

amendments to the Industrial Disputes Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
(SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and subsequent deliberations in various fora, the Government has formulated certain draft proposals for comprehensive amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. These proposals, inter-alia, include promoting Dipartism in Industrial Disputes Resolution to avoid third party intervention, providing higher lay off and retrenchment compensation, amendments in the definition of "appropriate Government", "Workman" and "industry", reforming the process of labour adjudication etc. These draft proposals are being placed before the Standing Labour Committee on its 33rd Session scheduled to be held on 13th Sept. 1996.

Survey of Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped

*428. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agency in the country has conducted a survey regarding the number of mentally retarded and physically handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, when such a survey was undertaken and by whom;

(c) whether there is an increase or decrease in the number from previous survey undertaken, if any; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to reduce the number?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE
(SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) A sample Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in 1981 covering

visual, communication and locomotor disabilities identified 12 million persons having at least one of these disabilities constituting 1.8% of the estimated total population.

Sample Survey conducted in 1991 by National Sample Survey Organisation covering Visual, Hearing, Speech and Locomotor Disabilities estimates 16.15 million people having atleast one of the 4 disabilities constituting 1.9% of the total estimated population of the country.

A Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 for Persons with Delayed Mental Development between 1—14 age group, estimates that about 3% of the total population has delayed mental development.

(d) Apart from the existing programmes of immunization, health check-up, referral services, National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme, National Programme for Control of Blindness, National Leprosy Control Programme run by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Nutrition supplement, Awareness Generation etc. under the Deptt. of Women & Child Development, Ministry of HRD. The Welfare Ministry also gives grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations under the Scheme of Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled to undertake variety of activities including awareness of activities aimed at prevention and early detection of disabilities. Recently the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has also been enacted enjoining upon the appropriate Government to take necessary steps, within the limits of their economic capacities with a view to preventing the occurrence of disabilities.