

Government is responsible for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in respect of 40 scheduled employments. A statement indicating the dates of their revision and the existing rates of wages is annexed.

#### **Exempting the Workers from ESI Scheme**

1781. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some companies are offering better medical facilities to their workers, than those being offered under the ESI Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a proposal to exempt the workers in such companies from ESI scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The ESI Scheme provides for grant of sick leave on half pay for a period upto 91 days in a year. In the case of chronic illness the extended sick leave is also granted on 70 per cent of the pay for a period of up-to 2 years. In the case of death superior benefits seeks exemption disablement due to employment injury the scheme provides for payment of monthly pension at the rate of 70% of the wages. In addition, the ESI Scheme also provides for full medical care and certain other benefits to the LPs and their families. Generally the benefits provided under the ESI Scheme taken in their totality are comprehensive and better than the benefits offered by individual establishment coverable under the ESI Act. However, if any establishment providing similar or the same is considered on merit by the appropriate Government in consultation with the ESI Corporation.

#### **Employment of Unorganised Labour in Maharashtra**

1782. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for employment of unorganised labour in different industries in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra have indicated that they have established a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Maharashtra and comprising of renowned experts from various fields to frame a concrete time-bound special programme for employment and self-employment generation so as to have maximum participation of the job-seekers in the economic development of the State and to provide them with regular and steady income sources and to motivate them for self employment, the High Level Committee appointed 8 separate sub-groups on the following subjects so as facilitate the work:-

1) Education, 2) Agriculture, 3) Dair) Development and Food Processing, 4) Rural Development and Cottage Industry, 5) Industry, 6) Hotel and Tourism, 7) Construction, and 8) Service Sector. These sub-groups have had separate meetings and have submitted their reports. The High Level Committee has contemplated over these reports and has accepted the reports after carrying out necessary amendments.