

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:263
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013
CONDITIONS OF NURSING PROFESSION
Mani Shri Jose K.

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 and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): Yes.

(b) to (f): The matter pertaining to improving and regulating the service conditions of the nurses working in the private hospitals in the country comes under the purview of the State Governments in which the private hospitals are located.

However, on the basis of matters raised in the Parliament, the debate in Public Interest Litigation Writ Petition No. 430/2011 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and references received from various sections of society, all the State Governments have been requested, 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 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.

A Private Bill proposed by Shri P. T. Thomas has been modified as "The Midwives, Nurses and Paramedic (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill" and has been recommended by the Ministry.