

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3610

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2012

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AT WORKPLACE

Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Rajendran Shri C.;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Singh Shri Mahabali

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the serious concern expressed by the Supreme Court over the absence of a strict legislation to deal with the cases of sexual harassment of women employees at workplace and implementation of its verdict given in Vishakha judgment;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the scope of Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment of Women Employee at Workplace Bill to private, semi-private and statutory bodies as well;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has also sought opinions from women organisations/other sections of the society in the matter; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government has approved the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2012. The Bill has so far been passed by the Lok Sabha.

(c) & (d): The Bill seeks to provide protection to women against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in the public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised. It provides for prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment. Women who are employed as well as those who enter the workplace as clients, customers or apprentices besides the students and research scholars in colleges and universities and patients in hospitals are sought to be covered under the legislation.

(e) & (f): The Bill has been prepared in consultation with National Commission for Women (NCW) who also undertook extensive process of consultations with various stakeholders including State Governments, lawyers and civil society organizations.