

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) comments on the passage of amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act 1961

New Delhi, 11 August 2016: FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) applauds the decision of the Government for giving ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 by introducing the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament, which aims to raise maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks, as an Amendment to the original Bill of 1961.

As a 33 year old Business Chamber, working towards women empowerment in India, FLO has always been reiterating on the need of looking at maternity benefits as a tool for attracting and retaining women in the work force.

A recent report by the McKinsey Global Institute points out that India's 2025 GDP can increase from 16% to 60% by simply increasing female workforce participation by giving them same opportunities as men.

We at FLO, believe in creating an environment that is conducive to the personal and professional growth of all employees. Whether it is safety in the work place or realistic maternity leave and benefits or flexible working hours and most importantly existence of quality crèches.

“This initiative would be a good step towards finding solutions to retain female employees and simultaneously it would also be a strengthening move towards increased return to work post-maternity and greater employee retention in the long run”, **said Ms. Vinita Bimbhet, President, FLO.**

“ This will finally pave the way to create more inclusive work environment and promote gender diversity in workplace”, **added Ms. Bimbhet.**

ENCLOSED: Photo of Ms Vinita Bimbhet

.....
FICCI MEDIA DIVISION