

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.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Anganwadi Services under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has in-built monitoring system since its inception to track the physical progress of the scheme in respect of various input process, output and impact indicators through a standardized Management Information System (MIS), regular reports, monthly, quarterly half yearly, etc.

In order to strengthen the performance of ICDS, Government has introduced 5-tier monitoring and review mechanism at different levels (National/ State/ District/ Block and Anganwadi Level) for monitoring the status of Anganwadi Centres. Government has issued guidelines on 31.03.2011 for Constitution of Monitoring and Review Committees at different levels to review progress in implementation of the Anganwadi Services under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme. Composition and key roles of such committees at different levels have been defined and with a view to strengthen and make Anganwadi Services under Umbrella ICDS more participatory, Panchayati Raj institution and MPs and MLAs have been assigned representation on various committees at State, District and Block Level Monitoring Committees. Rapid Reporting System has also been introduced for the Anganwadi Services under Umbrella ICDS for capturing on-line data.

Besides, the six-tier dashboard under the newly set-up POSHAN Abhiyaan has ICT- based real-time monitoring system through Common Application Software (CAS). To digitize and computerize the data generated at AWCs, Smart Phones are provided to Lady Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers.

Inspection of jails for juvenile prisoners

2552. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Juvenile Justice Board conducts regular inspection of jails to check if any child is lodged in such jails, as required under Section 8(3)(m) of the 'Juvenile Justice Act';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the frequency of inspections during the last two years, jail-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of children identified and transferred from jails to observation homes during that period, State-wise and jail-wise; and