

Title: Need to accord legal status to the Central Social Welfare Board.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, the All India Federation of Social Welfare Employees Association has been demanding to accord legal status to the Central Social Welfare Board through an Act of Parliament or by amalgamation with the respective Department in place of a charitable company status.

The Association had represented to the Human Resource Development Minister. It was expected that the Government of India, Human Resource Development Ministry and Women and Child Welfare Department would implement and coordinate all women and child welfare services of the Central Social Welfare Board.

It has come to my knowledge that CSWB is planning to merge the project centres of the Board Area Project with *Anganwadi* network and accordingly requested all the States to take appropriate action. The All India Federation is opposed to the move of merger because of staffing patterns of these projects are not identical with the ICDS. Moreover, the then HRD Minister had given some assurances through a letter, dated 12th May, 1997, to extend pay-scales, retirement benefits to the employees but so far no action has been taken.

It is also a matter of great concern that the Women and Child Welfare Department has taken a decision to phase out *Balwadi* Nutrition Programme and early childhood programme from April, 1998. As a result, many employees would be rendered jobless.

I urge upon the Government to immediately call a meeting with the representatives of the All India Federation of Social Employees' Association to sort out the matter.
