

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2715
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014
WELFARE SCHEME FOR WOMEN WORKERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of welfare schemes being run by the Government in various parts of the country, particularly for women workers including the funds allocated, released and utilised for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any directives to the States for creating a congenial working environment and reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation;
- (c) the mechanism put in place by the Government for effective monitoring and implementation of welfare schemes for women workers;
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the implementation of these schemes; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken by the Government on the basis of the outcome of such evaluation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): The Ministry is administering Grant-in-aid Scheme for welfare of women labourers under which financial assistance is provided to NGOs/VOs for undertaking awareness generation campaign for working women, educating them about their rights and duties, legal aid to working women and conducting seminars and workshops to raise the consciousness of society about the problems of women labour.

Amount of funds released and allocated under the Scheme during the last three years and current financial year is as under:

| Grant-in-aid Scheme for taking up programmes/projects for the benefit of Women Labour | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 2011-12 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | | | | |
| Allocated | Released | Allocated | Released | Allocated | Released | Allocated | Released |
| 50 | 15.28 | 75 | 12.46 | 75 | 13.39 | 20 | 1.13 |
| lakh lakh lakh lakh lakh lakh lakh lakh | | | | | | | |
| (up to 23.07.14) | | | | | | | |

Besides this, there are welfare schemes being implemented for workers like Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour Scheme, Welfare Scheme for Beedi Workers, Cine Workers, Mica Mines Workers, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Workers, Iron Ore Mines and Magnese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Workers where the benefits are also applicable to women workers like Maternity Benefit Scheme for Beedi Workers. Financial assistance of 1,000/- per delivery is paid to a female Beedi Worker for the first two deliveries. An amount of 5,000/- is provided as financial assistance to the widow/widower Beedi Worker for meeting the wedding expenses of their first two daughters. Further, an amount not exceeding 30,000/- (including diet charge etc. and pre and post operation check-up) is reimbursed for Hospital charges in the treatment of gynaecological disease for the Female Beedi Worker, Limestone and Dolomite Mines Workers, Iron Ore Mines and Magnese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines, Cine workers.

(b): Government has enacted the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 which seeks to provide a safe and secure environment to women at the workplace. The Act came into force on 9th December, 2013. The Act covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organised or unorganized. The domestic 'workers' are also included under the ambit of the Act. The "Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013" has also been enacted which makes 'sexual harassment' a crime and increase the penalty for provisions relating to outraging the modesty of a woman.

All the States/UTs Governments have been requested to ensure constitution of Internal Complaints Committee as per the provisions of the Act in every Department/Organisation/ undertaking/industrial establishment and educational institution and to ensure notification of district officers to facilitate the constitution of Local Complaints Committees in every district. A number of protective provisions have also been incorporated in various labour laws for improving the working conditions of women at work place, regulating the working hours, safety of women, providing maternity benefits, payment of equal wages in various sectors.

(c) to (e): The scheme is exempted from external evaluation. However, funds are released to the organisations subject to detailed terms and conditions which provide for periodic checks by the Ministry in the form of physical inspections from concerned Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), quarterly Project Reports, submission of audited statements of accounts, photographs of each camp and utilization certificates, execution of bond with sureties etc. Besides this, Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) in the concerned State are also directed to conduct inspection of the project during the currency period of the project.