

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3745

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

CONDITION OF NURSES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Antony Shri Anto; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao; Pradhan Shri Nityananda; Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami; Sharma Shri Jagdish; Thomas Shri P. T.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the miserable conditions of nursing profession across the country particularly in private hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether complaints have been received regarding treatment of nurses as bonded labourers, payment of low salary, long working hours, lack of medical facilities etc.;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to bring uniform policy for Government as well as private hospitals to fix minimum wages and working hours for nurses; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the instructions issued by the Government to the State Governments to take action against the hospitals, insisting nurses to sign a bond for not leaving the job for one year or more and not paying the minimum wages?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)to(f): Keeping in view numerous complaints received from various quarters the matter has been examined by the Government. Health being a State subject, the matter pertaining to improving and regulating the service conditions of nurses working in the private hospitals comes under the purview of the State Government in which the private hospitals are located. All the State Governments have been asked vide letter dated 07.07.2010 to take necessary measures for enacting a comprehensive Legislation for improvement of service conditions including minimum salary, etc. of the nurses working in the private sector.

Further, Indian Nursing Council has taken an initiatives and issued a circular on 23rd September, 2011 to all the State Governments stipulating that if the unethical practice of obtaining service bond/forcefully retaining the original certificate of the student comes to notice then in that event penal action would be taken against such erring institutions.