

products or consumer durables etc. according to provisions of Visa manual. It has also been decided that all foreign nationals coming for execution of projects/contracts in India will have to come only on Employment Visa and that such Visa will be granted only to skilled and qualified professional appointed at senior level, skilled position such as technical expert, senior executive or in a managerial position etc. and will not be granted for jobs for which a large number of qualified Indians are available. Suitable instructions/guidelines have been issued to the Indian Missions abroad to effectively regulate Employment and Business Visa regimes and ensure that these are issued strictly as per prescribed norms.

As per the guidelines issued by Government, Employment Visa for foreign personnel coming to India for execution of projects/contracts may be granted by Indian Missions to highly skilled and professionals to the extent of 1% of the total persons employed on the project subject to a maximum of 20. However, this has been raised to 1% or maximum of 40 for power and steel sector projects till June, 2010. In case more foreign nationals are required for any project than clearance of Ministry of Labour and Employment is required.

Employment situation in the country

3031. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the employment situation in the country as on day; and
- (b) whether the unemployment is increasing and the employment opportunity is being reduced to a great extent in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of surveys, work force on usual status basis has increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 million in 2004-2005.

(b) As per last two quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment conducted by NSSO, the estimated number of unemployed persons on usual status basis has increased from 9.04 million in 1999-2000 to 10.84 million in 2004-05. However, the quarterly survey conducted by Labour Bureau on the effect of Economic slowdown on Employment in India (July-September, 2009) in selected sectors *i.e.* textiles, metals, leather, automobiles, gems and jewellery, transport, IT/BPO, handloom/powerloom has indicated that overall employment has increased by about 5 lakh during the quarter as compared to decline in employment by 1.31 lakh during the previous quarter of April-June, 2009.

Less wages to women beedi workers

3032. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the beedi workers are women;