

1. DISCUSS THE EXTRA CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE WELFARE OF WOMEN IN INDIA?

Apart from constitutional provisions, there have been a plethora of statutory provisions are in vogue in India for the women - the half of its population with a view to bringing rapid progress in their social and economic life. Some of the important measures are as follows.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: A comprehensive legislation is essential to protect Indian women from different types of domestic violence.

Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, 1986: It helps in protecting women from trafficking for the purpose of prostitution as an organised means of living.

Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986: It prevents improper representation of women via any advertisement or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.

Dowry Prohibition Act 1961: It prohibits the giving or taking of dowry at or before or any time after the marriage from women.

Maternity Benefit Act 1961: This ensures that women working in establishments for decided time (both before and after childbirth) are entitled to maternity and other benefits.

Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987; Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971; Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1984; Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; Family Courts Act, 1984; Legal Services Authorities Act 1987; Hindu Marriage Act 1955 are enacted in the larger interest of women.

Mines Act 1952 and Factories Act 1948 prohibits the employment of women between 7 pm and 6 am in mines and factories and provide for their safety and welfare.

Hindu Succession Act 1956: This recognises the right of women to inherit parental property equally with men.

Minimum Wages Act 1948: This does not allow discrimination between male and female workers or different minimum wages for them.

Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013: This will make provisions that there is no sexual harassment against women at workplaces both in public and private sector.

Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on divorce) Act 1986

Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872

Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) have provisions to help women

Despite the above measures, a considerable section of women in India are deprived of the rights to survive and socio-economic and political empowerment due to lack of strong political will, attitudinal change and proper implementation of the legal measures meant for the half of India's population.