Metro Rail sets up day care facility

It has two caretakers and is equipped with toys and books

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Just before going on maternity leave, one of the biggest concerns for Ankita Samuel, an employee of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), was how she would care of the baby when she returns to work.

Fortunately for her, the organisation has started a day care facility in its administrative building at Koyambedu.

Ms. Samuel, whose child is going to turn a year now, says she is able to work in peace without being constantly worried about how the baby is doing.

"I'm still nursing my child; so, I can walk in every now and then to check on him. As I know my child is around in the same building, I'm able to focus on work better and productivity has also improved," she adds.

Of nearly 350 employees in CMRL, 50 are women, officials said. This day care facility, which has children aged between six months and 10 years, is equipped with toys, books and also includes space for women to breastfeed.

The Ministry of Women

Boon to women: The day care facility also includes space for women to breastfeed their children. ■ FILE PHOTO

and Child Development has been developing the Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme (RGNCS) under which companies should have creche facilties at workplace.

According to officials, this facility was brought in soon after talks of such a scheme emerged.

"But beyond that, we can see how comfortable and relieved women employees are. There are two caretakers for this facility and it is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.," an official says.

Delhi Metro Rail first

began a day care facility four years ago.

Prakruthi Narayan, another employee, says she didn't have the option to leave her one-and-half-year-old child with her parents. "They are aged and live in another town; initially, I thought I may have to forego my job or hire a baby-sitter. But how many can afford to have a baby-sitter permanently? Every organisation should think of having such a facility," she adds.

(Names of the employees have been changed on request)