

(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

corresponding figures for unemployment was 10.84 million. Unemployment rate has marginally increased from 2.2% in 1999-2000 to 2.3% in 2004-05. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) came in to operation with effect from the financial year 2005-06 and therefore, its impact on employment and unemployment situation in the survey conducted in 2004-05 is not reflected.

#### **Job loss due to economic recession**

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

- (a) the total number of workers lost their jobs in recession and collapse of World Economy;
- (b) whether stimulative package given by the Government to industrial houses has really worked and benefitted to industries to protect the workers; and
- (c) if so, how many workers lost the jobs and how many of them could be really protected by the stimulative package?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) According to quarterly quick surveys conducted by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment in selected sectors it was observed that the employment declined by 4.91 lakh during the quarter October-December, 2005; increased by 2.76 lakh during January-March, 2009; again declined by 1.31 lakh during April-June, 2009 probably due to seasonality; and increased by 4.97 lakh during the quarter July-September, 2009. Thus overall estimated employment in the selected sectors has experienced a net addition of 1.51 lakh during the last one year period *i.e.* from October, 2008 to September, 2009.

To mitigate the adverse effect of the economic slowdown the Government of India has taken various fiscal and monetary measures including three stimulus packages, implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured workers and his family are entitled for 50% of wages up to a period one year and medical benefits in the case of loss of jobs, schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, skill upgradation and vocational training programmes and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. These measures have broadly succeeded in mitigating the adverse impact of economic slowdown and protecting the interests of workers.

#### **ESIC medical colleges**

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

- (a) what is the progress of ESIC medical colleges proposed and sanctioned;