

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2180

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012

DEMANDS OF NURSING STAFF

Mani Shri Jose K.;Panda Shri Baijayant;Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed widespread agitation by the nursing staff in many multi-speciality hospitals in NCR and other metro cities over the repressive working conditions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the nursing staff hired under a bond system are forced to deposit their educational documents as a collateral security with the hospital management and held to ransom when they decide to exit the job under inhuman working conditions;
- (d) if so, whether judiciary have held that such reprehensible conduct on the part of the hospital management should be dealt with sternly by the authorities concerned; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the court's direction in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (e): Health being a state subject, the matter regarding working conditions of Nursing staff comes under the purview of the State Government in which the hospitals are located. No such incident has been reported by the State government in recent months, however, on the basis of matter raised in the Parliament and debate in PIL Writ Petition Civil No. 430/2011 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all the State Governments have been issued instructions, vide letters dated 7th July, 2010 and 24th February, 2012 to take necessary measures for enacting a comprehensive Legislation for improvement of service conditions of nurses including those working in the private sector.

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