

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3920
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
WOMEN WORKERS
MAHESHWAR SINGH

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the number of women workers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have ascertained the number of women working in factories and Bidi workers separately; and
- (d) if so, the details of facilities being provided to them in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

(SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) & (b): According to 1991 Census, the total female work force in the country, including women labourers is 8,97,67,563. State-wise numbers of these workers are indicated in Annexure.

(c): As per available information, 6,76,868 women workers were employed in factories during the year 1997. The number of total beedi workers in the country was 43,99,644 in the year 1998. It is estimated that women in the factory workers category and home workers category constitute about 50% and 68% respectively of the total number of workers engaged in beedi making.

(d): Under the Factories Act, 1948, women cannot be employed in hazardous processes in factories. The Act also provides for creches in factories employing more than 30 women workers ordinarily and maternity leave upto 12 weeks with wages.

The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 which is being implemented by the State Governments, contains sufficient provisions to safeguard the interests of women workers engaged in beedi making. Apart from this, the Government is implementing various welfare facilities in the fields of health, housing, education and recreation under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund, for the benefit of beedi workers including women workers.