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New flexible employment rules mooted

THE Government will amend the Employment Act 1955 to include new flexible employment regulations.

The move which would see changes in women's workload, part-time employment schedule and the facilitation of "telework" at workplaces was to enable women's participation in the labour force and enable them to juggle between work and family responsibilities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a written reply to Chew Mei Fun (BN-Petaling Jaya), said although the group's involvement in the workforce was relatively low, there had been a steady increase in their participation in various sectors.

He said it was with that in mind that the Government was taking steps to ensure continuous involvement of women in the workforce.

Dr Mahathir said the country needed to combine human resources and supplement the labour force to increase output.

He said the private sector must continue to provide support and facilitate healthy working environment including providing nurseries at the workplace as well transportation and housing facilities for their staff.

He said the group's involvement in the workforce in 1995 was 43.5 per cent and 45.7 per cent last year.

Dr Mahathir said there was an increase in women's participation in the economic, financial, estate and service sectors and managerial positions.