

alienated the local population. There are continuing reports of serious human rights violations, including rape, by government forces.

Women and girls suffer from low status and unequal access to education, employment, health care, income, and political participation in India despite an extensive legal framework, beginning with the Constitution, which gives equality to women. The problem is deeply rooted in traditions related to caste and to social attitudes and religious practices such as arranged marriages. India has not yet ratified the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Children labour is endemic in India despite provision in the Constitution to protect children from this practice. Over 40% of children work. Poverty and the lack of access to basic education are the main reasons for child labour.

Recent human rights developments in India include the Government's announced intention to establish a Human Rights Commission and the visit in November 1992 of an Amnesty International delegation for the first time since 1978.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada regularly raises human rights problems in India in multilateral fora such as the UNHCR, the UN General Assembly and the Aid India Consortium.

Bilaterally, Canada maintains a dialogue on human rights with the Indian Government. We successfully brought pressure to bear for the court martial to be held in the case of the rape of a Canadian tourist by security forces in Kashmir. In the recent case of the imprisonment of Justice Bains in Punjab, the Canadian High Commissioner in Delhi raised the case with senior Indian officials prior to Justice Bains' release.

Bilateral and Canada Fund programs are directed towards poverty alleviation and include important women-in-development components.

8

9

10