

## LEFT PARTIES AGAINST SBI HIRING NORMS

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Issues relating to Growth & Development - Banking, NPAs and RBI

The Left parties have objected to the latest recruitment guidelines of the State Bank of India saying that they allegedly discriminate against pregnant women.

A recent circular issued by the bank on December 31 prevents women who are more than three months' pregnant from joining service, despite having been selected through due process.

The circular states that she will be "considered temporarily unfit and she may be allowed to join within four months after delivery of child".

CPI(M)'s Rajya Sabha member V. Sivadasan, in a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, said, "The very natural process of childbearing cannot become a disqualification."

Denying a woman the opportunity to join the service also impacts her seniority, he said. He also pointed out that in 2009 the SBI had corrected its anachronistic practice of asking women candidates to declare details of their menstrual cycle to defer posting/promotion during pregnancy.

CPI MP Binoy Viswam also wrote to Ms. Sitharaman. "Insulting pregnancy is a crime towards motherhood. SBI's latest guidelines discriminate against women and are anti-constitutional," Mr. Viswam said.

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