

reforms which were in the interest of large-scale employment generation. He, however, dispelled the notion that these reforms would be at the cost of labour.

(c) Review / updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to make them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs so as to bring them in tune with the market oriented economy giving the domestic industry a level playing field to face the global competition. The Second National Commission on Labour, set by the Government, would *inter-alia* take into account the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, globalisation of economy, liberalization of trade and industry, emphasis on international competitiveness and also the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands. The report of the Commission is expected by 15.02.2002.

Welfare Boards for workers

552. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTI A: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Welfare Boards for building and other construction workers at the Centre and States level in order to provide specific welfare facilities to construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the Building and other Construction Workers, Act, 1996 in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Under Section 18 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Emoloyment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 there is provision for constitution of Building and Other Construction Workers* Welfare Boards at the State Level to provide certain social security and welfare measures to the workers, like assistance in case of accident, payment of pension, premia for Group Insurance Scheme, medical care, housing assistance, education to the children of the beneficiary etc. The State Government have been advised to complete the process of implementation of the Act.

Contract Labour Policy

553. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a detailed Contract Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what steps are being taken to project the labour in this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 have been under the consideration of the Government as part of the follow up action on the announcement made in this regard by the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget in February, 2001.

Changes in EPF Act

554. SHRIJ.CHITHARANJAN:

SHRIGAYASINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some changes in the Employees Provident Fund Act to help the employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes and by when these are likely to be brought about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Some changes in the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act. No time frame for implementing the changes can be given at this stage.

Irregularities in EPFO

555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial irregularities amounting to several crores of rupees in acquisition of land and construction of office building/staff quarters in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation have come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?*