

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4507

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

AMENDMENT OF MATERNITY ACT, 1961

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha;Kushwaha Shri Narendra Kumar;Munshiram Shri ;Shahid Shri Mohammed;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend maternity benefits to the women workers in unorganized sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to accord priority in implementing the recommendations made by the Planning Commission in this regard;
- (d) if so, the amount of assistance proposed to be given particularly to each pregnant woman working in unorganised sector;
- (e) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the Maternity Act, 1961;
- (f) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;
- (g) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;
- (h) whether the Government has made State-wise assessment of funds to be spent under the said scheme; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a) to (d): The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 applies in the first instance to mines, factories, circus industry, plantations and shops or establishments employing 10 or more persons including any such establishment belonging to Government except those employees who are covered under the ESI Act, 1948. The maternity benefits are available to the women workers engaged in occupations of beedi, certain non-coal mines and cine industry under the Welfare Funds being implemented by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The Government is also contemplating the enactment of the Unorganised Sector Workers Bill,2004. The draft bill, inter-alia, envisages maternity benefit to the women workers in the unorganised sector.

(e) to (i): A proposal to raise the medical bonus payable under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from Rs.250/- to Rs.1000/- and to give power to Central Government to revise medical bonus from time to time is under consideration of the Government. The payment of medical bonus under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 is employers liability so State wise assesment of funds can not be worked out.