

- DA to pensioners linked with the Cost of Living Index or grant of regular additional relief.

(c) In order to address the above issues, an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Labour and Employment) and having representatives of all stakeholders and experts of insurance and social security has recently been constituted to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

Effect of global slowdown on remittances from NRIs

†2251. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian labourers working abroad send their remuneration to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during 2007, 2008 and from January to September in 2009;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that sending this money to India has been affected due to the global economic slowdown; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The remittances in the form of private transfers by Non-Resident Indians during the requisite years are as follows:—

Year	Amount (in US \$ billion)
2007-08	43.5
2008-09	46.4
2009-10	13.3 *

*Information available for the period April — June, 2009.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Non-payment of minimum wages to labourers

†2252. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that non-payment of minimum wages to labourer under the Minimum Wages Act is as good as bonded labour;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the fact that the labourers engaged in construction work for Commonwealth Games 2010 are not getting minimum wages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has taken any action in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Bondage involves loss of freedom. It has no connection with payment of minimum wages, which is ensured in respect of scheduled employments by the appropriate Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(c) and (d) It is not a fact that the workers engaged in various construction projects for Commonwealth Games are paid less than the minimum wages.

Inspecting Officers keep a close watch on the payment of minimum wages, condition of work and violation of labour laws at construction sites during their course of inspection. If any violations are noticed, necessary legal action is taken under the Acts/Labour Laws.

Priority to local people for non-technical works

†2253. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions are issued regarding category of works provided to the local resident in the States and to the people coming from other States for work;

(b) whether there has been any talk between the Central Government and States to give priority to the local people in non-technical works; and

(c) the details of Central schemes besides NREGS, proposed to provide work to the local people in the backward States and to what extent they have been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Ministry of Labour and Employment have not issued any such instructions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes besides NREGS. Some of the important ones are 'Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)', 'Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)', 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)'. Implementation of these schemes in States including the backward States, has not only been helpful in providing employment to local people but also in improving overall development at local levels.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.