

Maternity leave benefit in private sector

2550. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women working in private sector are not getting maternity leave benefit like their counterparts in Government sector;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that, due to amendment to Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 making it mandatory to provide 26 weeks of leave to women with pay, private firms have stopped recruiting women;

(c) if so, the steps Ministry has taken in this regard; and

(d) whether any consultations have been held with the Ministry of Labour in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is applicable to establishments irrespective of whether it is organised or unorganised sector.

(b) There is no official data /report that private firms have stopped recruiting women due to amendment to Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

(c) and (d) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is enforced and implemented by the respective State Governments. Advisories are issued by Ministry of Labour and Employment to State Governments from time to time for strict enforcement and compliance of the provision of the Act.

Monitoring system of Anganwadi centres

†2551. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present system for monitoring all Anganwadi centres in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to digitalize the monitoring system of Anganwadi centres including attendance and services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.