D.C.C. Bombay. Apart from this she was involved with numerous social organisations, educational institutions, women organisations including A.I.W.C. She was the Managing Trustee of Santa Cruz Stree Mandal and Amrapali Working Women's Hostel, and several charitable trust. Educationally she was graduate and by profession a social worker.

AIZAZ RASUL BEGUM

A convent educated graduate lady was elected for Rajya Sabha for 1952-56. Smt. Begum had been carrying her political career from 1937 onwards. For 1937 to 1940 she was the Dy. President of U.P. Legislative Assembly. From 1937 to 1952 she was the member of U.P. Legislative Council; in between from 1946 to 1950 she was the member of Constituent Assembly; from 1950 to 1952 she was the leader of opposition in U.P. Legislative Council. Apart from all this she had also been an active social worker and associated with various social organisations.

MISS ALIA

Was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1989. She had been by profession an agricul-

turist, educationally the holder of Doctorate Degree.

Miss Alia was socially an active lady , was associated with social organisation at the same time she was politically very active, she had been the Vice-president of D.C.C., Faizabad in U.P.; former convener of Divisional and District Mahila Congress, Faizabad; former Executive Committee member of P.C.C. of U.P.

ALVA SMT. MARGARET

Perhaps one of the most important lady in Rajya Sabha since 1974. Smt. Alva was elected for the first time in 1974, and afterwards she has had been re-elected in 1980, 1986 and in 1992. It means she had been in the House consecutively for more than two decades. Before 1974, for 1972-73 she had been the State Convener of Congress Women's Front of Karnataka. From 1975 to 1995-96 she has had been conferred with different awards, posts and portfolios. Perhaps her success in every duration made her eligible for the next election.

For 1975-77 she was the Joint-Secretary of A.I.C.C.; for 1978-80 General Secretary of P.C.C. of Karnataka; for 1983-84 and 1984-85 was nominated for the Panel of Vice-Chairman of the House; from 1983 to 1988 she was National Convener of Mahila Congress.

From December 1984 to September 1985 she was the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs; from 1985 to 1989 she was the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports and Women and Child Development. During this period the "*National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000 A.D.)*" was formulated under her ministry and by her department, and since June 1991 till 1996 she was the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension.

Smt. Alva has had represented as a delegate to International Conferences also. She was the member of Indian Committee for International Women's Year at Mexico in 1975; she was the member of Indian Delegation to U.N. Conference for International Women's Year at Mexico in 1975; and was the

member of Indian Delegation to U.N. General Assembly in 1976.

She had been conferred with the Honorary Degree of Literature by University of Mysore in 1989; Mahila Shiromani Award in 1991; Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award in 1991 and Dr. T.M.A. Pai Foundation Outstanding Konkany Award in 1991.

Smt. Alva has had been the founder President of Y.W.C.A.; Federation of Women Lawyers; and World Women Parliamentarian for Peace.

She was the President of Delhi Foundation of Deaf Women; World Women Parliamentarian for Peace; Delhi Y.W.C.A.; apart from this she has been also associated with various organisation and institutions.

Significantly Smt. Alva has been by profession a lawyer and her educational qualification is B.A., L.L.B.

ALVA SMT. VIOLET

A highly qualified lady of the pre-independent period, she was M.A., L.L.B. and also had the diploma of Social Services. By profession she was a Journalist and Advocate.

Smt. Violet Alva had been first elected for Rajya Sabha in 1952. But her political activities started in the pre-independent India. From 1946 to 1947 she had been the Municipal Corporator of Bombay; from 1947 to 1952 she was the member Legislative Council of Bombay.

Smt. Violet Alva was the member of Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1968-69 (16 years). Within this long span she had also hold numerous important position and offices including ministry, Dy. Chairmanship, international delegates etc.

For 1953-54 she was the member of Vice-chairman of Rajya Sabha; for 1953-54 and 1955-56 was the member of Executive Committee of the C.P.P.; from 1957 to 1962 Smt. Alva was the Union Dy. Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 1962 she was elected as the Dy. Chairman of the House, and

again re-elected for the post in 1966. In 1965 Smt. Alva was nominated as a delegate of A.I.C.C.

Her pre-independent contribution were - that, she was in jail with her kid during Quit India Movement in 1943; she was the first women advocate in India to have successfully argued a case before a full Bench of a High Court in 1944; she was the Hony. Presidency Magistrate of Bombay in 1947. She was also the member over Juvenile Courts in Bombay from 1948 to 1954, and was a justice of peace. Smt. Violet Alva had also been associated with various organisations.

From 1950 to 1956 Smt. Alva had represented India at different International Conferences, Seminars including U.N.O. such as - she was the (i) Member of Indian Press Delegation to Egypt in 1950; (ii) Observer to the U.N. Seminar in Asia and the Far East on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders at Rangoon in 1954; (iii) Acted as the Secretary to the Women's Cultural Delegation to Soviet Union in 1954; (iv) she was the sole representative of Govt. of India to U.N. Seminar on Human Rights, held in Ceylon in 1959; (v) was the sole delegate of the Govt. of India to U.N. Seminar on Human Rights held in New Zealand in 1961; (vi) Member of Indian Delegation to C.P.C. held in Nigeria in 1962; (vii) She had been invited by the U.S. Dept. of State to a tour of U.S.A. sponsored by the chairman of the Foreign Relation Committee of U.S. Senate in 1962; (viii) She was the member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to U.S.A. in 1963, West Germany and U.K. in 1964 and to Philippines in 1965; (ix) was the member of Indian Delegation to the Commonwealth and Empire Law Conference held in Australia in 1965; (x) she had visited U.S.S.R. on an invitation from the chairman of Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet in 1965; and (xi) she was the leader of the Indian Delegation to I.P.U. Conference held in Tehran in 1966.

AMARJIT KAUR SMT.

An agriculturist by profession, was elected twice for Rajya Sabha , first in 1976 and re- elected in 1982. Previously she was the Municipal Commissioner at Patiala in Punjab; Joint Secretary of A.I.C.C. ; Joint

Convener of Congress Women's Front; member of Executive Committee of P.C.C. etc. From 1975 to 1989 Smt. Kaur had represented India to several international conferences also.

AMMANNA RAJA SMT. G.

An active social worker, a graduate lady associated with various women organisations. Smt. Ammanna was elected for Rajya Sabha in 1962, from 1937 to 1962 she was very active in state politics. From 1937 to 1939 and 1946 to 1959 she had been the member of Madras Legislative Assembly; from 1946 to 1952 she had also been in the post of Dy. Speaker of the said Assembly; from 1955 to 1962 she was the member of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

AMRITA PRITAM SMT.

An eminent writer and author, famous nationally as well as internationally. Smt. Pritam had been nominated for the House in 1986. Behind the nomination, main reason was her contribution in the field of writings. She has had been a Doctorate of Literature and also conferred with the Degree of "Officer dans/ order de arts et des Letters" by the French Govt.

Smt. Pritam was the recipient of Eleven different awards from 1956 to 1982, such as - (i) Sahitya Akadami Award in 1956; (ii) Sanman - Patter by Govt. of Punjab in 1958; (iii) Man - Patter by Bharatiya Mahila Federation of New Delhi in 1965; (iv) Padma Shri in 1969; (v) "Sanman" by Viswa Hindi Sammelan of Nagpur in 1975; (vi) National Investment and Finance Award in 1976; (vii) "Souvenir" as distinguish broadcaster at the time of 50th Anniversary of Broadcasting in India in 1978; (viii) "Sanman" by Kannad Literary Conference in 1978; (ix) International Vaptsarove Award by the Republic of Bulgaria in 1979; (x) "Cyril and Methodius" Award by Bulgaria in 1980; and (xi) Bharati Jnanpith Award in 1982.

From 1961 to 1985 she had been invited by the different International Cultural Organisation not less than 13 times, apart from 1960 when she represented India at the Republic Day celebration in Nepal. She was invited by - (i) Writers Union of Uzbekistan, Tajkistan and Moscow in 1961; (ii) Bulgarian Committee for Friendship and Cultural Relation with foreign countries in 1966; (iii) Soviet Writers Union and National Committee which was set up to celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the Georgian Poet Shora Rustaveli at Moscow, Georgia and Armenia in 1966; (iv) under the Cultural Exchange Programme of the Govt. of India in Yugoslavia, Hungary and Romania in 1967; (v) Nepal in 1967 on the 5th Birth Centenary Celebration of Guru Nanak; (vi) France and Czechoslovakia under Indo-Yugoslav Cultural Exchange Programme in Yugoslavia in 1972; (vii) World Peace Congress at Moscow in 1973; (viii) Viswa Hindi Sammelan held at Mauritius in 1976; (ix) Committee of Arts and Culture of People's Republic of Bulgaria in 1977; (x) to attend World Writers Conference, under and invited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1980; (xi) to attend Fourth Congress of Bulgarian Culture invited by their Committee for Culture of Bulgarian, in 1983; (xii) International Forum of World's Leading Intellectuals and Humanities invited by the Prime Minister of France in 1985; (xiii) International Poetry Festival held at Norway in Oslo in 1985; and (xiv) she attended the International Peace Conference held in Moscow in 1987.

ARUNDALE SMT. RUKMANI DEVI

An eminent artist and educationist, was associated with Smt. Annie Besant, Smt. Arundale was the recipient of "Padma Shree" in 1956 and received Sangeet Natak Academy Award for Bharat Natya in 1957.

Smt. Arundale had been associated with numerous cultural organisations, institutions; she had also been in the Executive Committee and in the Governing Body of such institutions.

Due to her talent in the field of Art and Culture she was nominated twice for the House, once in 1952 and again in 1956.

BARTHAKUR SMT. USHA

A graduate lady with B.T., by profession an educationist, political and social worker also. Smt. Barthakur was associated with various social organisations, as well as with political groups. She was elected for the House in 1966, but previously she was the member of Assam Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1962; and in between for 1957-58 she was the Deputy Minister in Charge of Social Welfare and Medical Care in the Govt. of Assam.

BHARGAVA SMT. SHARDA

An M.A. educated lady actively associated with social work and political activities. Smt. Bhargava was elected for the House twice, in 1952 and again in 1962. previously, she was the member of the Jaipur Legislative Council; She was the member of Jaipur City Municipality; Zilla Parishad of Jaipur, member of A.I.C.C. etc., In 1959 she was elected as the first Women Secretary of C.P.P., for 1956-57 she was the member of panel of Vice- Chairman.

BHATT SMT. ELA RAMESH

An Arts and Law graduate also hold the Diploma in Labour and Co-operative (Israel). Professionally she has had been a social worker and Trade Unionist. Smt. Bhatt was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1986. Behind her nomination she kept her own talent, work, and other activities either in National or International field.

Smt. Bhatt was the Chair person of the Co-operative Bank of Self Employed Women Association (SEWA); Former Secretary of SEWA, associated with different workers associations.

Smt. Bhatt was awarded with - (a) Magsaysay Award in 1977 for her community Leadership; (b) Sushan B. Anthony Award for National Integration in 1983; (c) Women Entrepreneur Award for National Alliance of

Young Entrepreneur of Delhi in 1984; (d) Right Livelyhood Award (alternative to Nobel Prize) by Sweden in 1984; (e) Padma Shree in 1985; and (f) with Padma Bhusan in 1986.

Smt. Bhatt has had represented India as a Delegate to not less than 11 International Conferences from 1978 to 1983. (a) She was in the Board of Director of Women World Banking in New York; (b) She was the member of I.L.O. Employment Mission for Afganistan in 1978; (c) Delegation of Govt. of India to attend the UNESCO conference held in Paris in 1978; (d) Member of Executive Council of Association Mondale de Prospective Sociale (AMPS) of Geneva. She was the consultant of - (a) UNCIEF Women's Programme in Bangla Desh in 1977; (b) UNICEF Afganistan on Women Employment in 1978; (c) International Planned Parenthood Federation, Sri Lanka in 1979; (d) I.L.O. skill Development for Women of Asia, Bangkok in 1979; (e) Swissaid Geneva 1981, on Women programme; (f) Common Wealth Secretariat, in formal sector, London, 1984. Smt. Bhatt was invited as - (a) A panellist on "Women at Work" in International Women's Year Conference, held at Maxico in 1975; (b) Women's World Banking, Amsterdam in 1980; (c) United Nations Decade Women's Conference held at Copenhagen in 1981, U.S.A. in 1982; (d) Women's World Banking, Manila in 1982 and (e) I.C.F.T.U. World Congress in Oslo in 1983.

BINDUMATI DEVI SMT.

A social worker, educationally an M.A. pass, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1967, previously she was the member of U.P. Legislative Assembly from 1957 to 1962; she was also the president of D.C.C. of Barabanki in U.P.; member of P.C.C.(UP), member of State Social Welfare Advisory Board of Uttar Pradesh.

BENIWAL SMT. VIDYA

An agriculturist by profession, though was not much qualified, from 1987 to

1990 she was the member of Haryana Legislative Assembly and in 1990 was elected to Rajya Sabha. Smt. Beniwal was interest in social work and upliftment of women and children also.

BOSE SMT. PRATIMA

An M.A. passed lady, professionally an educationist, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1975, but she entered into politics a long back and also represented India at International Conferences.

Smt. Bose was the Alderman of Calcutta Corporation in 1957; In 1972 she became the Secretary of P.C.C. ; in 1974 she became Vice- President of P.C.C. of West Bengal.

Smt. Bose made study tour to England, France, Germany and Spain in 1953; and was a delegate to Moscow in 1972. She had also been associated with different women and social work and organisations in West Bengal.

CHATTERJEE PROF.(SMT.) ASHIMA

An eminent figure and scholar in the field of Science, not only the holder of Doctorate Degree but also awarded for her contribution. In 1961 she was awarded with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award; Awarded with Padma Bhusan in 1975 and received C.V. Raman Award on Physical Science by U.G.C. in 1982 and in 1985.

Smt. Chatterjee was associated by heart and soul with Calcutta University specially with the Science Department, she had also been appointed by U.G.C. as a co-ordinator of various programmes.

She had been the member of -(a) SIGMA XI, U.S.A.; (b) Indian Chemical Society; (c) Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science; (d) Council of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science; (e) Council of Indian Science Congress Association; (f) Chemical Society, London; (g) Indian

National Science Academy; (h) National Commission UNESCO; (i) Board of Director of Organ Research Centre, Calcutta; (j) Governing Body of National Chemical Laboratories of C.S.I.R., Pune; (k) Central Advisory Board of Education; (l) U.G.C. Constituted Chemical Panel in 1985; (m) Executive Council of Viswa Bharati as Chancellor's Nominee; (n) Same of Jadavpur University; (o) of Burdwan University also.

Smt. Chatterjee was the Chairman of (a) Board of Director of Calcutta Chemical Company Ltd. at Calcutta and (b) Chemical Research Committee of C.S.I.R.

Taking into consideration her all these back ground, Dr. Chatterjee was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1982-84 and again in 1984 for next full term.

CHETTRY SMT. MAYA DEVI

Even if not much educationally qualified, but was an active social and political worker. Smt. Chetty was the president of Sub- Division Congress party, Kurseong (W.B.); for 1948-49 she was the Municipal Commissioner of Kurseong. In 1951 she was elected as the General Secretary of D.C.C.; In 1959 she became the President of D.C.C.; Smt. Chetty was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952 and re-elected in 1958; In 1959 she was nominated to the panel of Vice- Chairman of the House; In 1960 she became the General Secretary of C.P.P.

Smt. Chetty had represented All India Gorkha Ex - Servicemen's Association in the World Veteran's Federation held in Germany in 1957.

CHOWDHURY SMT. RENUKA

A Master degree holder lady, done in Industrial Psychology along with Diploma in Marketing Management, Public Relation and Advertising. She

was the member of Banjara Hills Municipal Corporation (Hydrabad); Smt. Chowdhary was an active social worker and for her dedication in the field she had received a certificate from the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

Smt. Chowdhary was first elected to Rajya Sabha in 1986 and re-elected in 1992.

CHUNDAWAT SMT. LAKSHMI KUMARI

A writer in the Rajasthani Language, and received different Awards in the above field. Significantly she was the first lady belong to Royal Family of Rajasthani, who renounced her

“Purdha “ and entered into politics. She had also been associated with Sahitya Academy, Lalit Kala Academy, and Sangeet Natak Academy of Rajasthan. Apart from these she was the president of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation, Rajasthan; Indo- G.D.R. Friendship Society; She was the Vice- President of National Council of Indo-Soviet Society.

From 1962 to 1971 Smt. Chundawat was the member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and was the member of the panel of the chairman of the above Assembly; she was the first Women President of Rajasthan P.C.C.; and finally she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1972.

DANG SMT. SATYAWATI

By profession an agriculturist and an active social as well as political worker. Politically Smt. Dang had entered into it in 1934 as member of Gram Panchayat till 1937; from 1957 to 1959 she was the convener of Himachal Pradesh P.C.C.'s

Women section; for 1962-64 she was the General Secretary of P.C.C. (H.P.); In 1964 she became the president of Himachal Pradesh P.C.C.; and became the member of Zilla Parishad in 1967. Apart from these she was the member of Himachal Pradesh Delegation which visited to Germany, France and Switzerland in 1964 in connection with the German intensive agriculture programme in District Mandi in H.P.; This long back ground was the main reason of her election to Rajya Sabha in 1968.

DEORI SMT. OMEN MOYONG

Studied upto B.A. ; a social worker was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1984, behind the election a long history is lying.

Smt. Moyong was the first lady in Arunachal Pradesh to take up social and political work, she had rendered pioneering service for the then N.E.F.A. and the country as a whole; She was among the first batch of local tribals female to attend school and college; Smt. Moyong was actively associated with Social Welfare Board both at Centre and State, Significantly she was the first women M.P. from Arunachal Pradesh.

Smt. Deori was awarded with Gold Medal by the Administrator of Union Territory for her dedicated social work for the emancipation of women and the down trodden of the Territory in 1975; and awarded with Padma Shree in 1984.

She had attended the International Women's Conference in Berlin in 1975 in connection with the International Women's Year. Smt. Deori was the president of Arunachal Pradesh P.C.C. too.

DUTT SMT. NARGIS

A film actress and social worker, acted in more than 50 films, Associated with various organisations and cultural institutions. She was the first lady of the Film

world to be awarded with "Padma Shree" in 1959. She had received best actress award for acting (i) "Mother India" by (a) Karlovy Vary Film Festival at Czechoslovakia and (b) from Peru and Greece; (ii) Received "Urvashi" from President of India for acting in "Rat aur Din".

She was one of the most talented artist and dedicated social worker in India. As an Artist we have seen her talent but as a social worker - she had organised and participated in the show for Ghalib centenary in London; put up shows to collect funds for Bihar flood victims, in Kuwait and U.K.

She was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1980 due to her above written talent and activities.

GOPIDAS SMT. DEVAKI

A law graduate lady, was a Government servant in the Pre -Independent time and an Advocate by profession. Associated with political party since her student life. Also associated with various educational institutions and welfare organisations. Smt. Gopidas was the member of D.C.C., Kottayam (Kerala) and P.C.C. of Kerala too.

Smt. Gopidas was the member of Travancore Legislative Assembly, latter on of Travancore-Cochin Legislative Assembly and Kerala Legislative Assembly. Finally she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1962.

HABIBULLAH SMT. HAMIDA

An Honours graduate lady, professionally a social and political worker, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1976. Previously, since 1969 she was the member of A.I.C.C.; from 1969 to 1974 she was the member of U.P. Legislative Assembly; in the meanwhile from May, 1971 to June 1973 she was the Minister of Social, Harijan Welfare, National Integration, Civil Defence and

Tourism in Uttar Pradesh.

Smt. Habibullah was the Gold Medallist of her Women's College under Osmania University in Hyderabad. She had also been associated with various educational institutions.

She had attended -(i) International Women's Conference at Helsinki in Finland with a delegation from India in 1970; (ii) World Peace Conference at Copenhagen as a delegate in 1970; (iii) Women's Conference held in Iran as a Govt. of India's representative in 1971; (iv) Peace Conference meeting in Moscow on behalf of Indo- Soviet Cultural Society (ISCUS) in 1971; and (v) International Conference of Women held in Bulgaria in 1975.

HENSMAN SMT. MONA

Born in the last year of the last decade of the last century. She was graduate of that time with Honours and by profession she was a teacher and social worker also. Smt. Hensman was heartily associated with Y.W.C.A. ; She had also been the Examiner of English, History and French Language under the University of Madras. Smt. Hensman was the member of Madras Legislative Council for long 15 years (1937-52), and in 1952 she was elected to Rajya Sabha till 1956 she was in the House.

HEPTULLA DR. (SMT.) NAJMA AKBARALI

First class first in M. Sc. (Zoology) and also completed Ph.D. in Zoology in Cardiac Anatomy. Smt. Heptulla was elected for first time to Rajya Sabha in 1980, and re-elected in 1986 and in 1992. So far till 1980 except education nothing more is known about her.

Smt. Heptulla has had been associated with various science journals, had wrote many books on science and development, also associated with different

educational institution including Indian Science Congress for last 20 years.

Smt. Heptulla had paid visit to the international conferences, seminars, and meets not less than 22 times within 7 years (1984-91). She attended -

1. Asia Pacific Conference on Women at Islamabad in Pakistan in 1984,
2. Science and Technology meeting held in U.S.A. and Japan in 1985,
3. Annual Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Executive Meeting at Kualalampur in Malaysia in 1987,
4. The Fourth Ruling National Democratic Conference on behalf of Indian National Congress at Cairo in Egypt,
5. Inauguration of Science and Technology Exhibition as part of Indian Festival, U.S.S.R. at Moscow in 1987,
6. Special Session of United Nations at Geneva in 1988,
7. Do, in 1989,
8. The Executive Committee Meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Port of Spain in Trinidad Tobago in 1988,
9. Do, at Canberra in Australia in 1989,
10. Do, at Harare in Zimbabwe in 1990,
11. Meeting of Inter- Parliamentary Union at Punta de Leste, Uruguay in 1990; and
12. Celebration of 75th year of the establishment of Parliament of Turkey.

Her visits as a delegate -

1. Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Saskatchewan in 1985,
2. The Annual Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at London in 1986,
3. To attend the Executive Committee Meeting of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at Jersey in U.S.A. in 1986, and
4. Indian National Congress to attend 27th C.P.S.U. Meeting at Moscow in U.S.S.R. in 1986.

Her visit as a special envoy of the Prime Minister -

Saudi Arabia in 1989, 1990 and 1991; Iraq, 1990; Kuwait 1990; Jordan 1990; U.A.E. 1990 and Fiji to attend the Funeral of President Dr. Timoci Bavadra

in 1989 and visited Malaysia on the invitation of the Speaker of the Senate in 1989.

Her above number of visits and attachment with science proves her talent and intelligency, and her efficiency for the post she had enjoyed.

ISMALL SMT. FATHEMA

A senior Cambridge and pre-medical passed lady participated in Quit India Movement and was a dedicated social worker, worked with A.I.W.C., Bombay and Simla; with All India Village Industries Association at Bombay and Simla; she was the founder President of (i) Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped and F.P.H. Workshop for the handicap, (ii) Society for the Education of Crippled. She was the Secretary of Bharat Sewak Samaj , Bombay etc.

Smt. Ismall was awarded with “ Padma Shree “ in 1958 by the Govt. of India and “ Dalit Mitra “ by Govt. of Maharashtra. She was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1988.

JAIN SMT. CNAHDRIKA ABHINANDAN

The holder of Master degree in Law, by profession an advocate , was a member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1985 to 1989; Smt. Jain was the Minister of State for Education, Technical Education, Law and Employment Exchange in Maharashtra, consequently in 1990 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

JAYALALITA JAYARAM MS.

A retired film actress and excellent dancer of Bharat Nattyam, Kathakali, Kuchipuri, Manipuri, Kathak etc. played in not less than 115 films. After the

retirement from the films she has had join politics in 1982. Within few months she became the Propaganda Secretary of her party and in 1984 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

KAUL SMT. KRISHNA

Had done M.A. in Philosophy and in Hindi also. By profession an educationist and social worker. Smt. Kaul associated herself with I.N.C. in 1937. Participated in Quit India Movement also. She has had been associated with various social organisations , trade union and educational institution specially with University of Kanpur. She had been the Dean of Faculty of Education of the Kanpur University. She was associated with Indian Red Cross Society. Smt. Kaul was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1982.

KHAN SMT. SHYAM KUMARI

A Law graduate and Master in Arts. By profession an advocate, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1964. Smt. Khan was an alternate delegate to ECOSOC Of U.N. in 1953. She had participated in the Non-co-operation Movement, and she was the first elected President, Vice-president and Secretary of Allahabad University Student's Union. During student life she had launched various women programmes and organised various organisations also.

KHAN SMT. USHI

Passed Barrister at Law and accepted the profession of advocate. She was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1976. Smt. Khan was the Vice-president of Executive Committee of P.C.C., Rajasthan. She was the General Secretary of state level committee of Rajasthan for the International Women's Year in 1975.

She had also been the Director of Rajasthan S.S.I. and I.T.D.C. etc.

In the international field she had attended the Silver Jubilee Session of the U.N. in New York in 1970; she was the member of delegation to the World Congress for International Women's Year held in East Berlin in October 1975.

KHAPARDE MS. SAROJ

Educationally a graduate lady, was elected to Rajya Sabha for four terms, 1st in 1972 then in 1976, 1982 and in 1988.

From 1986 to July 1989 she was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and from July to December, 1989 she was the Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Textile.

Ms. Khaparde had led the Indian Delegation to 40th and 41st World Health Assembly held at Geneva; and the Delegation of Minister of Health in states to South Korea and Indonesia; she was the member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to I.P.U. Conference held at Seoul in South Korea in 1983; and in Geneva in 1984. She had attended the International Women conference at Berlin in 1972 and at Copenhagen in 1981.

KIDWAI SMT. ANIS

A social worker was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1956 and re-elected in 1962. Smt. Kidwai was the member of INC from 1921, associated with Mahila Congress and was the member of A.I.C.C. also. She was the Vice-president of AIWC and was associated with various organisations too.

KRISHNA KUMARI SMT.

Educated upto school level professionally a social worker, had participated in

the Quit India Movement in 1942 and was sentenced to jail for six months along with Rs.500 fine. She had also set up two primary schools in Rewa (M.P.) . Smt. Krishna was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1954. Later she became the Vice-president of DCC, Rewa (M.P.).

KULKARNI SMT. SUMITA G.

An M.A., L.L.B., active social, political and trade union worker, previously was an I.A.S.; Smt. Kulkarni was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1972. She was a gold medallist in M.A. and was awarded a prize for a book "Anmol Virasat".

She was the President of - (i) O.N.G.C. Employee Union; (ii) All India Working Women Committee affiliated to I.N.T.U.C.; she was an I.A.S. officer in Madhya Pradesh and worked as (i) an officer, M.P. Electricity Board; (ii) Dy. Collector, M.P.; (iii) Sub- Division Magistrate, Nagpur Division; (iv) Treasury Officer, Betal, M.P.; (v) S.D.O. and S.D.M. of Chindwara; (vi) City Magistrate, Jabalpur; and (vii) Collector and District Magistrate in M.P.; and was under secretary to Govt. of India in Ministry of Finance.

LAKHAN PAL SMT. CHANDARVATI

Smt. Lakhanpal a member of Rajya Sabha elected twice once in 1952 and again in 1956. Educationally was an M.A., B.T.; and professionally a teacher , associated with a college and a school also. Smt. Lakhanpal was a good writer also. Her book- Siksha Monovigyan (Educational Psychology) was declare as the best book on the subject, a prize was awarded at the Indore Session of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan,

presided over by Mahatma Gandhi; Her other book which were declare as the best books in Hindi were - Siksha Sastra, Mother India ka Jawab etc.

Smt. Lakhanpal was also associated with many social organisations. She was the president of Mahila Congress Committee (Dehra Doon) and Mahila P.C.C. (U.P.).

LILA DEVI SMT.

An active political worker, was involved with provincial Congress Committee and its Executive Committee too. She was the convener of Mahila Vibhag Congress (M.P.); From 1950 to 1953 she had been in the Municipal Committee of Mandi (M.P.) and in 1956 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

MALHOTRA SMT. USHA

A master degree holder lady, professionally an active social and political worker. Associated herself with I.N.C. in 1961. In 1973 she became the president of Women's front, M.P.; State convener of Congress Women's Front; member of Himachal Pradesh P.C.C., Smt. Malhotra was associated with Trade Unions, such as I.N.T.U.C.

She was awarded shild by the President of India for-(i) making record collections and Red Cross work for Himachal Pradesh and (ii) for organising H.P. Women Welfare marketing and co-operative society.

Smt. Malhotra was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1980. She had represented India as a worker delegate at the Tripartite Conference of Printing and Allied Traders of the I.L.O. at Geneva in September 1981. She also had attended the World Conference of Peace Forces held in Moscow in October 1973.

MEHTA SMT. PUSHABEN JANARDAN RAI

A social worker and M.A. qualified lady was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1966, previously she was the member of Administrative Council of Junagarh state for 1947-48; from 1948 to 1957 she was the president of D.C.C., Junagarh. From 1948 to 1961 she was actually the member of Legislative Assembly of Saurashtra and Bombay and later on of Gujrat. For 1949-51 she was the member of A.I.C.C. Due to her social activities she was awarded with "Padma Bhusan" in 1955.

MENON SMT. LAKSHMI N.

Born in 19th century, was a highly qualified lady, had the degree of Master in Arts, Bachelor of Law, Diploma in French language etc. By profession she was a lecturer.

Smt. Menon was the member of Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1966. Smt. Menon was the elected president of A.I.W.C., National president of Indian Federation of University Women; Member of AIWC; She was the lecturer of Queen Marry's College, Madras; Gokhale Girl's School, Calcutta; Isbella Thoburn College, Lucknow ; Principal of Women's Training College, Patna.

Smt. Menon had represented India-

1. As an alternate delegate at the 3rd, 5th, 8th and 9th session of the General Assembly held in 1948, 1950, 1953 and 1954 respectively;
2. On the U.N. Commission on the status of Women held at Bariut in March in 1949;
3. In the 3rd and 4th Conference Committees of the U.N.O. dealing with social, cultural, humanitarian, trusteeship and non-self governing territories questions;
4. On the U.N. working group on the status of women at Bangkok in 1956;

She had visited - (i) China as the member of Parliamentary delegation in 1956; (ii) Australia and Malaysia as a Leader of Indian women's delegation to Asian African Women Congress in 1958; (iii) She was the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the E.C.A.F.E. conference in Malaysia in 1963.

Smt. Menon was awarded with "Padma Bhusan" in 1957.

MENON SMT. LEELA DAMODARA

A graduate lady and an active social and political worker was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1974, previously Smt. Menon had participated in Quit- India Movement, She was the member of different social organisations located in Kerala but also the member of Kerala P.C.C.; A.I.C.C.; Indian National Commission representing A.I.W.C.; Vice-President of AIWC ; General Secretary of the same (AIWC).

For 1949-51 she was elected to Malabar District Board ; For 1957-59 and 1960-64 elected to Kerala Legislative Assembly, From 1969 to 1973 she was the General Secretary of A.I.W.C.

Smt. Menon had attended the Geneva Session of Human Rights Commission held at Geneva in 1971; New York in 1972 and again in Geneva in 1973 when she was elected as its Vice- President (All visits were made earlier than, she became M.P.).

In 1973 she was awarded with Mrs. Mallor Velluthampi Dalawa by Govt. of Kerala for her social work and patriotism.

MISTRY SMT. RODA

An educationist and social worker, was associated with different Women social organisations in Andhra Pradesh. Smt. Mistry was the president of Indian Council of Social Welfare (ICSW) Andhra Pradesh; also.

Smt. Roda was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1980, but previously she was the member of A.P. Legislative Assembly from 1959 to 1967 and 1968 to 1980. From 1968 to 1971 she was the Minister of Women and Child Welfare and Tourism in Andhra Pradesh. From 1978 to 1980 , Minister of Women and Child Welfare, Tourism and Public Libraries Protocol (A.P.). In 1977 she became the General Secretary of Andhra Pradesh P.C.C. also.

MUKHARJEE SMT. KANAK

A writer, Journalist and Master degree holder lady, elected to Rajya Sabha in 1978, previously she entered into party politics in 1943, from 1969 to 1971 she was an Alderman at Calcutta Corporation. Smt. Mukharjee was re-elected to Rajya Sabha in 1984. For 1985-86 and 1986-87 she was nominated to the panel of Vice-Chairman.

Smt. Mukharjee was associated with various social organisations, educational institutions etc. she had wrote about 14 books, most of the books were on Marx, Lenin, Engels, her visit to different countries, and few books were on Women.

MUKHOPADHYAY SMT. PURABI

A graduate lady and a political worker, took part in freedom movement, joined politics in early age, She was the president of the International Women's year .As a student she had participated in International Seminars represented Calcutta University and India too. Smt. Mukhopadhyay was the General Secretary of A.I.C.C. also.

From 1945 to 1950 she was the president of Pradesh Student Congress (W.B.); From 1952 to 1968 she was the member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly; From 1952 to 1957 she had discharged her duties as the Deputy Minister in the Govt. of West Bengal; From 1957 to 1962 as the Minister of State; From 1962 to 1967 she was the Cabinet Minister in West Bengal. Consequently she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1970 and re-elected in 1976.

MUNSHI SMT. LILAVATI

Born in 19th century, had participated in the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and was sentenced for 3 months; participated in Civil Dis-Obedience Movement in 1932 and 1940 and was sentenced for one year and for four months respectively. She was involved and associated with more than fifty organisa-

tions, associations, institutions including various women organisations.

Though she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952 and in the House till 1958, but she had a long political life (before 1952).

Along with the participation in National struggle for freedom, she was the member of A.I.C.C. for 1931 to 1934; From 1935 to 1946 she was the member of Bombay Municipal Corporation; From 1936 to 1946 Smt. Munshi was the member of Bombay Legislative Assembly. During the membership of Municipal Corporation and M.L.A. ship she had discharged various important functions.

Ultimately was elected for Rajya Sabha.

MUTHU DR. (SMT.) SATHAVANI

A registered Homeopathic Practitioner till 1957, but afterwards resigned from that and joined in active politics. Smt. Muthu was also an active social worker, mainly interested in the upliftment of the Harijans, orphans, children and women.

From 1957 to 1962 she was the member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. She had also been the member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Council for few months. During M.L.A. ship she had been in the Ministry with different charges. After Legislative Council she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1978. At the centre also she was the Union Minister for Social Welfare (Govt. of India) for few months.

NAIDU MS. M.L. MARY

A graduate and teacher by profession also associated with numerous social organisation, including A.I.W.C., she was interested in the upliftment of the Christian Harijans.

From 1945 to 1955 Smt. Naidu was the Municipal Councillor of Vellore. Also attended the 6th UNESCO World Conference representing World Catholic

Women and Children.

In consequence of this she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1964.

PANDEY SMT. MANORMA

Elected to Rajya Sabha in 1980 and re-elected in 1986, has had a good political as well as educational background. Smt. Pandey educationally M.A. and L.L.B. ; politically she entered in Electoral Politics in 1957.

From 1972 to 1974 she was in the Ministry of Bihar. For 1977-78 Smt. Pandey was the chairman of Bihar State Finance Corporation.

PARANJPYE SMT. SHAKUNTALA

An active social worker and eminent author, completed B. Sc. and M.A. Smt. Paranjpye was associated with Family Planning Board and Council.

She was the member of Maharashtra Legislative Council from 1958 to 1964 and in 1964 she was nominated to Rajya Sabha.

PARMANAND DR. (SMT.) SEETA

Was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1952 and re-elected in 1958. Though she was elected during the first term, but has had a good qualification, social activities and political backgrounds and works.

Smt. Parmanand was a Bachelor of Literature, completed Ph.D. and L.L.B. also. She was the Principal of Indra Prastha College for women, Delhi; and enrolled lawyer of Supreme Court also.

Smt. Parmanand was also associated with I.N.T.U.C. She had been active for women's and children welfare work and village work since 1927 in Madhya

Pradesh.

She was a delegate to the First Women's Conference held in London in 1926. Travelled other countries also, she was the only Indian Delegate to the Equal Rights of Women in the U.S.S.R. Seminar in 1956 and also read a paper there on the status of Indian Women, after passing the Hindu Code Bill; she was also a delegate to International Conference on Public Administration at Liege in 1958; attended the first meeting of I.L.O. at Geneva in 1959 to discuss the problem of women in employment.

PARTHASARATHI PROF.(SMT.) G.

Was not a politician at all but she was a chief professor, a great academician was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1960. She was M.A. , L.T., B. Litt., she had travelled many countries but visited U.S.A. as a leader; she was specialist in education, and visited Ceylon as a member of the Indian Delegation to the UNESCO conference.

She was the -

1. Vice-Principal of F.C. College for Women, Lahore,
2. Head of the Department of English, Queen Mary's College, Madras,
3. Principal and Head of the Department of Ethiraj College, Madras,
4. Head of the Department of English, Presidency College, Madras,
5. Chairman of Text Book Committee of Govt. of Madras,
6. Vice-President of World University Service, Madras,
7. Member of: Academic Council, Madras; Senate of the Madras University;; Board of Studies in English of Universities of Madras, Andhra, Annamalai, Travancore, Utkal etc.; Madras School of Social Work and Programme Executive of A.I.R.

PRADHAN SMT. SARASWATI

A graduate and social worker. She was the member of Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1961 to 1971. From 1962 to 1967 she had been the Dy. Minister of Education, Orissa. Consequently she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1972. Smt. Pradhan took interest in the upliftment of women and children.

RAJINDER KAUR DR.(SMT.)

An educationist and journalist by profession, completed M.A., Ph.D. in Philosophy. Smt. Kaur was the member of New Delhi Municipal Committee from 1977 to 1979 in the mean while in 1978 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

Smt. Kaur has presented papers in various Symposia and seminars on religion and philosophy conducted by - (a) Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Simla; (b) Golden Jubilee Session of World Philosophical Conference held at University of Delhi in 1976; (c) Wembley Conference Centre in London in 1980 and (d) World Conference of Religious Workers on Disarmament in Moscow in 1982.

Apart from all this she was associated with various Universities , colleges etc.

RAMAMURTHI SMT. T. NALLAMUTHU

An educationist, B.Sc., M.A.; was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1956. As an active social worker she was associated with A.I.W.C., W.I.A., Women's International League for peace and Freedom, Madras; Senate of different Universities.

Smt. Ramamurthy was a delegate to the British Educational Conference held in Paris in 1926; She had served as temporary Collaborator in the League of Nation in 1928, Nominated by Govt. of India as a member of Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Common Wealth Parliamentary Conference held at Canberra in Australia in 1959.

She was the Lecturer and Principal of (a) Queen Mary's College, Madras; (b) Lady Willingdon Training College, Madras. She was the Lecturer of Politics, Politics and Public Administration, Journalism etc.

SAROJINI KRISHNA RAO BABAR DR. (MS.)

A journalist by profession, and M.A., Ph.D. by qualification, was the member of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957; and from 1963 to 1966, member of Maharashtra Legislative Council, consequently was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1966.

SATPATHY SMT. NANDINI

An M.A. educated lady, by profession a social and political worker. Smt. Satpathy was associated with various women organisations, she was the Vice-President of A.I.W.C. She was the member of Tourist Development Council (Govt. of Orissa); Indian Council of Child Welfare, New Delhi; and State Council for Education of Women and Girls, Orissa.

Smt. Satpathy was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1962 and re-elected in 1968. From 1966 January to 1969 February she was the Union Deputy Minister for Information and Broadcasting. Afterwards till March 1971 she was the Union Dy. Minister without portfolio; after that till 1972 she was again the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Smt. Chief Minister of Orissa also and the member of A.I.C.C. too.

SATHE SMT. TARA RAMCHANDRA

A graduate lady was the member of Poona District Development Board from 1953 to 1960. Smt. Sathe was an active political worker, and was the member of Maharashtra P.C.C. and Maharashtra Congress Women Wing too. Being an

active social worker she was associated with organisations like A.I.W.C., after the D.D.B. (Poona) she was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1962.

SAVITA BEHEN SMT.

An educationist and active political worker, had done Honours in Hindi, a Sahitya Ratna, Sahitya Alankar and Siddhanta Sashtri. She was the Principal of Rastriya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Delhi. Smt. Sathe was the General Secretary of P.C.C., Delhi, A.I.C.C. etc. too. She was associated with A.I.W.C. and was the President of it too. From 1951 to 1962 smt. Sathe was the member of Delhi Municipal Committee and latter on of Delhi Municipal Corporation. For 1962-1966 she was elected to Punjab Legislative Council, In 1971 she was awarded with "Padma Shree" and in 1972 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

SINGH SMT. PRATIBHA

A graduate lady and active political worker, was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1970, previously she was the member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1969; she was re-elected to the House in 1976, 1982 and in 1988 (24 years).

Smt. Singh was associated with the work in the upliftment of Women and Harijan. She was the President of Child Welfare Council, Red Cross Society (Punjab and Bihar).

As a delegate she had attended the Inter Parliamentary Conference held in Barlin in 1980 and also a delegate to U.N.O. in 1982.

SINHA SMT. KAMLA

An M.A., M.ED. educated lady associated with her party strongly and was

also a Trade Unionist, became the member of Bihar Legislative Council for 1972-1984, and was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1990. According to Who's Who she was the Vice- President of International Confederation of Free Trade Union, Asia Pacific Region held at Singapore.

SITA DEVI SMT.

A social worker, Trade Unionist and Participant in the Freedom struggle. She was courted arrested in 1932, 1942 (Quit- India Movement), and in 1952 in connection with Trade Union Movement.

She was associated with A.I.W.C., North Punjab Zone; and was the Secretary of it too. Smt Devi was the member of I.N.T.U.C., and other small workers union also.

Smt. Sita Devi was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1972, previously from 1946 to 1957, 1964 to 1970 she was the member of Punjab Legislative Assembly.

SONI SMT. AMBIKA

A graduate lady also had the Diploma in Foreign languages, Smt. Soni entered in politics in 1969, in 1976 she was elected to Rajya Sabha. She was active in regard to Foreign Relation Department of A.I.C.C.

She attended the (a) World Peace Congress in Moscow in October, 1973; (b) UNESCO Meeting on National Liberation Movement, held in Belgrade; (c) UNESCO Meet on the Economic order in Algeria in December 1975.

SUSHMA SWARAJ SMT.

An active political worker, Educationally a Law graduate, professionally an Advocate too. She was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1990, previously she was in State politics and was in Govt. of Haryana.

TAIMUR SMT. SYEDA ANWARA

An M.A. degree holder lady was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1988, but previously smt. Taimur was in the Ministry of Assam for 1974-77, and for few months in 1980-81, She had also been the Chief Minister of Assam.

TALWAR DR. (SMT.) MANGLADEVI

A Medical practitioner by Profession, had the degree of M.R.C.S, C.R.C.P. (London), L.M. (Dublin),

and M.P.H. (U.S.A.). Smt. Talwar was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1966, previously she was the General Secretary of D.C.C., Jaipur (Rajasthan).

Smt. Talwar was awarded with a Fellowship of World Health Organisation, during All India Competition in 1949.

Being a Medical practitioner she was associated with various Health Organisations, She was the founder member of T.B. Association of Rajasthan.

VERMA SMT. NARAYANI DEVI

An active participant in the National Movement, and was also jailed between 1934-38.

Smt. Verma had set up Educational Institutions, Hostels, Health Centre, Cultural Centres etc. at various places in Rajasthan, She was the founder of Mahilashram in Udaipur also the founder of Mewar Praja Mandal in Bhilwara. In 1970 she was elected to Rajya Sabha.

VASISTH MS. SHANTA

An active social and political worker, educationally completed M.A. in 2 subjects and also done L.L.B.; Ms. Vasisth was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1960 and re-elected in 1966. But, previously she was the Parliamentary

Secretary to the Chief Minister of Delhi State. From 1952 to 1956 she was the member of Delhi State Legislative Assembly, she had also been in the Ministry during 1953-54.

Ms. Vasisth was the member of P.C.C.; A.I.C.C. and Vice-president of Delhi P.C.C.

Ms. Vasisth had attended the Common Wealth Parliamentary Conference held at Kualalampur in Malaysia in October in 1963 as a delegate.

Being a social worker she was associated with various Back ward class Welfare Boards, including Child Welfare Board.

VERMA SMT. VEENA

Professionally a Teacher and political worker, educationally she had completed M.A.; Smt. Verma was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1986 and re-elected in 1988.

Smt. Verma a Classical Singer as well as member of Executive Committee of Indian Writers Union, Calcutta, and also associated with various cultural organisations too.

She had been awarded with (a) Priyadarshini Award in 1989; (b) Mahila Shiromani Award in 1989; (c) Rastriya Gaurav Award in 1989.

Smt. Verma had attended -(a) Conference to Protest Against Star Wars Programme held in Denmark in June 1985; (b) World Peace Conference at China and North Korea in May 1985; (c) Represented Congress Party at the 6th national Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam in December in 1986; (d) International Writing Programme, at the University of Iowa in 1978; (e) Seminar on Asian Forum of Parliamentarian on Population and Development, Manila, 1989; and (f) Delivered Keynote address on "Perspective on Indian Women" in the first global convention in overseas Indians in New York in August in 1989.

Apart from these 69 Women Member in Rajya Sabha (who have had influential background), 16 members were there who were elected either of their active party work, social work; few of them were either highly qualified or agriculturist or has had diploma in some courses. They were-

BHADURIA SMT. SARLA, she had joined political party in 1948 and elected to Rajya Sabha in 1964. She was the Convener of All India S.S.P. Women Panchayat, infact she was the former Sarpanch also.

DAS SMT. MIRA, an M.A.; L.L.B. was a social worker, mainly associated with Women Organisations and worked for their upliftment.

DAS MS. SHOILA BALA, was the Municipal Commissioner of Patna in the Pre- Independent India, she was previously associated with Widow Women's Training Centre and other Women and Child Welfare Centre.

DAS SMT. MONIKA, a graduate lady was a social and political worker. She was a Joint Convener of A.I.C.C. Women wing, also was in P.C.C. (Karnataka).

JOSHI SMT. SUDHA VIJAY, a graduate, political and social worker, professionally was an stage and T.V. artist. Smt. Joshi was the Convener of Bombay Pradesh Mahila Congress from 1978, and became the General Secretary of All India Mahila Congress afterwards elected to Rajya Sabha in 1984.

KHATUN MS. SAYEEDA, a gold medalist in M.A., Vice- President of D.C.C., Balaghat (M.P.); Also completed L.L.B., but professionally a social and political worker. Took part in the upliftment of Women, Backward Muslims and Harijans.

KIDWAI BEGUM SADDIQA, a social worker, was the member of Delhi Municipal Committee, Mahila Vikash Kendra, Delhi; Delhi State Prohibition Advisory Committee etc.

LALITHA RAJ GOPALAN SMT. G., was M.A. in Economics, participated in Hindustan Scouts Movement and underwent Training Camp, participated in the Students Movement in 1942; attended two month's training camp, the first of its kind for relief work done during the Second World War for the evacuees from Burma at Madras.

Also attended the first Instructor's Training Camp of the Congress Seva Dal

held at Matunga in (T.N.). Smt. Gopalan was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1965, and was the member of (a) Good Will Mission to Africa sent by Govt. of India in 1965; (b) Indian delegation to U.N. General Assembly in 1968.

MAHESWARI SMT. SARLA, educationally M.A. in Political Science, joined active politics in 1975 and elected to Rajya Sabha in 1990.

PAHADIA SMT. SHANTI, an agriculturist, was the member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for few months.

RAO SMT. RATNA BAI SREENIVASA, an M.A. educated lady, professionally a social worker. She was the President of Chittoor Nursery School, and Chairman of District Project Implementation Committee, Central Social Welfare Board. Smt. Rao was the Chairman of Chittoor Municipality and was the president of D.C.C., Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh).

RAZACK SMT. NOORJEHAN, a Law graduate lady, professionally a Lawyer, entered into politics in 1973, she was the Founder and Legal Adviser of Indian Muslims Women's Welfare Association.

SEETA YUDHVIR SMT., a graduate lady was the member of A.I.C.C. as well as of Executive Committee of Andhra P.C.C., from 1952 onwards. Associated with various cultural and social organisations. Elected twice to Rajya Sabha once in 1958 and in 1964. Smt. Yudhvir was the Member of Indian Delegation to the Conference of I.P.U. at Copenhagen in Denmark in 1964.

SHARMA SMT. RUKMANI BAI, a social worker also participated in the freedom movement, Picketed Foreign Good Shope in 1930; suffered imprisonment in various congress movement in 1932, 1940 and in 1942. She became the Member of Executive Committee Madhya Bharat P.C.C. in 1955; elected to Rajya Sabha in 1956.

THIMMAREDDY SMT. ANNAPURNA DEVI, an agriculturist was the member of I.N.C. from 1937; in 1956 she became the member of P.C.C., Mysore, elected to Rajya Sabha twice, once in 1958 and again in 1964.

TIRIA MS. SUSHILA, educationally B.A., B.ED., professionally a social worker and a teacher, also was in active politics. She became the General Secretary of District Youth Congress, Orissa; Joint Secretary of Pradesh Youth Congress,

Orissa; elected to Rajya Sabha in 1986, after wards became the General Secretary of P.Y.C.; and General Secretary of Indian Youth Congress too. Ms. Tiria was associated with different social organisations and Boards etc.

In Rajya Sabha there were 13 Members who's exact background is not available, they were-

1. *ANGELINA TIGA SMT.*
2. *BHARTHI SMT. UDAYBANU.*
3. *BHATTACHARYA SMT. ILA.*
4. *BURAGOHAIN SMT. BEDAVATI.*
5. *DAS SMT. PUSHPALATA.*
6. *IMAM SMT. AZIZA.*
7. *JOSHI MS. KUMUD BHEN.*
8. *NATARAJAN SMT. JAYANTI.*
9. *PANDA SMT. ILA.*
10. *RATAN KUMARI SMT.*
11. *SHARMA SMT. BASANTI.*
12. *SATYA BAHIN SMT. and*
13. *SINGH SMT. JAHANARA JAIPAL.*

***SMT. INDIRA GANDHI AN WOMAN LEADER AND
A PRIME MINISTER***

Daughter of a great leader , freedom fighter and first Prime Minister Sri Jawahar Lal Nehru. Smt. Gandhi herself had participated in the freedom struggle and organised a Vanar Sena to assist the Congress Party in 1930 in their Non Co-Operation Movement.

Smt. Gandhi was educated at various School and Institutions, like, Ecole Nouvelle at Bex in Switzerland; Ecole International in Geneva; Pupil's Own

School in Poona and Bombay ; Badminton School in Briston; Viswa Bharti Shantiniketan and College like Somerville College in Oxford.

Smt. Gandhi had been conferred with Honorary Doctoral Degrees by various National and International Universities like Andhra, Agra, Banglore, Vikram, Punjab, Gurukul, Nagpur, Jamia Milia, Poona (India), EL Salvadore of Buenor Aires, Waseda of Tokyo, Moscow Estate, Oxford, Charles of Prague, Mauritious, Baghdad and the U.S.S.R., Academy of Science; D. Litt. (Honoris Causa Andhra and Agra Universities).

In 1955 she became the member of C.W.C. and Central Election Committee of the Party; In 1956 she became the President of A.I.Y.C. and Women Department of A.I.C.C.; For 1959-60 Smt. Gandhi was the president of I.N.C.

Smt. Gandhi entered Parliament in 1964 as a member of Rajya Sabha, for 1964 to 1966 she was the Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

On January 24, 1966 Smt. Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India, and also held the Ministry of Atomic Energy , additional charge of Ministry of Home Affairs.

In 1967 she was elected to 4th Lok Sabha, and again was the Prime Minister , Minister of Atomic Energy from 1967 to 1970; and Minister of Planning and Minister External Affairs and in the charge of Minister of Finance for few times respectively.

Again elected in 1971 and became the Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy from 1971 to 1977; and assumed the Ministry of different Departments from time to time, such as Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of Planning, Minister of Space, Minister of Electronics, Minister of Steel and Mines, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Defence.

She was elected to 6th Lok Sabha in a By-election in 1978.

Again in 1980 she was elected to 7th Lok Sabha, and was the Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy and in the Charge of Department of Electronics Science and Technology and Space from 1980 to till death (31st October 1984). In between of 1980-1984 she has had also held the charge of Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Industry.

Smt. Gandhi had widely travelled all over the World, and had paid official visit to the following countries:

Afganistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangla Desh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, France, German Democratic Republic, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Netherland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Rumania, Singapore, SriLanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, U.A.E., The United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, and United Nations Head Quarter.

Smt. Gandhi is the recipient of following awards:

1. Bharat Ratna in 1972.
2. Mexican Award for Liberation of Bangla Desh, 1972.
3. 2nd Annual Medal FAO, 1973.
4. Sahitya Vachaspati (Hindi) by Nagari Pracharani Sabha, 1976.
5. Mother's Award, USA, 1953.
6. Isibella d' Este Award of Italy for outstanding work in Diplomacy.
7. Yale University's Howland Memorial Prize for two consecutive years in 1967 and 1968.
8. Diploma of Honour conferred by the Argentine Society in 1971 for the protection of Animals.

Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Chancellor of-

1. Viswa Bharti University,
2. Jawahar Lal Nehru University. &
3. North Eastern Hill University.

She was the:

Patron - in - Chief of Indian Council of Africa.

Life Patron of Indian council of Child Welfare.

Patron of Foreign Students Association and many others.

President of, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society; Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Fund and many others.

Apart from these she was the Chairman, Trustee, Honorary President of various organisations, associations, institutions etc.

The present century has witnessed a number of outstanding leaders who contributed significantly in their own way. But in term of service to humanity, and sacrifice for the cause of social harmony, very few come near to Smt. Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India. The dedication and determination with which she led the country remains unparalleled.

An apostle of communal amity, Smt. Gandhi devoted her entire life and, in fact, sacrificed her life in the defence of the unity and integrity of India. A staunch defender of secular ideals embodied in the constitution, she worked tirelessly for the social and economic advancement of the minorities. Her concern for the welfare of the minority is reflected in the special measures taken by her for safeguarding their religious, cultural and educational rights. Above all she worked indefatigably for eradicating communal violence and personal hatred.

Smt. Indira Gandhi will be remembered for her vision of a modern self-reliant India with a strong dynamic economy. Unlike many other Leaders, she succeeded in translating her vision into reality. Her able leadership strove India into a new era. Her obsession with the welfare of Farmers, was translated in a series of reforms to give land to the tiller and to improve the lot of agricultural labour. Smt. Gandhi was equally concerned about the working class people and saw to it that they were given their due. A believer of socialism she knew that industrialisation holds key to India's economic progress. Under her leadership the public sector occupied commanding heights in the Indian economy and the workers were the major beneficiaries of this progressive approach. When Smt. Gandhi came to lead India, the International economic environment was crisis ridden as well as competitive and India was yet to make her presence felt. But her Leadership, and guidance was enough to push India in the direction of stability and

self - reliance. It was Smt. Gandhi who at such a difficult stage, gave substance in the direction of self - reliance and created a base for rapid development. Her contribution in the field of Scientific developement is no less. She carved a special place for India in the map of modern technological advancement. She was responsible for India's overall technological transformation, its progress and achievement in the field of nuclear science and space technology.

She was a multi - faceted personality and there was hardly any sphere of creativity in which Smt. Gandhi did not take interest and which she did not enrich. In her, one finds a social reformer, a religious crusader, an honest politician a statesman and above all a visionary. A staunch socialist, she wanted to re-structure Indian society on the basis egalitarian principles. As part of her social revolution, she instituted a series of programmes for the benefit of the blind and physically handicapped. She will be remembered for her numerous long term programmes for the welfare of the underprivileged. A relentless fighter for social justice she strongly advocated for equal right of women and their social justice she strongly advocated for equal right of women and their social and economic emancipation.

Smt. Gandhi was a women of unbelievable courage and determination. At the time of adversity, she never lost her cool and in difficult times she had exhibited indomitable courage and wisdom, and also provide moral strength to her countrymen. Her visit to Tejpur at the height of Indo -China War despite the Defence and Home Ministries advice not to go bears testimony to her strong indomitable character. She would never make any compromise where India's unity and integrity and national interest was at stake. Despite international pressure, she never abandoned the nuclear programme and guided India into the selected club national possessing nuclear know how. At the same time she was never dogmatic in her approach. She was always guided by pragmatic consideration and her decision were in keeping with the best democratic tradition and in the best interest of the people of the country.

Smt. Gandhi was a negotiator par excellence whose motto was " never negotiate out of fear and never fear to negotiate". A lover of humanity, she always wanted peace and dedicate her life for it.

So was her love for peace that inspite of India's victory in the Indo - Pak war

of 1971. She opened the way for negotiation to prevent war in the future between two countries. Such a great negotiator she was that instead of imposing terms and conditions on the defeated party, she acted rationally with pragmatism which culminated in the Shimla Agreement which ushered a new era in Indo- Pak relations. Her ability to combine high moral ideals with national interest is aptly reflected in the Indo - Soviet Friendship Treaty of 1971, which protected India from external threat , and ultimately brought peace in the Sub-continent.

Smt. Gandhi was an outstanding parliamentarian and orator par excellence, whose debating skills are well recognised even by her detractors. Her commitment to the development of parliamentary democracy has been well acclaimed and she was highly instrumental in strengthening the parliamentary institutions. Besides she exhibited rare wit and wisdom during the parliamentary debates.

An outstanding democrat, Smt. Gandhi recognised that, among the distinct streams of thought which combined to produce, the Indian approach to democracy, a pre-eminent position held by the parliamentary system. The position that parliament occupies in Indian polity is better explained in her own words:

“parliament is the commanding centre of our political system, and Government’s responsibility to the legislature at the Centre and in the States is beyond disputes.”

Smt. Gandhi wanted the constitution to become a dynamic instrument for solving the myriad problems in the Indian Society confronted with. Finding solution to the problems of poverty, illiteracy and threats to national integration were her primary concern while framing the policy for the nation to march forward. She looked at the Constitution in terms of its concrete functionality to help in the solution of problems. In practice this meant both a partial revision of the Constitution under stress of urgent and emergent problems and also maintaining and strengthening such provisions as were helpful in meeting the challenge of the situation. Her constitutional efforts, have thus constituted the real living force of Nehru’s legacy of secularism and socialism pattern of society . Through her sensitive perception, the constitution was, infact, being “ applied “ to the problems of contemporary Indian

society.

Like Nehru, Smt Gandhi believed that the constitution must provide solution to all the problems facing the country whether inherited from the past, or inherent in the present and even those likely to emerge in the future. And if a Constitution cannot be amended to meet the changing needs of the people, it is liable to be ended. This happened to rigid Constitution, whenever they were confronted with unmediated events. She made it clear that Constitutional changes she proposed were intended to achieve true justice and equality for the common man. There was no change in basic philosophy, but socialism already put on the national agenda, and sought to be strengthened.

While calling for Constitutional amendments, Smt. Gandhi emphatically ruled out the need for a new Constituent Assembly ; She held that parliament was empowered to bring necessary Constitutional amendments for ushering in an egalitarian social and economic order. After all the Constitution was never intended to be a fetter to manacle the whole nation , but was to unifying force in its rapid march to material progress, intellectual betterment and moral uplift. To worship the Constitution as an ideal was of no use, it is an instrument of progress and must be seen to be so by succeeding generation. Just as still waters become stagnant, a Constitution which is unresponsive to changing needs loses aura of sanctity and may prove a stumbling block in the way of progress. No doubt the Constitution has a great sanctity and is one of the most sacrosanct institutional structure that we have given to ourselves as a nation. But our goal being the betterment of the nation, the Constitution must be geared to a cause and not become a cause in itself.

No wonder , Smt. Gandhi bold and far reaching measures on the social and economic front included the nationalisation of banks and the abolition of privy purses. While nationalisation of banks broke the monopoly of the big business houses over financial institutions ,the abolition of privy purses wiped out the last vestiges of a feudal order. Of notable significance was the passing of the Constitution 24th amendment Bill which restored the supremacy of Parliament, which relegate to the background by the decision of the Supreme Court in the Golakh Nath case. In the subsequent Keshavananda Bharti case, the Supreme Court held that the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution was beyond the purview of the Parliament to amend.

The Constitution 24th Bill, reworded article 368 of the Constitution to provide that any law made under it would not attract the provision of article 31 which as per the Golakh Nath judgement, barred Parliament's right to alter or abridge the Fundamental Rights. The marginal note in the Bill was also changed and in place of "Procedure for amendment of the Constitution". "Power of parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure thereof" was substituted. Thus the 24th amendment expressly empowered parliament to amend any provision of the Constitution. Article 13 of the Constitution was made inapplicable to an amendment in the Constitution under article 368. Yet this amendment did not minimize the importance of Fundamental Rights, rather it gave primacy to the Directive Principle over the Fundamental Rights, so as to guarantee equitable distribution of material resources for the common good. While replying to the debate on the bill Smt. Gandhi assured the critics that "we are committed to upholding of fundamental freedom-of assembly and worship-and our commitment to secular democracy is non negotiable." When the Bill was duly passed by both Houses of Parliament in August, 1971, she called it " a milestone, in the march of Indian peoples towards democracy, secularism, socialism and a just and humane society."

Smt. Gandhi was equally in imbibing a genuine democratic spirit in her conduct as a Parliamentarian, even when the demands for political one upmanship had come to be a self evident phenomenon in a politically competitive parliament. In her long and eventful parliamentary career characterised by enormous social and political convulsions and momentous decisions, parliamentary debates in which she participated very often invited fierce opposition and frequent interruptions.

But the spirit of decency and decorum always triumphed over the din and dust of even the most acrimonious of debates. Indeed Smt. Gandhi was supremely Conscious of the importance of this spirit of decorum in the adroit manner of a performing philosopher.

Indeed so totally was Smt. Gandhi identified with the fortunes of this country and such was the multidimensional nature of her contribution not only to the unity and development of this country but also to World Peace and a new world order, that after her assassination on 31st October, 1984, leaders of all persuasion paid the richest tributes to her contribution inspite of their ideological differences with her notwithstanding.