

Welfare schemes for weaker sections of Uttar Pradesh

834. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Programmes being implemented by Government for the welfare of SCs, STs, Backward Classes, Minorities and other weaker sections of the society in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total budget allocated and funds released to this State under the said schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, district-wise; and

(c) the number of persons benefited from those schemes during this period, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Jobs to SC and ST

835. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is being contemplated by Government to enact laws for providing jobs to the youths belonging to SC and ST communities of the country in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to ensure providing jobs to these categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Coordination Committee on Affirmative Action has been constituted to conduct a dialogue and guide the private sector towards promoting employment and employability of the youth belonging to SC/ST categories. The Apex chambers of industry and commerce have put in place Voluntary Codes of Conduct (VCC) for affirmative action by the private sector. The private sector has in some cases also initiated various training and skill upgradation programmes for the target group to enhance their employability.

Employment of persons with disabilities

836. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether scheme for employment of persons with disabilities is being modified to make it more attractive for employers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Scheme of private sector for employment of physically challenged

837. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICES EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the scheme of private sector for employment of physically challenged persons, the private sector is provided incentives for providing employment to physically challenged persons in the country;

(b) if so, the details of benefits given to private companies and the number of physically challenged people employed in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the efforts his Ministry is making to publicize the scheme widely so that the benefits reach the maximum people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Scheme of Incentives to the Private Sector for Employment of Physically Challenged Persons has been launched, w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, the Government of India provides the employer's contribution for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) for 3 years, for employees with disabilities employed in the private sector on or after 01.04.2008, with a monthly salary upto Rs.25,000. State-wise details of number of persons with disabilities benefited under the scheme is given in Statement (See below).

(c) Several steps have been taken to publicize the scheme, which includes:-

- Advertisements have been issued in the newspaper periodically by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Employees Provident Fund Organization and Employees State Insurance Corporation.
- The Ministry wrote to 20 Apex Industrial Organizations for giving widest possible publicity to the Scheme.
- Ministries of Social Justice & Empowerment and Labour & Employment, the Employees Provident Fund Organization and the Employees State Insurance Corporation have prominently publicized the scheme on their websites.
- Minister (SJ&E) personally wrote to all State Chief Ministers/Administrators of UTs in August, 2008 requesting them to publicize the scheme and to have its progress monitored regularly.
- Letters were sent by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment in October, 2008 to Chairmen and Chief Executives of FICCI, CII, NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI requesting wide