

LETTERS

DAY CARE CENTRES

Creches give mums a peace of mind

I REFER to the report "Childcare centres need strict vetting" (NST, Aug 18). The scarcity of licensed childcare centres is largely due to the shortage of qualified childcare providers, experienced supporting workers, limited premises with safety features and easy accessibility in suitable localities, and exorbitant rent.

Local authorities and the Welfare Department impose stringent rules on the registration of such facilities under the Childcare Act 1984.

It is crucial that parents have access to affordable quality childcare, as personal attention is vital during the formative years.

Lack of registered childcare centres within easy reach and at

affordable rates force working women to leave their children in the care of unlicensed home-based daycare centres, where conditions leave much to be desired.

Working women find it difficult to focus on their jobs without the right childcare arrangements that they can trust and afford.

Women participation in the workforce has been hovering beneath the 50 per cent mark all these years.

A joint survey by TalentCorp and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants last year revealed that 65 per cent of women, some holding senior positions, left their jobs to manage their families.

Human Resources and Women, Family and Community De-

velopment ministries must make a concerted effort to encourage working women to remain in the workforce and to release thousands of women into the workforce to overcome labour shortage and dependence on imported labour.

One of the imperatives is to persuade employers to invest in a good childcare support system.

Employers have a social responsibility to their workers.

Corporations must create a family-friendly work environment by providing in-house crèches as well as workplace nurseries.

A happy family can contribute to the growth of organisations.

S. Sundareson, Petaling Jaya, Selangor



Corporations must create a **family-friendly work environment** by providing in-house creches as well as workplace nurseries.