

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3209
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO WOMEN IN EMPLOYMENT
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for providing equal opportunities to women in employment as well as making their employees specific policies more sensitive to women;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of women likely to benefited therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) to (c): Article 16 of the Constitution of India guarantees equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State. Further, it provides that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect of, any employment or office under the State.

To enhance the employability of women, the Government is providing skill training to women through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes. There are 11 National Vocational Training Institutes providing training facilities, exclusively for women in skills having high wage-employment and self-employment potential. Further there are women wings in general ITIs which are under the administrative control of respective State Governments. National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) has enhanced the percentage of reservation for women from 25% to 30% in training institutes.

Besides this, the Government has enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature without any discrimination and also prevents discrimination against women employees while making recruitment for the same work or work of similar nature, or in any condition of service subsequent to recruitment such as promotions, training or transfer. The Government has taken several steps for creating a congenial work environment for women workers and a number of protective provisions have been incorporated in various labour laws. These include provision of crèches where a certain number of women are employed, maternity benefit and safeguards against sexual harassment of women workers at their work places, etc. With these efforts more and more women would be encouraged to take up employment. However, it is difficult to quantify the number of women likely to be benefited therefrom.