

- Sectors registering increase in employment during January-March, 2009 period are gems & jewellery (3.08%), textiles (0.96%), IT-BPO (0.82%), handloom-powerloom (0.28%) and automobiles (0.10%).
- A decline in employment during January-March, 2009 has been observed in leather (2.76%), metals (0.56%) and transport (0.36%).

(d) Most of the sectors where large scale retrenchment has been reported fall under the "State" sphere. Therefore, the State Governments have been advised to make their conciliation machinery more effective and sensitive to ensure industrial peace and implement labour laws in an appropriate manner.

OECD report on employees in India

521. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Report, 9 out of 10 employees in India do not have a formal labour contract and social security benefits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other observations made by OECD with regard to India; and

(d) how Government is planning to address this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) In the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Report it has been stated that though India grew during the last decade above 5 percentage points per year, people there feel that better jobs are not being created. It has also been stated that 9 out of 10 employees in India, approximately 370 million people, do not have formal social security.

The said report has expressed concern over the consequences of growing informal employment in the poor countries of the world, including India, and it has urged the Governments of the poor countries to prepare a comprehensive package.

According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, there were 43.3 crore unorganised workers.

The Government has constituted Welfare Funds for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing, and education to the children etc. have been formulated. However, it is true that most of the workers in the unorganised sector are not provided Social Security. Recognising the need for such social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level, which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000/- per year to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

Similarly, to provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana."

One more scheme, namely the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.

Apart from the above, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme ensures livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing a guarantee of wage employment for at least 100 days in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

As far as formal labour contracts are concerned, a Task Force has been constituted on the recommendation of the 42nd Session of the Indian Labour Conference to revisit the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The first meeting of the Task Force has been scheduled for 17th July, 2009.

Pending provident fund dues of employees in Punjab

522. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending as on 1st April, 2009 against the employers in Punjab for non payment/shut payment of provident fund dues of the employees, the number of those cases pending for more than three years;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters for speedy disposal of these cases; and

(c) in the absence of the disposal of cases, how the dues of retiring/deceased employees are finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) 3279 cases for non payment of provident fund dues of the employees were pending against the employers in Punjab. Out of this, 763 cases were pending for more than three years.

(b) Steps taken against defaulters are as under:

- Recovery actions under section 8 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are initiated against defaulters.
- Dues are assessed under section 7A of the Act.
- Prosecution is also filed against defaulters.
- Steps are taken to vacate the stay granted by Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals.
- Claims filed before the official liquidator in case of defaulters in liquidation.