

(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 upto date 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