

survey was conducted in the month of January, 2009 to assess the impact during the quarter October-December, 2008. The second survey was conducted in the month of April, 2009 to assess the impact during January-March 2009. The employment in sectors viz., mining, textiles, metals, gems & jewellery, automobile, transport and IT/BPO has increased by a quarter million during the January-March, 2009 as compared to October-December, 2008 wherein about half a million workers lost their jobs. Regarding protection against reduction of salary and wages, workmen can raise industrial dispute under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Data on levels of salary cut of employees in the Indian Corporate World and details of salaries and allowances of employees at top management level during the period are not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the above.

Number of unorganised workers

†531. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of unorganised workers in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the standard of living of these unorganised workers is very low; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to improve the standard of living of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) According to the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2004-05, the total number of unorganised workers was 43.3 crore.

(b) and (c) 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. 30,000/- 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.

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

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.

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.

Review of Contract Labour Act

532. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to review the Contract Labour Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) 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.

Formula to divide the width of road as per traffic

533. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering a formula to divide the width of road as per requirement of traffic;
- (b) if so, whether Government has plans to rationalize the sanctioned projects of NHs based on the new formula;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether such a decision will adversely affect the road network enhancement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N SINGH): (a) to (d) The capacity of the road for different lane width is already prescribed in terms of passenger car units (PCUs). Capacity augmentations of existing road by way of providing four lane / six lane are done based on the norms so prescribed. As per the norms, a 2-lane Road is due to for 4 lane once the traffic exceeds 15000 PCUs per day. The rational norms for widening from 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc. are also similarly prescribed. The work of actual capacity augmentation, however, depends upon availability of funds and *inter se priority*. The existing norms are not adversely impacting the road network advancement.

Poor response from qualified bidders for tenders floated by NHAI

534. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state: