

- (b) whether any medical college of ESIC already started from 2009-10, the details thereof;
- (c) whether ESIC has any time-frame to complete all ESIC medical colleges; and
- (d) how many medical colleges of ESIC are established in remote areas and whether adequate faculty members are available for these medical college?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) No Medical College of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has started from 2009-2010. The infrastructures work for proposed medical colleges is under various stages of progress and is likely to take about two years for completion.

(d) No Medical College has been established in any remote area. The Medical Colleges of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation are proposed to be established in the ESI Scheme implemented areas.

Rate of unemployment in the country

‡242.SHR BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the increase in employment generation and the rate of unemployment in the country during last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to check the increase in the rate of unemployment; and
- (c) if so, the details of measures taken to decrease the unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) Reliable estimates on employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. Work force participation rates and unemployment rates on current daily status basis for the period 1993-94; 1999-2000 and 2004-05 are given below :

| Period | Work force participation rate | Unemployment rate |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1993-94 | 35.1 | 6.1 |
| 1999-00 | 33.6 | 7.3 |
| 2004-05 | 35.2 | 8.3 |

(b) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities on current daily status basis. It is expected that there would be reduction in unemployment rate to 4.83% towards the end of the Plan period.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government have taken several steps to reduce unemployment rate. The focus is on productive employment at a faster pace in order to raise the incomes of masses of the rural population to bring about a general improvement in their living conditions. The job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in exports etc., Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation programmes, such as, Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) beside entrepreneurial programme run by M/o Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.

Labour laws for small and medium enterprises

243. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises are pressing for simpler labour laws meant for this sector as it is not possible for micro and small units with minimal resources to adhere the multiple labour laws;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the small units show lack of infrastructure to implement all the labour laws and make it difficult for entrepreneurs to start business or run them successfully; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been requesting for simplification of labour laws. However, the very purpose of labour laws, dealing with wages, social security, labour welfare, occupational safety & health, industrial relations etc., is to protect the interests of workers, especially those who are vulnerable to exploitation. Hence, these laws need to be applied to the micro, small and medium enterprises to the extent they are covered under the respective Acts.

Unusual increase in withdrawals from PF

244. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an unusual increase in withdrawals from provident fund in the fiscal 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The comparative figures of withdrawal cases from the Provident Fund for the fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below: