

Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996. The premium for the scheme shall be paid from the funds collected by the Welfare Boards constituted under the said Act.

(c) Despite repeated persuasions, very few States have initiated concrete action in terms of inviting premium bids from insurance companies to extend the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana to construction workers.

Study by NSSO on child labourers

2050. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labourers are increasing from 7 to 8 per cent in the country as per the study made by National Sample Survey Organisation in the year 2004-06;

(b) whether 22.8 per cent children of Rajasthan are child labourers and their number is 34 lacs and 88 thousands;

(c) out of these 85 per cent children belong to SC/ST/OBC and minorities; and

(d) if so, special measures likely to be taken by Government to tackle this inhuman situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. As per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 2004-05, the number of child labourers has declined as compared to its earlier surveys.

(b) The NSSO survey of 2004-05 shows 17.2 percent children as workers in the age group of 5-14 years in Rajasthan and their number is 8.21 lakh.

(c) As per the NSSO survey, 13% of the child labour belongs to Scheduled Tribe, 6.9% belong to Scheduled Caste and 6.8% belong to Other Backward Classes.

(d) To tackle this situation the Government is implementing National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 23 districts of Rajasthan. Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are admitted into the special schools where they are provided with bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend, health care, etc.

Implementation of equal pay for equal work

2051. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the non-implementation of the directive principle of 'equal pay for equal work' amounts to discrimination against women;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take for its implementation;

(c) whether Government thinks that the implementation of the directive principle of 'equal pay for equal work' would be positive step towards empowerment of women; and

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what steps will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. To give effect to the directive principles of the Constitution, the Government enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination.

In the Central sphere, the enforcement of the Equal Remuneration Act is done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), who heads the Central Industrial Relations Machinery. Respective State Governments are the appropriate authority to enforce the provisions of the Act in their jurisdictions.

Central Government is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act and instructions are issued from time to time for effective enforcement of the Act.

Revision of rate of minimum wages

2052.SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry had issued Notification on 20th May, 2009 (SO1285E) revising the minimum rates of wages payable to the employees in the Scheduled Employment, mentioned therein;

(b) if so, when was the rate fixed in the previous Notification;

(c) what is date of effect for the new rates as fixed by the above Notification; and

(d) when was the issue referred to Advisory Board and when the recommendation from Advisory Board received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The previous Notification on fixation of minimum rates of wages was published in the Gazette of India (Extra Ordinary) vide Notification No. S O 1521 (E) dated 14.09.2006.

(c) As mentioned in Para 5 of the Notification S O 1285 (E) dated 20th May, 2009, the minimum rates of wages will be effective from the date of the said Notification *i.e.*, 20th May, 2009.

(d) Based on the recommendations of the Minimum Wages Advisory Board (MWAB) in its meeting held on 26.08.2008, the Ministry of Labour and Employment had issued the Notification S O 1285 (E) dated 20th May, 2009 fixing the minimum rates of wages for workers engaged in various construction activities in Central sphere.