

jobs, even washroom visits are fixed and controlled. Washrooms are segregated by seniority. Some washrooms are even password protected. It is reported that performance metrics are designed in such a way that targets are almost impossible to achieve, and this creates hostile relations at work. The superiors often forced the junior staff to make them toil for long hours. Employees are made to compete with one another for retaining their jobs. The privacy of the employees is not respected, and they are under constant surveillance. Verbal and physical abuse at some workplaces is rampant. There are no safeguards for the people with disabilities and the workers point out that the culture of abuse results in strengthening the discrimination based on caste, religion, gender and sexuality. Workers are reduced to mere machines. There is an urgent need to address these problems faced by the IT, ITES and BPO workers. I urge the Government to look into it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. V. Sivadasan: Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala) and Dr. John Brittas (Kerala).

Shri Sanjeev Arora; not present. Now, Shri Sujeet Kumar on 'Demand for Comprehensive National Programme on Cancers affecting women.'

Demand for a comprehensive National Programme on Cancers affecting Women

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I seek to draw your attention to rising incidence of cervical and breast cancers among women, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive national programme to increase testing and awareness. According to the latest data from the WHO, cervical cancer ranks as the fourth most prevalent cancer in women globally, and the second most common in India. Notably, breast cancer has surpassed cervical cancer, emerging as the most frequent cancer in India, with approximately 1,78,000 new cases diagnosed annually. Shockingly, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every four minutes, and a life is lost to it every eight minutes in our country. Despite the alarming prevalence of cases, the testing rates are abysmal, with only 1 per cent of Indian women undergoing screening for cervical and breast cancer, in stark contrast to the WHO recommendation of at least 70 per cent. As of 2019-21, the screening rates for cervical and breast cancer in India stand at a mere 1.2 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. This is in sharp contrast to

advanced economies like Sweden, Ireland, U.S., and U.K., where over 70 per cent of women undergo cervical cancer screening.

Sir, while the Government's announcement of cervical cancer vaccination for girls aged 9-14 in the interim Budget is commendable, the effectiveness of this initiative hinges on the establishment of a robust testing ecosystem.

I, therefore, earnestly urge the Government to institute a comprehensive national programme on cancers affecting women, to enhance testing across all age groups, to facilitate early detection and treatment, and prevent the loss of precious lives.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention raised by the hon. Member, Shri Sujeet Kumar: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala).

Hon. Members, the House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 5th February, 2024.

The House then adjourned at one minute past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 5th February, 2024.