TIMES OF INDIA NEWS PAPER, NEWDELHI EDITION - 3 AUGUST 2012

Indian staff may sue Italy embassy over bias in wages

Dhananjay Mahapatra | TNN

New Delhi: Indians employed in the Italian embassy here receive less than one-third of the salaries paid to their Italian counterparts and have now sought permission from the ministry of external affairs (MEA) to sue the ambassador for discriminating against them on the grounds of nationality and ethnicity.

The Indians employed in the Italian embassy in the post of executive receive an annual salary between 6,652 and 7,225 euros, whereas the Italians in the same post are paid salary between 21,924 and 54,724 euros.

Counsel for the Indian employees in the embassy, advocate Gopal Shankaranarayanan, has written to the MEA saying the ambassador and the government of Italy had not taken corrective measures despite repeated representations for corrections in the wage anomaly leaving no other option but to initiate legal proceedings for resolution of the dispute.

The employees had represented the ambassador saying, "It is apparent from a comparison of salaries being paid to your local contract-holder employees in these posts that locally hired executives are receiving salaries far below those given to their colleagues who are Italian nationals, regardless of the fact that the work being done is exactly the same."

The employees in their representation to the MEA said that the principles of "equal pay for equal work" and non-discrimination on the grounds of race and nationality were integral percepts of both Indian and Italian law. They said in response to their earlier legal notice, the embassy had denied wrong-doing and claim for pay parity with their Italian counterparts.

Shankaranarayanan said, "The only option available to the Indian employees in the Italian Embassy is to file a suit in the Delhi HC making claims concerning equalization of pay, and disbursement of arrears with effect from their respective dates of appointment."

Pvt hospitals fuel C-sectio

Number Of Caesarean Deliveries 3-10 Times Higher

Subodh Varma
TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

An epidemic of caesarean deliveries seems to have overtaken hospitals and government data indicates that private hospitals are largely responsible for this. According to the recently released Annual Health Survey, deliveries by caesarean sections (C-section) are 3 to 10 times more prevalent in private institutions compared to government institutions.

In several states, the gap is jaw dropping. In Assam, only 10 per cent of deliveries in government hospitals were by C-section while in private hospitals, the share was 41 per cent. Similarly, in Bihar only 3 per cent of deliveries were done by C-section in government hospitals while this share rose to 22 per cent in private hospitals.

The data was collected in a huge survey carried out by the Census office during July 2010 and March 2011 covering a sample of 1.8 crore people spread over 284 districts in 9 states – Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

These are states with poor health outcomes in the past and have been targeted by both the government as well as non-governmental ager special attention.

Previous surveys hav that at the national level, (make up about 9 percent of eries but with huge region tions, and also, a large rur differential. Clearly, as pr cilities have expanded, so rate of operated deliveries

A Caesarean section is nical name for delivering a operating the mother unc thesia rather than allowing labor and delivery. It is reco ed in cases where there is due to wrong positioning c by in the womb, obstruct On an average, a caesarean costs anything upward of Rs 2

Why is this happening' health experts were aghast at ures and blamed the irrationa es of the private sector. There plete lack of regulation of being provided by the privat

UNDER THE KNIFE

CAESAREAN DELIVERIES OUT OF ALL DELIVERIES IN

	GOVT INSTITUTES	PVT INSTITUTES
Assam	10	41
Bihar	3	22
Chhattisgarh	8	34
Jharkhand	9	29
MP	4	31
Odisha	7	40
Rajasthan	5	20
UP	5	24
Uttarakhand	10	30

Source: Annual Health Survey, ORGI   Figures in %

PM eases land transfer polic to fast track infra projects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday approved changes in the land transfer policy for government-owned land which would help pave the way for fast-tracking pending infrastructure projects.

The latest move adds to the efforts of the PMO to kick-start infrastructure projects, crucial to revive growth and boost sentiment. The UPA government, which has been under fire for project delays and lethargy in policy-making, is keen to boost investor sentiment and get the engines of growth roaring again.

Early last year, a ban had been imposed on transfer of government-owned land to any entity except in cases where land was to be transferred from one government department to another. Now, the PM has approved changes that will allow all cases of land transfer from ministries to statutory authorities or PSUs.

He has also relaxed all cases of land transfer on lease or rent or licence to a concessionaire which have been appraised through the Public Private Partnership Approval Committee (PPPAC) route and approved by the finance minister or by the ministers concerned or by the Cabinet, depending upon the value of the project.

The PM has also allowed development and use of railway land by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), according to the provisions of Railways Amendment Act, 2005, and government rules.

> This (mandatory Cabinet nod) was causing long de in awarding contracts for frastructure projects. All infrastructure projects — roads, railways, ports, civ aviation and metros — ha some element of land alie ation as the project is oft built on govt-owned land
>
> **Prime Minister's Office**

According to a PMO statement, the relaxation in the land transfer rules is expected to significantly speed up award of public-private partnership (PPP) projects from this month.

After the ban was imposed last year, the department of economic affairs was asked to prepare a comprehensive land transfer policy for government-owned land.

Any department which had to implement a project which required providing land either through lease, licence or rent, had to seek Cabinet approval. The process of securing Cabinet approval is a time-consuming exercise that delayed projects.

"This was leading to long delays in awarding contracts for infrastructure projects, particularly PPP projects. All PPP infrastructure projects — roads, railways, ports, civil aviation and metros — have some element of land alienation as the project is often b government owned land," th statement said.

"The government contin own the land which is lease cenced out. Requiring Cabinet a al for each PPP project meant a few months to complete the pr for securing Cabinet approva statement said.

Delayed projects have been one of the key reasons for th down in industrial growth. In players have often complained the delay in land acquisition.

The government is betting viving growth through large tructure projects. This would al attract investments and help the sentiment. Growth slowe nine-year low of 5.3% in the Ja March quarter, while overall crawled to 6.5% in 2011-12, bel government's initial estimate c