

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has not signed the ILO convention Child Labour; and  
(b) if so, the details of reason therefor ?

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

(b) ILO Convention No. 182 concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour and ILO Convention 138 fixing Minimum Age of employment as 18 years have not been ratified. Their ratification would be possible only after the legislative framework and mechanism for their effective implementation are put in place. Further, due to the existing socio-economic conditions in the country, compelling conditions force these children to seek employment to supplement their family income and under these circumstances increasing the minimum age of employment from 14 to 18 years may further push these poor families into poverty.

**Deplorable conditions of workers involved in Commonwealth Games**

236. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI R.C. SINGH :

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

(a) whether Government is aware that thousands of workers involved in the Commonwealth Games projects are working and living in highly deplorable conditions and they are paid less than stipulated minimum wages and have no access to even the most basic sanitation and health facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken to ensure that they are paid fair wages and to improve their living conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a)  
and (b) The workers engaged in various construction projects for Commonwealth Games are regulated by the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and rules made thereunder and other various labour laws which *inter-alia* contain provisions of basic welfare amenities like drinking water, latrines and urinals, creches, accommodation etc. and adequate provisions for safety and health measures. The Government is taking all possible steps for ensuring the welfare of workers through the statutory provisions under various labour laws. Inspecting officers 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.

**Amendments to Minimum Wages Act**

237. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to bring in comprehensive amendments to the Minimum Wages Act to make it mandatory that minimum wages are paid to all the workers and in all jobs in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendments;

(c) whether the Bill is going to be introduced in the current session of Parliament; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (d) The process of consultation with all Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for finalizing the proposals to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is in progress.

#### **Inclusion of NREGA workers under RSBY**

238. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has sent a proposal to the Rural Development Ministry for inclusion of NREGA workers under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY);

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) what follow-up action his Ministry has taken up to cover the workers of NREGA under the RSBY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Statistics regarding unemployment situation**

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

(a) whether Ministry has an uptodate statistics of employment and unemployment situation in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is rise in unemployment inspite of NREGA, PMRA, Self Help Group etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. The last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the most recent quinquennial round of survey on employment and unemployment, employment was estimated at 459.10 million on usual status basis in 2004-05 and