

existing ceiling of Rs. 1000/- per IP family unit per annum on medical care for providing preventive, promotive and occupational health services to the beneficiaries. The expenditure on this will be entirely borne by the ESI Corporation.

Composition of work force

2601. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what could be the percentage in the composition of work force under the category of self employed, casually employed, organised;

(b) except around 10 per cent under the organised category the other major category of workers are unorganised and what are benefits and privileges ensured or being ensured for the unorganised sector under the Law; and

(c) whether Government is satisfied with this situation or would the Government feel that they have to go a long way in doing for this unorganised sector particularly workers involved in Agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per the estimates of the recent survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 2004-2005, about 94% of the work force is employed in the unorganised sector which, *inter-alia*, include agriculture workers, construction workers, self-employed, casually employed. Remaining 6% of the workforce is employed in the organised sector.

In order to protect the interest of the workers in the unorganized sector and to provide social security to these workers, the Government has enacted various labour laws which are fully or partially applicable to the unorganized sector workers. Some of the major legislations include the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923; the Minimum Wages, Act, 1948; the Building & Other Construction Workers (RECS) Act, 1996; the Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970; etc. With a view to providing social security to the unorganised sector workers, the Government has constituted Welfare Funds for Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers to provide welfare schemes like health care, housing, education to the children etc. There are various poverty alleviation schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government. The Government also enacted National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Bill, 2007 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007.

In addition to above, the Government has recently launched 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' to provide life and disability cover to rural landless households. The benefits under the scheme include Rs. 30,000 in case of natural death; Rs. 75,000 in case of death due to accident or total permanent disability due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500/-. The children of beneficiaries are eligible for scholarship. The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for BPL families in Unorganised Sector has been launched on 1st October, 2007 for the unorganized sector worker's family of five. The scheme provides for smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per family per annum on a family floater basis. Under 'The Indira Gandhi National Old Age

Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)', old age pension has been extended to all 'Below Poverty Line' persons above the age of 65 years. The Government still feels that there is a long way to go and it is the endeavour of the Government to extend the welfare measures to all workers in the unorganized sector.

Checking of unemployment

†2602. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a report released in Geneva, International Labour Organization has predicted that lacs of people will be reduced jobless;

(b) if so, the main concern including the predictions in the report;

(c) whether Government are aware of the news item titled "Is Saal 50 Lakh Ho Jayega Berojgar" as predicated in the media;

(d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether Government are going to take measure to check unemployment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Report on Global Employment Trends, January 2008 was released in Geneva by the International Labour Organisation. This Report has predicted that overall employment in the world is expected to increase by around 40 million in 2008 and unemployment could further increase by 5 million. This would lead to a slight increase of the unemployment rate to 6.1 per cent in 2008.

It has also been noted that challenges facing various regions have remained relatively unchanged. Not only is there a rather low impact of growth on job creation, but there is also another concern that the ongoing growth does not have as substantial an impact as necessary to reduce the levels of working poverty, especially in the poor regions of the world. There are still 486.7 million workers in the world who do not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$1 a day poverty line and 1.3 billion workers do not earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$2 a day line. To make a long term in road into unemployment and working poverty, it is essential that periods of high growth are better used to generate more decent and productive jobs. Reducing unemployment and working poverty through creation of such jobs should be viewed as a precondition for sustained economic growth.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Government is aware of the unemployment problem in the country. The Eleventh Five Year Plan provides a framework to restructure policies to achieve a new vision based on faster, more broad-based and inclusive growth. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of the poorly paid. Creating new job opportunities would be one of the monitorable socio-economic targets during Eleventh Plan. The Eleventh Plan document approved by National Development Council has projected that 58 million job

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.