

Govt to revise 2006 policy for greater gender equality

Kapil Dave

Gandhinagar: New 'Nari Gaurav Niti' To Boost Women's Numbers In Pvt, Public Sector

The state government has taken steps to revise the 'Nari Gaurav Niti' that was first introduced in 2006. The policy had fallen into neglect after initial enthusiasm but Anandiben Patel, the first woman chief minister of Gujarat, plans to refashion and implement it for greater gender equality. Among other aims, the state government plans to increase representation of women in private sector and in government jobs through the revised policy.

Vasuben Trivedi said chief minister Anandiben Patel had first introduced the 'Nari Gaurav Niti' when she was minister of women and child development department. Trivedi, who is currently minister of state (independent charge) of the same department, said that now there is a need to revise the policy as many new schemes have been started. "Several new laws for empowerment of women have come into force. We are reviewing the results of the existing policy and have started consultations with different departments and experts to assess the need for inclusion of new provisions in the policy," said Trivedi.

She further said that under the new chief minister, the state government had introduced 33% reservation for women in the police. "Further, 50% reservation for women has been introduced in all local bodies. A number of new schemes have also been announced in the last few years. The revised 'Nari Gaurav Niti' will focus on increasing the representation of women in private and government jobs too. It will also keep in mind the women labour force and aims at the overall empowerment of women in the state," said Trivedi. In 2006, the state government had introduced 'Nari Gaurav Niti' to promote gender equality and sensitize government departments about the need for women's welfare. Several steps were taken under the policy in the initial years but gradually the government lost interest and the initiative fell into neglect.