

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6116
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
WELFARE SCHEMES FOR WOMEN WORKERS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of welfare schemes under implementation for women workers in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the State Governments in regard for improving the working conditions for women at the workplace, regulating the working hours, safety of women, maternal benefits and payment of equal wages in various sectors; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): The Ministry is administering a grant-in-aid scheme for welfare of women workers under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations for taking up action oriented programme/project for awareness of women workers about their rights and duties etc. Besides this, under Maternity Benefit Scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 1000/- per delivery is paid to female beedi workers for the first two deliveries and an amount of Rs. 5000/- each is provided as financial assistance to the widow/widower of beedi workers for meeting the wedding expenses of their first two daughters.

(b) & (c): No such guidelines have been issued to the State Governments. However, Government has taken several steps for creating a congenial working environment for women workers. A number of protective provisions have been incorporated in various labour laws for improving the working conditions of women at workplace, regulating the working hours, safety of women, providing maternity benefits, payment of equal wages in various sectors. Details of the provisions is at Annexure 'A'. However, under Plantation Labour Act, 1951, definition of 'Family' has been made gender neutral to remove the distinction between the family of a male and the female workers for availing the dependent's benefits. A new chapter has been introduced to cover all aspects of safety and occupational health of workers specifically women and child labour working in plantation pertaining to use of handling, storing or transporting chemicals, insecticides and toxic substances used in the plantation.